

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8622EHC titled:
HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR IMPORT OF FISHERY PRODUCTS INTO UKRAINE

Associated Documents: 8622EHC.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officials and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8622EHC.

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

This certificate may be used for the export of fishery products to Ukraine.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV) and / or a Food Competent Certifying Official (FCCO)

Despite references in the Certificate to Official Veterinarians, this certificate may be signed by a Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO), an Official Veterinarian authorised on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, 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.

In Northern Ireland this certificate may be signed by either an Official Veterinarian or a FCCO suitably authorised by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). 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 FCCO/OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

Foreign text: The Certifying Official should note that the foreign text in this certificate is an official translation of the English text and the Certifying Official is accordingly authorized to complete the export health certificate, even if they are unable to read and understand the meaning of the foreign text.

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

3. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE

The format, paragraph numbering and content of this certificate is based on the bilingual model certificate provided by the Ukrainian authorities and, as such, some of the English may be unclear.

The format of this certificate is, in turn, based on the model 'Veterinary Certificate to EU' for products of animal origin as published in **Commission Decision 2007/240/EC** (as amended).

As a result of this, some of the text may not directly apply to exports from the UK and some paragraphs may appear out of sequence whilst others may be intentionally left blank or struck through.

Annex I of this Decision includes **Explanatory Notes** which offer general guidance on how veterinary certificates based on these models may be completed, particularly with respect to Part I of the certificate.

These and other pieces of EU legislation are published in the Official Journal of the European Union and can be accessed via the online search feature available at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

More specific guidance on completing this certificate has been provided in these notes.

4. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DESPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

I.1 - Enter details of the exporter

I.2 - Enter the certificate reference number

I.2a - intentionally struck through.

I.3 - Central Competent Authority I.4 - Local Competent Authority

This should be completed with "DEFRA".

For exporting establishments located in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) "APHA" should be entered. For exporting establishments located in Northern Ireland, "DAERA" should be entered.

I.5 - enter details of the recipient

I.6 - indicate the details of the person who will be responsible for the consignment when it is presented at the border inspection post, and who will make the necessary declarations to the competent authorities on behalf of the importer.

I.7 and I.9 - Country ISO Codes

ISO 3166 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes.

The 2-letter ISO Code for the whole of the **United Kingdom** is "GB" and this should be entered at **Box I.7**.

The 2-letter ISO Code for **Ukraine** is "UA" and should be entered at **Box I.9**.

Where the consignment incorporates fish sourced from a 3rd country, the CO must ensure that such fish product has been accompanied by import certification attesting that it fulfils the criteria for export to Ukraine, as laid out in 8622EHC.

A copy of such certification must be retained on file by the Certifying Officer.

I.8 and I.10 - Zone of Origin

This paragraph may usually be struck through.

However, if the UK, and the product, fall within the scope of emergency disease control legislation laid down by the importing authorities, then section I.8 should be completed with the appropriate region names and ISO codes, if these are specified under such emergency legislation. In these cases, the APHA Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or DAERA in Northern Ireland, should be consulted for further specific guidance.

I.11 - Place of Origin Approval Number

Enter the details of the production and/or processing plant, including the approval number.

The approval number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document or by reference to the local authority responsible for the manufacturing establishment.

I.12 - intentionally struck through

I.13 - Place of loading I.14 - Date of departure I.15 - Means of transport

The place of loading or the port of embarkation must be entered.

The date of departure must be entered.

The means of transport i.e. aeroplane, ship, railway wagon, road vehicle must be indicated. The option 'Other' is not applicable to the movement of products and should not be selected. The flight number, name of the vessel, the train number and rail car or the number plate of the road vehicle should be entered as the means of identification as appropriate.

If the means of transport changes after the certificate has been signed, the consignor must inform the officials at the intended point of entry.

Optionally, the number of the airway bill, bill of loading, or the commercial number of the train or road vehicle may be entered as the documentary reference.

I.16 - Entry BIP in Ukraine

The exporter must advise the Certifying official of the point of entry into the destination country and this must be entered in the space provided.

I.17 - intentionally struck through

I.18 - Description of commodity

A generic veterinary description of the goods or a description based on the applicable HS Code (see below) must be entered. The use of brand names or trademarks should be avoided.

I.19 - HS Code

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

<https://www.trade-tariff.service.gov.uk/sections> and
<http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm>

I.20 - Quantity of Product I.21 - Temperature of product

Insert the total gross and net weights in Kg.

Indicate whether the transport/storage temperature is ambient, chilled or frozen.

I.22 - Number of packages

Insert the number of packages in the consignment.

I.23 - Seal/container no.

The seal or container number of the consignment may be entered here.

I.24 - Type of packaging I.25 - Commodities certified for

Enter the type of packaging in the space provided.

Indicate the intended use of the product, taking into account any guidance which may be offered in the footnote of the certificate.

I.26 - intentionally struck through.

I.27 - For import or admission

The box should be ticked to confirm that this is an import or admission as opposed to transshipment.

I.28 - Official Identification

The name and/or the relevant approval number of the production or processing plant (above guidance for paragraph **I.11** refers) should be entered in addition to the other required information.

If the consignment consists of several different types of products, then it may be necessary to use a separate schedule to identify the full consignment. The schedule must, as a minimum, contain the same information as that required in **Box I.28** of the certificate and this box must be annotated "See Attached Schedule".

Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the Certifying Official.

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Certifying Official should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also.

Any blank spaces in the schedule or in **Box I.28** should be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. PART II - HEALTH INFORMATION

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification and the FCCO's / OV's knowledge of Regulations (EC) 1069/2009 and 142/2011 (as amended).

FCCO's / OV's 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.

Legislative references

Although the health attestation refers to "in accordance with Ukrainian legislation", the certifying OV can sign these clauses on the basis of equivalence between UK and Ukrainian sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, as described in the SPS chapter of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the UK and Ukraine.

II.1.1 HACCP principles

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the production and/or processing plants are approved for the purposes of food production in accordance with UK law, and on sight of the relevant documentation as required.

II.1.2 - Compliance with food safety and quality requirements

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the production and/or processing plants are approved for the purposes of food production in accordance with UK law, and on sight of the relevant documentation as required.

II.1.3 - Microbiological Criteria

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the production and/or processing plants are approved for the purposes of food production in accordance with UK law, and as such comply with UK and EU regulations relating to microbiological criteria for foodstuffs.

II.1.4 - Packaging

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the production and/or processing plants are approved for the purposes of food production in accordance with UK law, including food hygiene legislation, provided that the CO is satisfied that the production and/or processing plants are comply with these requirements.

II.1.5 - Temperature Requirements

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the CO's familiarity with the processing/production plants, the product to be exported, and on sight of supporting evidence as required. Note that 'not more than' should be considered to mean 'not higher than' with regards to temperatures.

II.1.6 - Identification

This paragraph can be certified on the basis that the products display the health mark on their packaging.

II.1.7 - Residue plans

This paragraph can be certified on the basis that the product complies with residue plans and limits set out in domestic legislation.

II.1.8 - Official controls

This paragraph can be certified on the basis that the product and production/processing plant are subject to the Official Controls Regulations 2019.

II.1.9 - Prohibited Products

These clauses can be certified on the basis of the CO's familiarity with the processing plant and the product to be exported, and on inspection of the consignment and supporting documents as necessary. References to limits set out in Ukrainian legislation can be interpreted to refer to equivalent EU/UK legislation - specifically: **Histamine** - this clause can be certified on the basis that the product is fit for human consumption, and that the UK makes provisions for Histamine testing, and sets maximum limits under the The Food Safety (Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs and Other Shellfish) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 1996

TVB-N and TMA-N

These substances are only of concern in unprocessed product.

This clause can be certified on the basis that the product is fit for human consumption, and that the UK makes provisions for TVB-N and TMA-N testing and sets maximum limits for TVB-N under The Food Safety (Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs and Other Shellfish) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 1996.

Note that neither UK nor Ukrainian law sets maximum limits for TMA-N, so it can be assumed that the product meets Ukrainian requirements, so long as it is fit for human consumption, and not spoiled.

II.1.10 - Labelling of products with potential adverse gastrointestinal effects

This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the CO's familiarity with the product to be exported, and on sight of the required labelling on the packaging, as necessary.

II.1.11 - Disinfection of means of transport

This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the CO's knowledge of the means of transport used, and upon physical inspection and documentary evidence as deemed necessary by the CO.

II.2.1 - Disease freedom requirements

Note that this paragraph ONLY needs to be certified for susceptible species which have not been treated or processed in accordance with footnote (2) of the EHC.

For fishery products originating from the UK, please contact CIT Carlisle requesting a 618NDC form to certify disease clearance. Note that the UK is not free from all listed diseases.

For animals and products originating from outside the UK, the Certifying Officer should satisfy themselves that the disease freedom requirements have been met, upon sight of official attestations provided by the veterinary authority of the country of origin or a copy of the EHC and/or CHED (Common Health Entry Document) for importation into the GB or NI.

Where disease freedoms cannot be certified, the product must have undergone one of the specified treatments/processes set out in the notes of the EHC. These can be certified based on the certifying officer's personal knowledge, or based on written evidence received from the exporter, which must be kept on record together with a copy of the certificate. Certifying Officers should verify the circumstances, as appropriate, to certify these requirements.

6. 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 they accept 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.

7. 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-healthagency/about/access-and-opening#customer-service-centres-csc>

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

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