

**HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO GCC COUNTRIES -
7846EHC**

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7846EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7846EHC.

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

Recent negotiations have resulted in agreement of import conditions for ovine meat and meat products from the United Kingdom to the Municipality of Kuwait, which is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance of six Middle Eastern countries - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The agreed conditions are reflected in export certificate 7846EHC, which has been issued for use solely for exports of meat and meat products derived from the ovine species to the Municipality of Kuwait.

2. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS: HALAL CERTIFICATE/HALAL SLAUGHTERING CERTIFICATE

Certificate 7846EHC must be accompanied by a certificate issued by an accredited (GCC) Islamic agency (society) of the country of origin, attesting that the animals has been slaughtered in accordance with the rules of Islamic Sharia.

Verification of the Halal certificate/Halal slaughtering certificate must be undertaken for all relevant consignments of food. In the case of meat and meat products, the Muslim agency (Societies and Islamic councils) in the exporting country that approved by the GCC will supervise the slaughter process and provide documentation according to GCC requirements.

For further advice on Halal certification, exporters should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

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. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit.

5. SCHEDULES

Box 1.16 refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. The schedule must contain the same information in the same order as in Box 1.16. Box 1.16 must be annotated 'See attached schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled to the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. COMMODITY (HS) CODE

Box 1.16 refers. The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system in which articles are grouped into various categories. It is used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

Please refer to **Annex A** of these notes for the full list of HS Codes to be entered in the box for the various categories of fresh meat of ovine origin for export to Kuwait.

Further advice on use of HS Codes can be found from the website www.hscode.org or by contacting the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle.

7. COMPLIANCE WITH EU HYGIENE REGULATIONS/FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs 1.17(a) - (d) may be certified on the basis of the EU oval mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004.

These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and the Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

Paragraph 1.17(b) refers. For the purposes of this certificate, all EU-approved slaughterhouses in the United Kingdom producing sheep and goat meat for export are regarded as being approved by the GCC authorities.

Paragraph 1.17(c) refers. For the purposes of this certificate, the term 'inspection by veterinarians' means inspection under veterinary supervision.

8. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

The veterinary authorities of the Municipality of Kuwait have agreed that GCC requirements on residues in meat are considered equivalent to EU requirements.

Accordingly, paragraph 1.17(e) may be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme (NSS), which implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC on veterinary residues to which all EU approved meat establishments are subject.

In addition, HACCP requirements described in Regulation (EC) 854/2004 place an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives.

The above Directives are 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 Wales and Northern Ireland.

9. ANIMAL FEED CONTROLS

Paragraph 1.17(g) may be certified on the basis of compliance with TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, as transposed into

national legislation).

The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency) ensure compliance with the legislation.

10. 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

FULL LIST OF HS CODES FOR USE WITH CERTIFICATE 7846EHC

HS Code	Commodity Description
08.1.1	Fresh meat, poultry and game, whole pieces or cuts
08.1.2	Fresh meat, poultry and game, comminuted
08.2.1.1	Cured (including salted) non-heat treated processed meat, poultry, and game products in whole pieces or cuts
08.2.1.2	Cured (including salted) and dried non-heat treated processed meat, poultry, and game products in whole pieces or cuts
08.2.1.3	Fermented non-heat treated processed meat, poultry, and game products in whole pieces or cuts
08.2.2	Heat-treated processed meat, poultry, and game products in whole pieces or cuts
08.2.3	Frozen processed meat, poultry and game products in whole pieces or cuts
08.3.1.1	Cured (including salted) non-heat treated processed comminuted meat, poultry, and game products
08.3.1.2	Cured (including salted) and dried non-heat treated processed comminuted meat, poultry, and game products
08.3.1.3	Fermented non-heat treated processed comminuted meat, poultry, and game products
08.3.2	Heat-treated processed comminuted meat, poultry, and game products
08.3.3	Frozen processed comminuted meat, poultry, and game products
08.4	Edible casings (e.g., sausage casings)