Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of ovine and caprine animals for breeding or production 8448

May 2023

Contents

No: 8448 NFG

Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of ovine and caprine animals.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of ovine and caprine animals.

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 the UK, 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]

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035

Commission Directive 96/22/EC

Commission Directive 96/23/EC

Commission Decision 2007/453/EC

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version:

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

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of European Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents, taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

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

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This export health certificate can be used for entry into (and transit through) the European Union or Northern Ireland of ovine and caprine animals.

The certificate must be completed in accordance with the explanatory notes set out in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 and in combination with the 8220 OED/ 8220 SPT form as stated in the Animal Health Attestation Part II.

For movements to NI please make sure that you comply with any additional health requirement stated in the link below.

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/sheep-and-goat-imports-gb-0

For movements of sheep or goats to NI from a holding with SMS Qualifying Status granted by SURC please use certificate number 8463.

Ovine and caprine animals from a holding member of the SMS Qualifying Scheme to Northern Ireland: certificate 8463 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

scrapie-monitoring-scheme-qualifying-notes.pdf (sruc.ac.uk)

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency 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 of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

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 Online 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 European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

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.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.

- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.

- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**

- COs are reminded to consult the Notes for Guidance prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

You can also contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through. Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R2235

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

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public and animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The Official Veterinarian must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of the aforementioned regulations laying down the public and animal health requirements applicable to the dispatchment of domestic animals of the ovine/caprine species from the UK into the European Union.

II.1 Public Health Attestation *[To be deleted if the European Union is not the final destination of the animals]*

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The animals described in the certificate must meet the public health requirements of Directive 96/22/EC concerning the prohibition on the use in stock farming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action, and of beta-agonists.

II.1.1 and II.1.2–
The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/22/EC (and 2017/625), which is 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. UK is listed in Decision 2011/163/EU. The Directive and Regulations prohibit the routine administration of the hormones mentioned to livestock. Administration for therapeutic and zootechnical reasons is allowed. The paragraph can be certified on this basis but a written declaration from the owner / exporter to this effect should be obtained as part of due diligence.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

Animals described in the certificate must also meet the animal health requirements listed in the certificate and in accordance with the relevant sections of Commission Regulation (EU) No 2020/692.

II.2.1 - Enter territory code. UK is listed for sheep and goats. The relevant listing is in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This Regulation has been amended by Regulation 2021/634, adding the Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists. This amending regulation should be consolidated into the updated Regulation 2021/404. Please

note, “GB-1” code is for exports from the England and Wales and ‘’GB-2” is for exports from Scotland.

II.2.2 and II.2.3 - Point (i) and (ii) - These paragraphs may be signed based on a written declaration from the owner / exporter (8220 OED form) and following the examination of movement records and the holding registers to check the veracity of the declarations. If necessary, supporting certification from the veterinarian responsible for the holding should be obtained.

Point (ii) - If any animals introduced onto the holding during the 40 days prior to dispatch or since birth of animals intended for export, then those animals introduced onto the holding must be held in isolation during this period. The animals subject to isolation would not be considered as animals that have entered the establishment. Isolation must be authorised and supervised by an OV. A declaration maybe required by the owner too.

II.2.4 - Can be certified on the bases of a declaration from the owner/exporter and Notifiable Disease Clearance, please check Section 4 for more information. Diseases relevant to sheep and goats are listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. This list refers to listed diseases for live animals in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All listed diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB. Relevant diseases for sheep and/or goats where there is a national eradication programme include: Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Rift Valley Fever, Rabies, Bluetongue, Anthrax, Tuberculosis, Sheep Pox and Goat Pox, Peste des petits ruminants virus, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia.

II.2.5 - ‘either/or’ options:
Either: Declaration from the owner/exporter must be sought. And for example, the journey log can be provided as evidence.

Or: The second option may be certified when the Official Veterinarian has personal knowledge that the animals have been assembled in a single assembly operation, and that the assembly operation took place in an establishment which is listed by APHA as being approved for such operations. Documentation of such approval must be evidenced by the Official Veterinarian. The owner of the Assembly Establishment must provide a declaration that the assembly operation took no longer than 6 days. Approved assembly centres in UK can be found here.

II.2.6 - This may be certified based on a signed declaration from the Owner/Transporter/Exporter. And for example, the journey log or movement records can be provided as evidence.

II.2.7 - The certifying Official Veterinarian must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Retained EU Regulation No 1/2005. See section 9 on Animal Transport Attestation and gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. A declaration from the owner / transporter / veterinarian responsible for holding must be sought.

II.2.8 - The certifying Official Veterinarian must perform a clinical inspection of the animals within 24-hour period prior to loading in the means of transport. The Official Veterinarian should ensure they check for clinical symptoms of diseases relevant to sheep and/or goats as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. This lists refers to listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All listed diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB.

II.2.9 –
(i) - Routine vaccination against the diseases listed is not permitted in the UK.

(ii) - This may be certified on the basis that vaccination against Bluetongue Virus (Serotypes 1-24) with a live vaccine is currently prohibited. An inactive vaccine is however licensed for use in the UK.

II.2.10.1 - The first option of point (i) should be certified, on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

Point (ii) may be certified as vaccination of animals against Foot and Mouth Disease is not permitted in the UK. This paragraph may be signed based on a written declaration from the owner/exporter 8220 OED form and following the examination of movement records to check the veracity of the declarations.

II 2.10.2 - This should be certified, on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance. Vaccination against these diseases are prohibited in the UK. This paragraph may also be signed based on a written declaration from the owner/exporter 8220 OED form.

II.2.10.3 - GB is officially recognised as a BTV free territory in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation 2021/404 (as amended). Therefore, the first sub-option can be certified. Last case of BTV was in 2008. Should an outbreak of Bluetongue Virus occur in GB, up to date guidance regarding its attestation should be sought from the Official Veterinarian Briefing Notes found on the APHA Vet Gateway. This can be accessed via the following link:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/briefing%20notes.htm

II.2.11.1 - Should be certified on the basis that the animal establishments are registered and under the control of APHA. The certifying Official Veterinarian should verify that records are kept for minimum of 3 years by the owner regarding the points stated in this attestation. Supporting evidence may be required from the owner / exporter.

II.2.11.2 - This should be certified if the establishment receive regular animal health visits from a private farm veterinarian or veterinary inspections from APHA or farm assurance schemes. Farms would be visited for several reasons, such as notifiable disease investigation, export certification, TB testing and herd health management. Frequency of such visitation is proportionate to the risk. Visitations from a Veterinarian should automatically include the purpose for detection of relevant diseases for sheep and/or goats as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. This list refers to listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All diseases listed are notifiable/reportable in GB. See here.

Assurances from the owner / exporter and private veterinarian responsible for the holding may be sought.

II.2.11.3 - This may be certified, on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 4 of this guidance. The list of diseases is in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882. All diseases are notifiable/reportable in GB. Relevant diseases of sheep and/or goats where there is a national restriction programme include: Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Rift Valley Fever, Rabies, Bluetongue, Anthrax, Tuberculosis, Sheep Pox and Goat Pox, Peste des petits ruminants virus, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia.

II.2.11.4, II.2.11.5, II.2.11.8 - These may be certified based on Notifiable Disease Clearance (see Section 4). The applicable option should be certified, and the other options struck out.

Where there has been an outbreak in the specified time frame, further evidence should be sought from the APHA.

II.2.11.6 – *Tuberculosis attestations* Two 'either/or' options:

The first option maybe certified for sheep only where there has been no report of TB in the holding for a period of at least 42 days prior to dispatch. Herds, and individual animals in the herds, must not be under any official tuberculosis related restrictions in the last 42 days before dispatch. This includes restrictions (TN02) served for the whole herd or part of the herd e.g. following the discovery of inconclusive reactors, clinical suspicion or confirmed cases of TB. Carlisle Centre for International Trade (CIT) will need to undertake checks on the APHA database to determine if, within the specified time, TB has not been diagnosed on the holding or suspected and movement restrictions have not been in place. CIT will issue a 618 Disease Clearance Form, confirming this.

The second option applies to goats. The requirements in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation 2020/688 must be complied with. This refers to the establishment implementing a pre-movement TB surveillance programme in the last 12 months, which includes:

- Post-mortem inspection of all slaughtered goats from the establishment.
- Post-mortem examination of fallen stock of all goats older than 9 months, unless impossible for logistical reasons or not necessary for scientific reasons.
- An annual animal health visit carried out by a veterinarian.
- Annual testing of all goats kept on the establishment, whether kept for breeding or export or other purposes, with negative results. The test can be the skin test, which is a recommended by the EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) and listed as an EURL approved diagnostic test for TB in goats. Voluntary private TB testing must take place with prior permission from APHA. At present, there is no compulsory national routine TB surveillance programme for goats in Great Britain. APHA only undertakes ad hoc statutory TB testing of goat herds with suspected or confirmed Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex infection, or with an epidemiological link to a known infected group of bovine or non-bovine farmed animals.

Goats introduced into the establishment must come from establishments complying with the above requirements too.

The annual testing provided for in point 1(d) does not have to be required if APHA, based on a risk assessment, considers the risk of infection as negligible in the territory and the following conditions are fulfilled:

- The pre-movement surveillance programme referred to above has been carried out on the establishment for at least 24 months, and infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex *(M. bovis*, *M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis)* in goats kept on the establishment has not been reported during this period; AND
- the establishment is situated in a territory thereof free from infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (*M. bovis, M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis*) in its bovine animal population. This applies to Scotland and Isle of Man at the date of publication of this guidance.

'Reported infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex' is considered to only include cases/incidents of TB affecting goat herds in which *M. bovis, M. tuberculosis* or *M. caprae*

was confirmed by the positive identification of the causative organism (by bacteriological culture or PCR performed in an APHA laboratory) in tissue/clinical samples from one or more animals in that herd.

OVs may certify II.2.11.6(ii) provided 618NDC form has been issued from APHA for TB checks on the herd. If TB has been reported in the herd, measures explained in Part 2 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 200/688 must be complied with. This includes testing the herd with negative results over 42 days after removal of the last confirmed case.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Goat_Instructions/Updates/index.htm

If further advice is required, please contact APHA CIT.

II.2.11.7 - GB is recognised as free from brucellosis. The first option can be certified, and the other options deleted. Please check Section 4 on Notifiable Disease Clearance for more advice. The relevant UK listing is in Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This Regulation has been amended by Regulation 2021/634, adding the Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

II.2.11.9 - This attestation may be certified based on Notifiable Disease Clearance (see Section 4).

II.2.11.10 - First option could be certified if there has been no confirmed case of Surra in the holding the last 2 years. See notifiable disease clearance section 4 for further advice. Surra is notifiable from 21 April 2021 in Great Britain. Last recorded case was in imported camelids in Great Britain between 1970-1979 (exact date unknown). A declaration from the owner and veterinary responsible for the holding may be required. The second option can be deleted.

If there has been a confirmed case of Surra, please seek further advice from APHA. Any blood samples required to be taken must be sent to an APHA laboratory for tests, and the submission form clearly annotated to indicate the serological test required (ELISA or CATT). If any of the animals is found to have serological evidence of Surra, the seropositive animals must be removed from the establishment, then all the animals must be re-tested at least 6 months after removal of the last infected animal. If necessary, it is advisable to contact the laboratory in advance of submitting samples and agree how the results should be communicated.

Further information on the new reporting requirements can be found here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/news/New-disease-reporting-requirements.pdf

II.2.11.11 - Only applicable to goats, otherwise delete. This may be certified based on Notifiable Disease Clearance (see Section 4) and declaration from owner/exporter and/or veterinarian responsible for the holding.

II.2.12 - Delete if rams are castrated. EU approved diagnostic methods are referred to in Annex I to Regulation 2020/688, this includes CFT and ELISA tests. Declaration from owner required regarding 60-day residency.

II.2.13 – *Scrapie attestations*

II.2.13.1 - Sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) may be signed, on the basis of the TSE Regulations as they apply to England, Scotland and Wales.

II.2.13.2.: There are three 'either/or' options for II.2.13.2 attestation:

- Member States (MSs) with a negligible risk of classical scrapie are currently Austria, Finland, Sweden, and those with an approved national scrapie control programme are currently Denmark and Slovenia. See list in Annex VIII to Regulation 999/2001 (as amended).

For exports to EU MSs other than the five mentioned above and moves to NI, the first two II.2.13.2 options are applicable.

If the sheep/goats are intended for ***production***, the first of these options should be certified and the second one deleted. The sheep/goats do not have to belong to a controlled or negligible classical scrapie risk holding or the sheep do not have to be scrapie resistant (ARR/ARR) genotype. *Please note the further guidance below, for sheep intended for production and destined to the 5 MSs with negligible risk or approved national scrapie control programme.*

If the sheep/goats are for ***breeding***, the second of these options should be certified. This has two sub-options: the first sub-option may be signed if the sheep/goats belong to a controlled or negligible classical scrapie risk holding which is listed as such through membership of the SAC Consulting: Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes (part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) – hereinafter referred to as the SAC SMS. SAC or SMS Negligible Risk status provides robust evidence (a current certificate issued by the Membership Scheme), that the holding complies with the requirements. If a holding meets this requirement, this sub-option should be certified.

The second sub-option applies to sheep only and can be certified if the sheep are of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype and their holding of origin is not subject to any official – e.g. CSFS - restrictions for classical scrapie. If such restrictions are in place, certification of ARR/ARR sheep for export is not allowed. The genotyping must be either carried out at a government laboratory (APHA) or SAC / SRUC. All blood samples for genotyping must be taken by a veterinary surgeon.

For exports to the five EU MSs mentioned above, the third II.2.13.2 option is applicable, and it must be satisfied for **both *breeding* and *production*** sheep/goats. There are two sub-options. The first sub-option may be signed if the sheep/goats belong to a negligible classical scrapie risk holding which is listed as such through membership of the SAC or SMS (See above). The second sub-option applies to sheep only and can be certified if the sheep are of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype (see above).

II.3 Animal Transport Attestation *(This attestation has not been included in the OV/CAP-X Certificate, but Defra still request all OVs to ensure continued compliance to animal welfare legislation)*

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animals described in the certificate have been treated before and at the time of loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. See section Animal Transport Attestation below. A written declaration should be requested from the Owner/Exporter/Transporter stating that the animals would be so treated and that any animals which may become unfit to travel following certification will not be loaded if the OV

is not able to inspect the animals at the time of loading. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For guidance on certifying paragraphs relating to Avian Influenza see APHA guidance for "Certifying Officers Obtaining Clearance for Avian Influenza" available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians (OV) and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) can certify certain disease clearances paragraphs within this EHC, on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been provided/obtained on form 618NDC from APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).

The clearance will be provided by CITC on form 618NDC. It will specify the statements on the certificate that it covers and is only in relation to the official GB disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs. All other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC and disease status of countries, areas, premises outside the UK, are for the Certifying Officer to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary including support certification for products of animal origin that have originated in Northern Ireland.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

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

NI origin:
Consignments could potentially contain animals which have originated in Northern Ireland. The certificate/documentation which the animal arrives into GB with may not contain sufficient information for the GB CO to sign the EU EHC.
Disease clearance for animals originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland
Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.
Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry) can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all livestock animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

EU origin:
It is possible that some consignments may contain animals that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a GB Export Health Certificate. The GB EHC may not contain enough information to allow the CO to sign an EU EHC.
In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet. The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animals before export from the EU.
This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

Third country origin:
It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries and fulfilled a residency period in GB, and GB exporters intend to export then to the EU. In these cases, COs may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such animals from the Third Country to GB.
GB COs are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB COs to be able to certify the live animals in good time before the export to the EU.

7. DECLARATION BY MASTER OF THE SHIP

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 403/2021, shall be attached to veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of terrestrial animals where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey. You can find the Master of the ship declaration here: www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

Consignments of live animals, usually have to arrive at the EU Border Control Post of introduction within 10 days of the date of issue of this certificate.

In the case of animals transported by sea, that period of 10 days shall be extended by an additional period corresponding to the duration of the journey by sea, as certified by a signed declaration of the master of the ship. This declaration must be drawn up in accordance with article 14 to regulation (EU) 2020/692 (as amended) (link below) and attached in its original form to the certificate. The declaration states any ports of call en route and that the animals have not been in contact with animals of a lower health status and have remained on board.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0692

8. DECLARATION BY CAPTAIN OF THE AIRCRAFT

Where consignments of live animals are transported by air, the crate or container in which they are transported, and the surrounding area shall be sprayed with an appropriate insecticide.

That spraying shall be carried out immediately prior to the closing of the aircraft doors after loading, and after any subsequent opening of the doors in a third country, until the aircraft reaches its final destination.

The captain of the aircraft shall certify that the spraying has been carried out by signing a declaration, drawn up in accordance with Part 4 of Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 (link below) and attached in its original form to the veterinary certificate.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1554915289101&uri=CELEX:02010R0206-20170701

9. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and, in particular if:

- They are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted.
- They present a severe open wound or prolapse.
- They are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week.
- They are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed.

If the place of loading and holding of origin is different, then the OV must obtain a written declaration from the owner/transporter/exporter that the animals were transported from the holding in vehicles previously cleansed and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and “in such a way as to provide effective protection of the animals’ health status”. This means, transport without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status. In this case, where a consignment is grouped in an assembly centre and comprises animals that were loaded on different dates, the date at which the journey commenced for the whole consignment is considered to be the earliest date when any part of the consignment left the holding of origin. OVs should also receive a declaration from the exporter/transporter that the animals will be transported to the place of destination in vehicles which have first been cleaned and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status.

10. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The inspection must be carried out within 24 hours prior to loading. The pre-export inspection should consist of a visual appraisal and, if deemed appropriate, physical examination of the animals for export. Each animal subject to an inspection must be assessed as an individual.

OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required, in order to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

11. LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

Official ISO codes for the United Kingdom of Great Britain are 'GB' (or 'GBR') and the numeric code '826'. Livestock intended for dispatch to the EU or NI must therefore be identified with an ear tag which meets this ISO identification requirement.

For sheep and goats

Sheep are currently double tagged with UK ear tags, and one of these will be an electronic identification (EID) tag. The numeric ISO code for Great Britain (826) is already encoded in all UK sheep EID tags.

You should only add a third tag with the GB country code to sheep or goats who do not have the GB country code on the visible ear tags. You must use the same individual ID number on the GB tag.

For unidentified animals you're tagging for the first time, you can choose to either:

- use double UK tags with the GB suffix (UK-GB)
- add a third tag with the GB country code - you must add this if your UK double tags do not state GB

Single tagged lambs you want to export or move to the EU or NI must be reidentified using double tags. You can either:

- use double UK tags with the GB suffix (UK-GB)
- add a third tag with the GB country code - you must add this if your UK double tags do not state GB

One of these tags must be electronic.

All tags must include the animal's individual ID number.

Third tags should not be yellow or red.

You can replace lost or damaged tags with ones that use the GB suffix (UK-GB) if your animals have already been identified.

Ear tagging guidance after 1st of January 2021 can be found on GOV.UK here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021#identify-animals

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sheep-and-goat-keepers-how-to-identify-your-animals

12. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Scrapie Statement

Conditions for Scrapie can be certified on the basis that the UK implements a

Scrapie Monitoring Scheme (SMS), provided by the SAC Consulting: Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes (part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). Scrapie is a notifiable disease in the UK and Scrapie control is enforced under the TSE Regulations 2018 (England and Wales) and the TSE Regulations 2010 (Scotland)

Holdings with Negligible Risk of Classical Scrapie are listed on the SAC or SMS Negligible Risk status group and provides robust evidence that the holding complies with the requirements at point 1.2 of Section A of Chapter A of Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.

ARR/ARR genotype sheep, can be certified if the sheep are of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype as defined in Annex I to Commission Decision 2002/1003/EC and their holding of origin is not subject to any official – e.g. CSFS - restrictions for classical scrapie. If such restrictions are in place, certification of ARR/ARR sheep for trade is not allowed. If unsure as to whether the holding is under such restrictions, the OV may contact the local APHA office or CIT Carlisle.

The genotyping must be either carried out at a APHA laboratory, SAC / SRUC or any officially approved EU laboratory with ISO17025 accreditation or the individual sheep must have a genotyping certificate issued under the National Scrapie Plan (NSP) or the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS) by a laboratory which is* / was* authorised by the government to carry out genotyping under the plan/scheme. Any such genotyping certificates issued under the scheme/plan before it/they closed remain valid, but the OV must ensure that the identification of the animal as recorded on the genotyping certificate correlates with the official ear tag on the animal as recorded on the EHC; if only the electronic identification number is recorded on the genotyping certificate, then the OV must scan and check the electronic identification of the sheep to confirm correlation between the certificate, the sheep and the official ear tag number on the Certificate. Unless genotyping was carried out officially under the NSP or CSFS, all blood samples for genotyping must be taken by a veterinary surgeon.

Holdings listed as Controlled Risk of Classical Scrapie are listed as such through membership of the SAC or SMS Controlled Risk status provides robust evidence that the holding complies with the requirements at point 1.3 of Section A of Chapter A of Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Holdings which have been listed as monitored for 4, 5 or 6 years can also be certified as holdings with Controlled Risk.

Bluetongue Statement

On 5 July 2011 Great Britain was officially declared free from Bluetongue. Until 2012 vaccination of animals in GB was not permitted.

However, Directive 2012/5/EU amending Council Directive 2000/75/EC now allows inactivated bluetongue vaccine to be used in free areas. This has been transposed in Great Britain through amendments to Bluetongue Regulations (England - SI 2012/197), (Scotland - SSI 2012/199) and (Wales SI 2012 2403).

As a result, bluetongue free areas, are allowed to vaccinate against bluetongue serotypes 1, 2, 4 and 8 using inactivated vaccine made permissible, in England from 24 August 2012 and in Wales from 10 October 2012. But in Scotland, vaccination against all bluetongue serotypes is permissible from 24 September 2012 provided the vaccine is inactivated vaccine.

More information is available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/traces/cattle/bovine-bluetongue-nfg.pdf

13. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated, and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. **The schedule forms part of the certificate.** All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

14. 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 will need to be returned to the APHA CITC on the day of signing. 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 APHA Vet Gateway.

15. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as "retained EU law" under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this "retained EU law". The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable

16. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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.

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

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at livestockexports@apha.gov.uk

PB8448 NFG

Version History

NFG

Version 9 Published 12 May 2023:

Section 7: Declaration by Mater of the Ship: Link to Regulation (EU) 2020/692 is added as it has replaced the Regulation (EU) 2010/206.

Version 8 Published 30 March 2023:

- II.2.13.2 is amended to provide legislative reference Annex VIII to Regulation 999/2001 (as amended) for Member States (MSs) with a negligible risk of classical scrapie and with an approved national scrapie control programme.

Notifying the further guidance for sheep intended for production to the 5 MSs.

Version 7 Published 16 March 2023:

- II.2.11.6 is amended in relation to annual testing of the goats, whether kept for breeding, export, or other purpose with negative results.

Version 6 Published 01 March 2023:

- Section 14 amended added guidance advising that a certified copy of the certificate needs to be returned to APHA CITC on the day of signing.