

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 7289EHC titled:

EXPORT OF FEATHERS AND DOWN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-7289EHC

Associated Documents: 7289EHC

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 7289EHC. 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 clean and heat-treated feathers or down to the United States of America.

This certificate is intended to facilitate compliance with the veterinary certification requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection service (USDA APHIS). These veterinary certification requirements may be contained within a **specific import permit or standard APHIS guidelines or specific correspondence from APHIS.**

The intended use of the material must be allowed by the USDA APHIS requirements referred to above.

In all cases, a reference to the source of the veterinary certification requirements must be entered in the space provided at paragraph IV of the certificate. It is also advisable for a copy of the source information to either be attached to the certificate or to otherwise accompany the consignment.

2. Certification by a government veterinarian

This certificate must be signed by a **whole-time salaried veterinarian** of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), or Scottish Government, or Welsh Government or Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA).

Veterinarians should sign and stamp the health certificate with their official stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be retained by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or by DAERA as appropriate.

3. 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. This should be supported by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations. Where necessary, physical inspection may be required.

Clauses (a) and (b) may be certified on sight of a valid manufacturer's declaration and any supporting documentation required to support the declaration.

Clause (b) should be completed to reflect the processing applied to the material during its production. This processing must satisfy the temperature and time parameters allowed for in the import permit or other official correspondence.

Clause (c) should be completed with any additional import conditions set out in the import permit or other official correspondence that are not addressed in clauses (a) and (b). If necessary, this information may be provided on a separate schedule; appended, signed and fan stamped by the certifying officer in the usual manner.

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. This person would ideally be a registered veterinarian who is familiar with the manufacturing plant and is able to carry out any necessary documentary checks. If the declaration is not signed by a registered veterinarian, 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.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

4 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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#customer-service-centres-csc>

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:
e-mail- vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk