Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Export of treated hides and skins of ungulates intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union or Northern Ireland

September 2025

Contents

No: 8328 NFG

For export of treated hides and skins of ungulates intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union or Northern Ireland (NI).

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING 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 treated hides and skins of ungulates intended for dispatch to or transit through the EU or NI. 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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This Model 8328 veterinary certificate may be used for the export of treated hides and skins of ungulates intended for dispatch to or transit through the EU or NI, in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

Treated hides and skins are defined in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as meaning derived products from untreated hides and skins, other than dog chews, that have been:

(a) dried;
(b) dry-salted or wet-salted for a period of at least 14 days prior to dispatch;
(c) salted for a period of at least seven days in sea salt with the addition of 2% of sodium carbonate;
(d) dried for a period of at least 42 days at a temperature of at least 20 °C; or

(e) subject to a preservation process other than tanning;

Only Category 3 treated hides and skins of ungulates referred to in Article 10 (a), (b)(i) and (iii) and (n) may be used.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN 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 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 languages of the EU member states (MSs).

EHCs should be in English and the foreign languages 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 Certificate on-line system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translation of the English, and is taken 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 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 version/s, and finally the pages of the schedule (if any) at the bottom.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Official 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 UK). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below:
https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8

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.

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 EU.

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 products 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 Chapter II of Annex XIV and must ensure that the treated hides and skins of ungulates meet the requirements of the certificate. The starting material used must be Category 3 material 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.**

II.1 The first option refers to hides and skins derived from animals that have been slaughtered at an approved slaughterhouse (see Section 7 GB approved establishment exporting to EU) and passed both ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection.

The second option refers to hides and skins derived from animals which were slaughtered at an approved slaughterhouse, passed ante-mortem inspection but were rejected as unfit for human consumption at post-mortem but showed no signs of diseases communicable to humans or animals.

The third option refers to hides and skins which did not show any clinical signs of any disease communicable to humans or animals through the hides or skin and were not killed to eradicate any epizootic disease.

The correct option must be selected and the non-applicable options deleted.

OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, and valid declarations. OVs should perform physical inspections of the establishment at a frequency which they determine to be suitable and at least once every 6 months.

II.2 "Either" option -This attestation requires that the hides in the consignment have been produced in a country authorised to export all categories of fresh meat to the EU. GB has this authorisation. For hides originating in another country, the OV must access full details of the countries so authorised in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 to confirm that imports of fresh meat of the corresponding species are authorised from that country or part of that country and must be in possession of a veterinary certificate confirming source and conditions are met. In this case the "Or" option should be deleted.

II.2 "Or" option – This attestation will only be applicable for imported hides and skins which have met these conditions. For hides originating in another country, the OV must access full details of the countries so authorised in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 to confirm that imports of fresh meat of the corresponding species are authorised from that country or part of that country and must be in possession of a veterinary certificate confirming source and conditions are met. In this case the "Either" option should be deleted.

II.3 Certification of this point should be supported by **declarations** which are signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the commercial process. The Managing Director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the names and job titles 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.

The first principle in the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct provides guidance on this point: "A veterinarian should be asked to certify only those matters which are within his own knowledge, can be ascertained by him personally or are the subject of a supporting certificate from another veterinarian who does have personal knowledge of the matters in question and is authorised to provide such a supporting document. **Matters not within the knowledge of a veterinarian and not the subject of such a supporting certificate but known to other persons, e.g. the farmer, the breeder or the truck driver, should be the subject of a declaration by those persons only**". The Code can be found here: https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

Declarations must be supplemented by regular inspections of the establishment and its operation and having gained familiarity with the procedures in the establishments concerned and by regular inspection of products for export. In order to certify II.3, the OV should be satisfied that the hides/skins have been obtained, processed, stored and transported in accordance with the requirements for Category 3 animal by-products of Regulation (EU) 1069/2009 and Regulation (EU) 142/2011.

4. 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 Exports section of APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

5. INSPECTION OF PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT

The onus is on the OV to ensure that the consignment identification details are correct. This includes reference to the container numbers and seal numbers.

The OV can certify the processing of the consignment based on his/her knowledge of the working of the establishment and the management systems thereof and on the basis of a risk-based inspection regime. The OV must therefore be fully familiar with the procedures used by the producer and exporter for procurement, processing, storage and transportation of the product for export.

The exporter must cooperate with the OV to establish protocols and procedures which enable the OV to carry out inspections as required and to satisfy themselves that certification of this EHC can be correctly undertaken.

The OV must exercise reasonable precautions and due diligence when relying on information provided by the exporter or other third parties to ensure that the information is correct and that certification can be carried out.

The inspection of the products for export by the OV is a matter for his/her professional judgement. The OV must decide what proportion of the consignments for export are inspected, either routinely or randomly, to be able to provide certification. An audit trail must be kept in case discrepancies in consignments are subsequently identified and also in case audits are required. Physical inspections must be carried out if discrepancies or other problems are identified. If such problems reoccur, the frequency of inspections must be increased. The OV may wish to carry out their own audits to satisfy themselves that the consignments for export are correct.

If documentary, identity or physical checks suggest inconsistencies between the information provided and the products for export, the OV must inform the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle.

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 NI 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 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 (ABP).

To avoid the restrictions 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 GB as a ‘GB approved establishment’ for animal by-products not for human consumption (ABP). 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 APHA Official Training: https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8

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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References and links to Vet Gateway updated to Official Veterinarian Training throughout.

II.1. – Amended to detail physical inspection frequency.

II.2. – References to EU Regulation updated.

II.3. – Amended to outline remote certification procedures and principles.

Inspection of Products for Export – Section added to guidance.

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)