

EXPORT OF DAIRY AND DAIRY BASED PRODUCTS (OTHER THAN RAW MILK CHEESE) TO AUSTRALIA - 6969EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

Associated Documents: 6969EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6969EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6969EHC.

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.

1. **Scope of the certificate**

Certificate 6969EHC may be used to accompany dairy and dairy based products (including of buffalo/sheep/goat origin but *excluding* raw milk cheese) to Australia. The exporter must also apply to the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for an Import Permit.

The certificate is divided into 2 sections, as follows:

- A. Cheese and butter;
- B. Dairy products, other than cheese and butter or retorted products.

For retorted dairy products, exporters are advised to use the alternative 7355EHC for '*Retorted Goods for Human Consumption Containing 5% or more Animal Product (Egg/Dairy)*'.

Only the appropriate section needs to be completed. Any section that does not apply must be deleted. If in doubt, the OV should consult the import permit to determine which section must be completed.

IMPORTANT: If the dairy ingredients originated or were processed in a country other than the UK, it may be necessary to obtain an official certificate from the countries of origin for the ingredients in question to enable the certificate to be signed - please see guidance at paragraphs 4 and 5 below.

2. **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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any 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.

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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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.

3. Notifiable Disease Clearance

For Foot and Mouth disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and sheep/goat pox, it should be noted that the statements refer to the disease-free country lists published by the Australian Director of Biosecurity (see links below), and NOT the OIE lists. The country of origin/manufacture must have been declared free from the relevant diseases by Australia at the time of collection and processing.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Freedom:
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/fmd-free-country-list

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) Freedom:
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/lsd-free-country-list

Sheep and Goat Pox Freedom:
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/legislation/sheep-goat-pox-free-country-list

4. **IV Section A: Certification of Health Information for Cheese and Butter**

Section A. i) Asterisked sections should be struck through as appropriate to reflect the species of origin of the milk product.

Section A. ii and iv) A list of countries that the Australian Director of Biosecurity is satisfied are free from FMD can be found on the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website at using the link in paragraph 3 above.

Provided the milk used has been demonstrably sourced from a country included on this list, the OV may certify on this basis.

Section A. iii) Official veterinarians can certify these paragraphs for **milk of UK or EU origin** based on milk hygiene legislation in force in the UK and EU member states which ensures that only healthy animals are used for milk production.

For **milk originating from other than UK or the EU**, these paragraphs can only be certified if an official certificate from the country of origin which includes this information is made available to the certifying veterinarian.

Section A. v) The relevant clause, a. (for pasteurisation) or b. (for UHT treatment), may be certified on the basis that the milk from which the dairy products was made was heated to at least the required temperature, for the required time. Milk that has been treated at a higher temperature than that stated in the EHC may be considered to meet this requirement, provided that the treatment also meets the minimum time requirement.

An alternative heat treatment may be entered **only** if stated on the accompanying import permit.

Cheese and butter that has not been subject to a heat treatment may be exported but will be subject to quarantine on arrival as per the notes in the export health certificate. Note that this certificate **cannot** be used to export raw milk cheese to Australia.

The non-relevant clause should be struck through.

Section A. vi) The non-relevant clause should be struck through. The OV must satisfy themselves that these conditions have been met based on the evidence provided to them.

5. **IV Section B: Certification of Health Information for Dairy products other than cheese, butter and retorted products**

Section B. i) Asterisked sections should be struck through as appropriate to reflect the species of origin of the milk product

Section B. ii and iv) A list of countries that the Australian Director of Biosecurity is satisfied are free from FMD, LSD (for products of bovine origin) and Sheep and Goat Pox (for products of caprine/ovine origin) can be found on the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website using the links in paragraph 3 above.

Provided the milk used has been demonstrably sourced from a country included on this list, the OV may certify on this basis.

Section B. iii) Official veterinarians can certify these paragraphs for **milk of UK or EU origin** based on milk hygiene legislation in force in the UK and EU member states which ensures that only healthy animals are used for milk production.

For **milk originating from other than UK or the EU**, these paragraphs can only be certified if an official certificate from the country of origin which includes this information is made available to the certifying veterinarian.

Section A. v) The relevant clause, a. (for pasteurisation) or b. (for UHT treatment), may be certified on the basis that the milk from which the dairy products was made was heated to *at least* the required temperature, for the required time. Milk that has been treated at a higher temperature than that stated in the EHC may be considered to meet this requirement, provided that the treatment also meets the minimum time requirement.

An alternative heat treatment may be entered **only** if stated on the accompanying import permit.

The non-relevant clause should be struck through.

Section B. vi) The non-relevant clause should be struck through. The OV must satisfy themselves that these conditions have been met based on the evidence provided to them.

9. **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