

EXPORT OF SHEEPSKINS TO CHINA - 5725EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated documents: 5725EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 5725EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5725EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 5725EHC may be used for the export of Sheepskins from the United Kingdom to China.

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

The Chinese authorities have expressed concerns over poorly presented examples of export health certificate **5725EHC**, particularly in relation to handwritten entries and amendments made by certifying OVs. Extra care should therefore be taken when completing this certificate.

Any insertions must be typed and the ONLY permitted handwritten entry is the signature of the OV. Any authorised deletions that cannot be typed or entered electronically must be made using a ruler and a fine black pen. Diagonal deletions MUST NOT be used. Each line to be deleted must be ruled out providing an effect similar to that of typewritten deletions. OV stamp to be inserted ONLY on the space provided (next to the OV signature). If the final date of certification cannot be typed in, this may be entered using an inked rubber stamp in any ink colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

Because of these procedural requirements, the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, together with Official Veterinarians, Defra and Industry have developed two possible procedures for issuing the final signed 5725EHC for GB exports.

OPTION A: (Preferred option)

- Exporter requests the electronic 5725EHC and EXA07 Application Form from APHA Carlisle and electronically completes all the details known to them and emails the part-completed form to the OV.
- OV completes the remaining details.
- Both fully completed forms are emailed back to APHA Carlisle.
- The final certificate is printed by APHA Carlisle and sent to the OV for signature

OPTION B:

- Exporter completes an electronic EXA07 Application Form requesting either a single or block of 5725EHC to be issued to their nominated OV.
- Certificate(s) issued to OV who completes them using a typewriter and stamps as detailed above.

Further details of all of these procedures can be obtained from APHA Carlisle.

For NI exports, DAERA should be consulted on the preferred method of 5725NFG (Revised 26/10/2023)

application and issuing the final certificate.

5725EHC 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.

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.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this certificate:

- a) non-processed hides and skins means hides and skins that have been

dried or salted, and do not include raw hides or skins.

- b) Processed hides and skins refers specifically to tanned, wet-blue, dry-blue or limed hides and skins.

4. **LOADING OF PRODUCT**

Provided that the consignment is identified by appropriate batch codes, serial numbers or shipping marks etc, then it is not necessary for the OV to be present at the time of loading into the means of transport. The certificate must fully describe the consignments such that substitution with product which has not been so described is not possible.

5. **SEALING**

Paragraph I (f) refers: The seal should be of a type which would be broken or torn if the containers were opened. The seal numbers must be written in the appropriate place in paragraph I (f).

6. **SIGNING OF HEALTH INFORMATION**

- a) **Paragraphs IV 1 & 2** may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority to do so on form 618NDC has been obtained from the issuing office, within 10 days of shipment.

- b) **Paragraph IV 3.** may be signed on the basis of support documents from the slaughterhouse where the animals from which the sheepskins were obtained were slaughtered. Only sheepskins obtained from animals slaughtered before 8 July 2007 or after 7 August 2008 are eligible for export to China. These dates correspond to the period covered by the trade ban imposed by China on the UK following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in August 2007. China recognised the UK's FMD-free status on 7 August 2008.

As a result of this restriction, the date of manufacture must be before 8 July 2007 or after 7 August 2008, at the very least. The Administration of Quality Supervision and Quarantine (AQSIQ) in China, have specifically requested that the date of slaughter be inserted in the certificate. We understand this might not always be possible. Therefore, in these cases, we recommend that the wording "before 8 July 2007" or "after 7 August 2008" is inserted in the space provided.

- c) **Paragraph IV 4.** may be certified on the basis of support certification from the OVs at the slaughterhouses or other assurances which confirm that the exported sheepskins belong to Category 3 under the Animal-by Products Regulations 2003.
- d) **Paragraphs IV 5. or 6.** can be certified on the basis of familiarity of the process or an appropriate certificate from the BLC Leather Technology Centre.
- e) **Paragraph IV 7. & 8.** may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the procedures in the establishments concerned and/or on the basis of support documents. In order to certify IV 8, the OV should be satisfied that the hides/skins have been obtained, processed, stored and transported in accordance with the requirements, for Category 3 by-products, of Regulation 1774/2002/EC as implemented by the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 (and equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). The word "obtained" in this context relates to the process of slaughter and subsequent manipulation of the products.

7. **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