Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Export of bovine colostrum and bovine colostrum products not intended for human consumption, intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union (EU) or Northern Ireland (NI)

September 2025

Contents

No: 8323 NFG

For export of bovine colostrum and bovine colostrum products not intended for human consumption, intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union or Northern Ireland.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV), CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and Commission (EU) Regulation 142/2011 (as amended)

Any other EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and can be accessed on the following link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers (CO) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for exports of bovine colostrum and bovine colostrum products not intended for human consumption, intended for dispatch to or transit through the EU or Northern Ireland. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

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 GB, in advance of each consignment.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This Model 8323 veterinary certificate may be used for the export of bovine colostrum and bovine colostrum products not intended for human consumption, intended for dispatch to or transit through the EU or Northern Ireland, in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

Colostrum may only be used provided that it originates from live bovine animals that did not show any signs of disease communicable through the colostrum to humans or animals as per Part I.A of Chapter II, Section 4 of Annex X of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer or by an OV appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language(s) of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language(s) of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU, as well as in the language of the EU MS of destination if this a different country from the point of entry to the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates on-line system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the EU Commission. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language version(s) as in the English version are struck through, both versions can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Signing, stamping and pagination

The foreign language version(s) and any schedules (if any) may be stapled to the English version but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document according to the EU Commission.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the English, foreign language version/s and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

COs will have to make handwritten corrections to page numbering as may be required. E.g. 1/4 to 4/4 (if present) on the foreign language parts in the example given above will need to be crossed out and the 1/11 to 11/11 entered.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional foreign language(s). These should be arranged in order with the

English version on the top, followed by the foreign language(s) version(s), and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any) at the bottom.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Official Veterinarian Training, any handwritten corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part I. The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in Part I of the EHC needs to be amended. (E.g. if Box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below:

Instruction: Official Veterinarian Training

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part I is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However, we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part I of the certificate. In such cases, OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online Guidance for Certifiers in the link below:

Using export health certificate (EHC) online: certifier guidance - GOV.UK

UK approved establishments will be uploaded to Europa website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu

Please check the guidance on completion of Part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG. For completion of Box I.8 - Region of Origin Code, if applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC. This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a European Community Decision. The approved regions or zones must be indicated as described in the Official Journal of the European Union.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate.

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

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

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

PART II: CERTIFICATION

Animal Health Attestation

The OV signing the certificate must have read and understood Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 (in particular Article 10), and Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011, in particular Section 4 of Chapter II of Annex X, and Chapter 1 of Annex XIV and must ensure that the products meet the requirements of the certificate. The starting material used must be Category 3 as specified in the Scope Section 2.

The following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification may be followed: **The OV must have familiarity with sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, and handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment and ensure that the consignment meets the conditions required in the certificate. Where the OV is required to certify conditions outside of their personal knowledge, they must request and be provided with appropriate supporting documentation from another veterinarian (if appropriate) and/or the exporter.**

The deletion options in the introductory paragraph as guided by foot notes (2) should be actioned to reflect the nature of the product being certified.

II.1 The colostrum or colostrum products must have been produced and derived in the exporting country - GB. Where this is established the detail should be entered in the first space "(insert name of exporting country)". In accordance with footnote (3), the option for "(insert name of region)" is only for completion if the authorisation to import into the European Union is restricted to certain regions of the third country concerned. This currently does not apply and does not have to be completed as imports are authorised from GB.

The OV should be able to verify the origin of the colostrum. This might be supported as necessary by the OV's familiarity with the sourcing arrangements in place at the facility and examination of relevant documentation and/or records, including commercial documentation, veterinary statements and valid declarations.

Country freedom from FMD and rinderpest for a 12 month period prior to dispatch can be certified though the procedures detailed at Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance. That vaccination against Rinderpest has not been practiced during the 12 month period prior to dispatch can be certified on the basis of prohibition of vaccination in GB.

II.2 The OV must establish that the establishment source the raw colostrum from clinically healthy animals only and should have due familiarity with the sourcing and procurement, arrangements in place.

This should be supported by examination of relevant records including the approval document and in particular by written declarations from the supplier and /or establishment confirming the condition has been met. Where the colostrum is collected from herds supplying milk for human consumption in compliance with the EU hygiene Package and the Food Hygiene Regulations, they are included in an official dairy hygiene inspection system.

Holding freedom from FMD and Rinderpest can be established through the procedures in Section 4 “Notifiable Disease Clearance”.

II.3 Processing method

The OV must establish that the colostrum/colostrum products have been subjected to high temperature short time pasteurization at 72 degrees Celsius for at least 15 seconds or an equivalent pasteurization achieving a negative reaction to a phosphatase test in bovine colostrum.

In addition to this, the conditions for at least one option from each of the following three pairs must be met. The non-applicable options should be deleted.

The first “either” option requires production to have occurred at least 21 days prior to shipping and GB FMD country freedom during that time.

The first “or” option requires that the specific production date is entered and that this date falls at least 21 days before the consignment is expected to enter the EU.

The OV must be in possession of a written declaration form the exporter confirming production date, and expected transit time as appropriate. Disease freedom can be established as per procedure detailed in section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

The second pair of options relate to animal health and disease status of the holdings of origin. All animals on GB holdings are subjected to regular veterinary inspections.

The “either” option requires the holdings of origin to be OTF and OBF. This can be established as per procedures detailed at Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

The “or” option requires the holdings of origin to be free from any restriction under national legislation for the eradication of Brucellosis or Tuberculosis. The disease status of the holdings can be established through the procedures described at Section 4 “Notifiable Disease Clearance”.

The third pair of options relate to EBL disease status for the holdings of origin.,

The "either" option requires the holdings to be OEBLF. The disease status of the holdings can be established through the procedures described at Section 4 "Notifiable Disease Clearance".

The "or" option requires that the holdings of origin are included in an official control system for EBL and there has been no evidence of disease as a result of clinical or laboratory testing for the preceding two years. This can be established through the procedures described at Section 4 "Notifiable Disease Clearance".

II.4 Contamination

This attestation can be certified if every precaution has been taken to avoid contamination of the colostrum or colostrum products after processing. OVs should develop due familiarity with the segregation, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, and valid written declarations confirming source material content.

II.5 The OV must establish that these conditions in relation to the hygiene of packaging and labelling are met through inspection, familiarity with the plant operations and/or supported as necessary by valid declarations from the exporter. Details of disinfectants approved for this purpose can be accessed at:

http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList_SI (as amended)

The containers should be marked indicating whether the ABP is colostrum or colostrum product. The containers should bear labels identifying the products as Category 3 material NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

The non-applicable statement in relation to the "either/or" option should be deleted.

II.6 The OV must establish that the consignment does not contain milk or milk products of ovine or caprine origin. This can be certified based on familiarity with the plant sourcing and procurement arrangements and must be supported by valid written declaration from the exporter in relation to species of origin of source materials.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the CO to certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Where it is possible for the CO (OV or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in GB to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland) available on the Official Veterinarian Training.
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification) available on the Official Veterinarian Training.

For Great Britain:
In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that GB has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Personnel may be authorised to collect evidence which may be used to support veterinary certification. In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA.

CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ(AHP)-CSO) qualification.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) should be obtained. CSOs may not carry

out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks.

They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.

Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the OV Instructions Export document section of the APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE)

This section of the guidance applies to exports to the EU and movements from GB to NI but does not apply to movements of retail products to Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS).

An ABP consignment for export from GB can contain animal products that originate from NI, EU and third countries, only if those products have undergone further processing in GB. Processing should be understood in the context of Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 and is different than the definition that applies in the context of products of animal origin for human consumption.

ABP imported into to GB, which is only unloaded, stored, and reloaded, or which is only rewrapped in GB, cannot be re-exported to the EU or moved to NI except under the NIRMS or under the customs transit procedure (see below). Guidance on triangular trade can be found here: Triangular Trade Briefing Note

To avoid the restriction applicable to triangular trade, businesses can make use of the customs transit procedure for goods from third countries landed in GB, to move through GB, directly to NI. Consignments being moved under the customs transit procedure are not subject to triangular trade rules. Guidance on the transit procedure can be found in the triangular trade briefing note above.

7. GB APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be authorised and listed by the GB as a ‘GB approved establishment’ for ABP not for human consumption. A list of approved establishments can be found on the European Commission’s list of approved establishments’ link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU and does not include establishments with pending applications for approval/registration.

If the final product contains animal products from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed on the EU website as GB approved establishments.

For approved establishments in Northern Ireland the "EC" suffix which is present in the health/ID mark of approved food establishments, should not be included when referring to establishment approval numbers in the certificate. This may also be relevant to certain ABP consignments – e.g. where the ABP is generated at an approved slaughterhouse without separate ABP approval.

8. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles:

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the OV Instruction Exports document of the APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

9. LEGAL STATEMENT

References in this guidance to "assimilated EU Regulation" should be interpreted as references to assimilated law, as defined under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

10. DISCLAIMER

This certificate is 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent

to:product.exports@apha.gov.uk

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Version History:

NFG

Version 7: Published Sep 2025

Section 6 - CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM, NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE) is amended to align with the Triangular Trade Briefing Note (ABP)

References for Vet Gateway replaced by APHA's Official Veterinarian Training

Legal statement is updated.