

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

In relation to 8702EHC titled:
EXPORT OF PET FOOD TO COLOMBIA

Associated Document: 8702EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8702EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. **Scope of the certificate**

This certificate may be used for the export to Colombia of pet food containing ingredients of animal origin.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian authorised on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. **HEALTH ATTESTATION**

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations.

Clause 1: Prohibition on feeding ruminant meat and bone meal to ruminants in the UK

This clause can be certified on the basis of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018 (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the retained Regulation (EC)

1069/2009 (as last amended 19/11/2020), which prohibits the feeding of ruminant-derived processed animal protein to ruminant animals.

Clause 2: Official Supervision

For products manufactured in the UK this can be certified on the basis that the manufacturing establishment is approved in accordance with the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as last amended 14/12/2019).

The approval number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document or by reference to the responsible local APHA or DAERA office.

For products manufactured outside the UK, this can be certified on sight of sufficient evidence and documentation accompanying the imported product into the UK.

Clause 3: Good Manufacturing Practices

This can be certified based on the certifying officer's knowledge of and familiarity with the manufacturing establishment, and on sight of any supporting documents as deemed necessary by the certifying officer.

For products manufactured outside the UK, this can be certified on sight of sufficient evidence and documentation accompanying the imported product.

Further information on good manufacturing practices for pet food can be found on the PFMA website at: <https://www.pfma.org.uk/good-pet-food-manufacturing-practice>

Manufacturers may also be part of an assurance scheme such as GMP+: <https://www.gmpplus.org/en/>

Clause 4: Slaughterhouse hygiene, approval and perimortem inspections

This may be certified on the basis that the slaughterhouse is approved in accordance with the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) or equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments continue to enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the EU Hygiene package which includes Regulations (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

The UK establishment's approved or registered status may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document, or by reference to the enforcement authority (APHA, DAERA or Local Authority) responsible for the establishment.

For products manufactured outside the UK, this can be certified on sight of sufficient evidence and documentation accompanying the

imported product.

Clause 5: Negligible BSE risk and Scrapie Freedom

Note that the reference to "blood and by-products" in this clause should be interpreted to mean "blood and **blood** by-products", in line with paragraph 1.h of Article 11.4.1. of the 2021 OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

For ruminant raw materials of UK origin, this clause can currently only be signed if the only raw materials derived from slaughtered ruminants are those specifically mentioned within the exemptions laid out within the clause text. This is because of the UK's current status regarding BSE and scrapie.

For ruminant raw materials of non-UK origin that that include any materials not specifically mentioned within the exemptions laid out in the clause text, the country of origin must be recognised as free from scrapie and having a negligible BSE risk.

Clause 6: Cross contamination

This can be certified based on the certifying officer's knowledge of and familiarity with the manufacturing establishment, and on sight of any supporting documents as deemed necessary by the certifying officer.

For products manufactured outside the UK, this can be certified on sight of sufficient evidence and documentation accompanying the imported product.

Clause 7: Ruminant meat processing

This relates to the use of ruminant processed animal protein (PAP) in the pet food. The ruminant PAP must have been obtained from the exclusive rendering of the permitted ruminant materials described in clause 5 of the certificate using the specified processing method. As this method of animal protein processing is not routinely used in the UK, this paragraph will likely only be certifiable for ruminant processed animal protein of non-UK origin, on sight of sufficient supporting evidence.

Clause 8: Wet and semi moist pet food production

If the consignment **contains** wet and semi moist pet food, this clause must be certified.

This can be certified based on the certifying officer's knowledge of and familiarity with the manufacturing establishment, and on sight of any supporting documents as deemed necessary by the certifying officer.

For products manufactured outside the UK, this can be certified on sight of sufficient evidence and documentation accompanying the imported product.

If the consignment **does NOT contain** any wet or semi moist pet food, this clause must be struck through in its entirety in the usual manner.

Clause 9: Dry petfood production

If the consignment **contains** dry pet food, this clause must be certified.

This can be certified based on the certifying officer's knowledge of

and familiarity with the manufacturing establishment, and on sight of any supporting documents as deemed necessary by the certifying officer.

For products manufactured outside the UK, this can be certified on sight of sufficient evidence and documentation accompanying the imported product.

If the consignment **does NOT contain** any wet or semi moist pet food, this clause must be struck through in its entirety in the usual manner.

Clause 10: Marketing in the country of origin

This may be certified on the basis that the product is eligible for sale in the UK.

Clause 11: New Packaging

This can be certified based on the certifying officer's knowledge of and familiarity with the manufacturing establishment, and on sight of any supporting documents as deemed necessary by the certifying officer.

For products manufactured outside the UK, this can be certified on sight of sufficient evidence and documentation accompanying the imported product.

Clause 12: Microbiological testing

This paragraph can be certified on sight of the relevant microbiological testing records that demonstrate compliance with the required parameters.

Clause 13: Handling, Loading and transport

This can be certified based on the certifying officer's knowledge of and familiarity with the manufacturing establishment, and on sight of any supporting documents as deemed necessary by the certifying officer.

4. SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS

Where declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process and/or declared intended use. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence and that he/she accepts full responsibility if any problems arise with the export should there be any dispute relating to the matters being declared.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

5. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and these notes are provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country.

It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against

any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.

If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#specialist-service-centres-ssc>

In Northern Ireland, please contact the DAERA trade administration team:

- e-mail - **tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk**
- Phone - 02877442146