

## NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8763EHC titled:

**VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPORT OF DRY OR SEMI-MOIST PET FOOD, PET TREATS, OR PET FOOD INGREDIENTS DERIVED FROM SALMON**

Associated Document: 8763EHC

### 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 8763EHC. 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 from the United Kingdom to Australia of pet food and treats whose only ingredient of animal origin is salmon.

The number of the import permit issued by the competent authority of Australia must be entered into the appropriate space on the front page of this certificate.

The import permit may also include requirements that are outside the scope of this certificate, such as the need for specific manufacturer's declarations. The exporter should therefore ensure that the necessary steps have been taken to satisfy any additional applicable requirements of the import permit.

#### 2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by 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 is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

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, in Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

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

#### 3. Paragraph II(a) - Approval number

Establishments producing feed additives or other animal feedingstuffs from processed ingredients of animal origin require approval or registration in accordance with the Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These statutory instruments currently enforce the principles and controls laid down under Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene.

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

**4. Paragraph IV - Health information**

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.

**The certifying OV must ensure that the completed health information reflects the requirements of the import permit, particularly with respect to the country of origin.**

**(a) Paragraph IV (1) - Manufacturer's declaration**

This paragraph can be signed on inspection of the relevant manufacturer's declaration, confirming compliance with the requirements of the import permit.

**(b) Paragraphs IV (2) - Ingredients of animal origin**

This paragraph may be signed on the basis of the certifying officer's familiarity with the processing plant, and on sight of the manufacturer's declaration and any other evidence they deem necessary for certification.

**(c) Paragraphs IV (d) - Heat treatment**

For salmon ingredients processed **in the UK**, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a suitably worded declaration from the manufacturer of the salmon.

For salmon ingredients **processed outside the UK**, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a suitably worded veterinary statement or import certificate, or a suitably worded declaration from the manufacture of the lactose.

- 5.** 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. 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.

The RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2012 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated". Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

**6. 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 APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Exports in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:  
e-mail- [tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk)  
Phone - 0289 0520989