

**EXPORT OF SHEEP MEAT (LAMB, MUTTON) AND MEAT OF GOAT AND PIG TO ST LUCIA - 1782EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

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**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1782EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1782EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

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**1. SCOPE**

Export health certificate 1782EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to St Lucia of fresh meat that meets the following requirements:

- it is derived from animals of the ovine, caprine and porcine species;
- it is derived from animals that were born and reared in the United Kingdom;
- it must bear a UK or GB health mark or identification mark;

**Fresh meat** means all animal parts (including offal) fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

**2. IMPORT PERMIT**

Exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of St Lucia prior to export for the latest information on requirements for any import documentation.

**3. SCHEDULES**

Section I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. In this case, Section I must be annotated 'See attached schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled to the health certificate and the OV 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 certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

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

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate

panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

#### **Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland**

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: [certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk](mailto:certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk).

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

#### **DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies**

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

#### **5. LEGAL STATEMENT - RETAINED EU LAW**

Existing EU legislation, with which the UK already complies, is incorporated into UK domestic law as 'retained EU law' under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

References in guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this retained EU law. Under the

Withdrawal Act, the UK will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after EU exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

**6. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED**

Paragraph IV(a) refers. OVs may certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of purchasing and operational patterns of the food business operator (FBO) and exporter. OVs may also wish to obtain written declarations from the FBO and/or exporter confirming that the exported meat was derived solely from animals that were born and reared in the United Kingdom.

**7. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

For meat in compliance with the requirements laid down in paragraph 1 above, OVs may certify paragraphs IV(e) and IV(f) provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

**8. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Paragraphs IV(b), IV(c), IV(d) and IV(h) may be certified on the basis of the health mark or identification mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with retained Regulations Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 2017/625 (The EU Hygiene Regulations).

In the UK, the primary food legislation providing the framework for all food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended). Similar legislation applies in Northern Ireland.

Enforcement of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the EU Hygiene Regulations is provided through secondary legislation in England by The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland it is provided by The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

These Regulations are enforced in the UK by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

**9. TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (TSE) STATEMENT**

For export of lamb, mutton and goat meat, paragraph IV(j) may be certified on the basis of compliance with retained Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 (as amended). The Regulation sets out EU-wide the requirements for TSE monitoring, animal feeding and the removal of specified risk material.

In the UK, enforcement of the above Regulation takes place through the following national legislation:

- **England:** The TSEs (England) Regulations 2018;
- **Wales:** The TSEs (Wales) Regulations 2018;
- **Scotland:** The TSEs Regulations (Scotland) 2010;
- **Northern Ireland:** The TSEs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.

The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations,

the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation.

**10. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

With regard to veterinary residues, paragraph IV(i) may be certified on the basis of the results of the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS) for residues, to which all UK approved meat establishments are subject.

The NSS implements retained Council Directive 96/22/EC and retained Regulation (EU) 2017/625, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the other devolved administrations.

**11. 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, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: [vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)