EXPORT OF HONEY, ROYAL JELLY AND OTHER APICULTURE PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION TO MAURITIUS - 8643EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Document: 8643EHC

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 8643EHC. 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.

CONTENTS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

- Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 - general principles and requirements of food law
- Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 – hygiene/public health requirements for foodstuffs (852) and for food of animal origin (853)

Consolidated legislation

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link:
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of 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 that have been 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.

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 model veterinary certificate may be used for despatch to **Mauritius**, of honey, royal jelly, and other apiculture products intended for human consumption.

3. 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.

4. SIGNING, STAMPING AND PAGINATION

Schedules (if any), may be stapled to the certified EHC, but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the EHC and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Vet Gateway, any handwritten corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**.

Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below.
http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part 1 is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However, we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part 1 of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

Please check the guidance on completion of part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG. For **completion of box I.8-Region of Origin Code,** if applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC.
This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a legislative Decision.

5. COMPLETION OF PART I – DETAILS OF DESPATCHED 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 a schedule, to be attached to the certificate, if there is not enough space to fill the information. See section 'Addition of Schedules' for further information.

I.3 – Central Competent Authority

This should be completed with "**Defra**".

I.4 – Department of Veterinary Inspection

The certifying OV should enter **'APHA'** if the establishment is located in Great Britain. Where the exporting establishment is located in Northern Ireland, "**DAERA**" should be entered.

I.6 – intentionally struck through.

I.7 and I.9 – Country ISO Codes

ISO 3166 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes.

The ISO Code for the whole of the **United Kingdom** is "**GB**" and this should be entered at **Box I.7., provided the product is of UK origin.**

For triangular trade, where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging, with the original third country Identification Marks, the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom.

The ISO Code for **Mauritius** is "**MU**" and **Box I.9.** has been prepopulated accordingly.

I.8 & I.10 – Region of Origin/ Destination

In line with the Explanatory Notes in paragraph 4. above, this paragraph may usually be struck through, as it would normally be inapplicable.

Regionalisation would usually only come into play during an outbreak of a disease that the source animal of the POAO is susceptible to.

However, if the UK and the product fall within the scope of emergency disease control legislation laid down by the importing authorities, **then**

this paragraph should be completed with the appropriate region names and ISO codes, if these are specified under such emergency legislation. In these cases, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade (CIT) in Carlisle or DAERA in Northern Ireland should be consulted for further specific guidance.

I.11 – Approval/Registration Number

The products described must come from an establishment that is registered with the competent authority.

For UK origin products, a registration number provided by the relevant local authority should be inserted here.

If of non-UK origin, the certification used to import the products into the UK can be used to provide the necessary details for this information to be completed.

I.12 – intentionally struck through.

I.13 – Place of loading

The place of loading or the port of embarkation must be entered.

I.14 - Date of departure

The date of departure must be entered.

I.15 – Means of transport

The means of transport i.e. aeroplane, ship, railway wagon, road vehicle must be indicated. The option '*Other*' is **not applicable** to the movement of products and should **not** be selected.
The flight number, name of the vessel, the train number **and** rail car, or the number plate of the road vehicle, should be entered as the means of identification as appropriate.

If the means of transport changes after the certificate has been signed, the consignor must inform the officials at the intended point of entry.

Optionally, the number of the airway bill, bill of lading, or the commercial number of the train, or road vehicle, may be entered as the documentary reference.

I.16 – Entry point

The exporter must advise the OV of the point of entry into the destination country and this must be entered.

I.17 – intentionally struck through.

I.18 - Description of commodity

A veterinary description of the goods or a description based on the applicable HS Code (see below) must be entered.

I.19 – HS Code

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics. The appropriate HS Code should be entered in **Box I.19**. 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

The OV should confirm with the exporter that the HS Code used, correctly describes the products being consigned.

I.20 – Quantity of Product

Insert the total gross and net weights in Kg.

I.21 – Temperature of product

Indicate whether the transport/storage temperature is ambient, chilled or frozen.

I.22 - Number of packages

Insert the number of packages in the consignment (E.g. number of boxes x number of jars = X jars).

I.23 - Seal/container no.

The container must be sealed at the establishment of production or despatch, and the seal and container numbers should be entered here.

I.24 – Type of packaging

Enter the type of packaging in the space provided.

Identify the type of packaging according to the definition given in Recommendation No 21 (10) of UN/CEFACT (United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business). Please see link:

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec21/rec21_Rev10e_Annex-V-VI_2019.xls

I.25 – Commodities certified for

Tick the box to indicate that the products are for human consumption.

I.26 – intentionally struck through.

I.27 – For import or admission

The box should be ticked to confirm that this is an import or admission, as opposed to transit/transhipment.

I.28 – Identification of the commodities

If the consignment consists of multiple varieties of the product, in excess of the rows available within the certificate, then it may be necessary to use a separate schedule to identify the full consignment.
The schedule must, as a minimum, contain the same information as that required in **Box I.28** of the certificate and this box must be annotated "See Attached Schedule".

Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian.

For species/scientific name insert the scientific name of the species of origin e.g. *Apis mellifera*

For treatment type insert ‘ultrasonication’, ‘homogenisation’, ‘ultrafiltration’, ‘pasteurization’ or ‘no thermal treatment’

Any blank spaces in the schedule or in **Box I.28** should be deleted with

diagonal lines.

Further to **I.11** above, OVs should enter the relevant approval/registration number of the manufacturing plant in addition to the other required information.

6. COMPLETION OF PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public Health Attestation

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.
They must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Regulation (EC) Nos 178/2002, 852/2004 and 853/2004.

To certify point II.1, the products described must come from a registered establishment under 852/2004. In practice this means that the establishment must be registered by the local authority.

For UK origin honey, the EHC residue testing requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance with the national surveillance programme, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, 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 devolved administrations.

The results of the statutory surveillance programme can be accessed via the link below:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/residues-surveillance#results

7. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Personnel may be authorised to collect evidence which may be used to support veterinary certification.

In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA.

CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ (AHP)-CSO) qualification.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) should be obtained. CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks.

They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are **not** authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.

Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the OV Instructions Exports section of the APHA Vet Gateway.

8. 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