

EXPORT OF PET FOOD AND PET TREATS CONTAINING DAIRY PRODUCTS AND/OR POULTRY MATERIAL AND/OR PORCINE MATERIAL AND/OR FISH MATERIAL TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 6914EHC.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6914EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6914EHC. 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

Export health certificate 6914EHC may be used for the export to South Africa of pet treats which were made using bovine dairy products, and/or poultry material and/or porcine material and/or fish material.

Alternative certification is available for milk-based pet foods which do not contain any ingredients derived from poultry, pigs or fish.

The relevant import permit number should be entered into the appropriate space on the first page of the certificate.

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 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. Paragraph IV - Health information

Paragraph IV may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with any necessary evidence resulting from the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the facility. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements and valid declarations.

(a) Paragraph IV(a) (1) - Approved to export

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the manufacturing establishment satisfies at least one of the following conditions:

- (i) approval or registration in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended). In England, this is enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Certifying OVs are advised that, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, references to Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 shall be construed as references to Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 and that establishments, plants and users approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 before 4 March 2011 shall be deemed to be approved or registered, as required, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

- (ii) approval or registration in accordance with Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene. In England, this is enforced by the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2005 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The approval or registration number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document or by reference to the appropriate enforcement authority (APHA, DAERA or Local Authority) responsible

for the establishment.

(b) **Paragraph IV(a) (3) - Does not present a disease risk**

This may be supported by the fact that the product was manufactured in an establishment approved or registered as described in paragraph 3(a) above.

(c) **Paragraph IV(b) (3) - Heat treatment**

For the purposes of this paragraph, the raw animal material (excluding milk) used in the product must have been processed as described but not necessarily during the manufacture of the final product. For example, if the final product contains fishmeal which was produced by subjecting raw fish material to the specified heat treatment then this condition can be considered to have been satisfied even if the subsequent processing steps used to make the final product did not achieve the same heat treatment.

(d) **Paragraph IV(c) - Processing of milk ingredients**

Either paragraph IV(c) (1) or (2) must be certified as necessary to reflect the nature of the milk ingredients used in the manufacture of the final product.

Any options which do not apply should be struck through and the deletions signed and stamped in the usual manner. The certifying OV should read the options carefully to ensure that only permitted deletions are made. Deleting text that is ineligible for deletion could result in the consignment being detained or rejected.

(e) **Paragraph IV(d) - Microbiological compliance**

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of relevant laboratory test results from an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory confirming compliance with the microbiological standards specified.

4. SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS

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. 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.

5. 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