

**EXPORT OF UNPROCESSED HIDES AND SKINS TO NIGERIA**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

**Associated Documents:** 7726EHC 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 7726EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7726EHC. 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 7726EHC may be used for the export of salted or dried hides and skins to Nigeria. This certificate is not intended to cover the export of fresh, chilled, wet blue, limed, pickled or tanned hides and skins.

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](mailto: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 I(a) refers. The consignment description should include reference to the species of origin of the product.
4. Paragraph IV refers. The health information may be certified on the basis of the following guidance in conjunction with the necessary evidence resulting from the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or records including veterinary import certification.

In addition, the certifying OV should be familiar with the requirements of Regulations (EC) 1069/2009 and 142/2011 (as amended).

(a) **Fit for slaughter for human consumption**

Paragraph IV 1 refers. This paragraph requires that the hides and skins came from animals which were fit to be slaughtered for human consumption, however, it does not require the hides and skins to have come from animals which passed both ante- and post-mortem inspection.

(b) **Hides and skins produced in the UK**

Paragraph IV 2 refers. One of the two options presented must be certified. The option which is not to be certified should be struck through in the usual manner.

(i) **Notifiable disease clearance of the UK**

Paragraph IV 2(a) refers. The UK's foot and mouth disease free status may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the Specialist Service Centre - International Trade in Carlisle on form 618NDC or from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

If this paragraph is to be certified, then the hides and skins present in the consignment may be subjected to one of the following treatments applicable to 'treated hides and skins' as defined under Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended):

- dried;
- dry-salted or wet-salted for a period of at least 14 days prior to dispatch;
- salted for a period of at least seven days in sea salt with the addition of 2 % of sodium carbonate;
- dried for a period of at least 42 days at a temperature

of at least 20 °C; or

- subject to a preservation process other than tanning;

Certifying OVs and exporters should be aware that, if the UK is unable to satisfy the foot and mouth disease freedom requirement, the importing authorities may impose animal health restrictions which could lead to consignments being rejected regardless of whether the remaining conditions of this certificate have been met.

(ii) **Inactivation of foot and mouth disease virus**

Paragraph IV 2 (b) refers. If paragraph IV 2(a) cannot be certified then it should be deleted and paragraph IV 2(b) must be certified instead.

If this paragraph is to be certified, then the hides and skins present in the consignment must have been salted for a period of at least 28 days as stipulated. This 28 day salting process is currently the only treatment recognised in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code as being capable of destroying the foot and mouth disease virus in raw hides and skins.

(c) **Hides and skins produced outside the UK**

Paragraph IV 3 refers. This paragraph requires that the hides and skins were legally imported into the UK. Accordingly, the hides and skins must have been accompanied by the commercial document or official veterinary certification provided for under Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended), depending on whether the hides and skins came from another EU member state or from a country outside the EU respectively.

One of the two options presented in this paragraph must be certified. The option which is not to be certified should be struck through in the usual manner.

(i) **Notifiable disease clearance of country of origin**

Paragraph IV 3 (a) refers. Confirmation that the country of origin is free of foot and mouth disease may be certified by reference to the website of the World Organisation for Animal Health (still known by its historical acronym, OIE):

**<http://www.oie.int/wahid/>**

or by reference to supporting veterinary certification or documentation from the competent authority of the country of origin.

If this paragraph is to be certified, then the hides and skins present in the consignment may be subjected to one of the following treatments applicable to 'treated hides and skins' as defined under Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended):

- (a) dried;
- (b) dry-salted or wet-salted for a period of at least 14 days prior to dispatch;
- (c) salted for a period of at least seven days in sea salt with the addition of 2 % of sodium carbonate;
- (d) dried for a period of at least 42 days at a temperature of at least 20 °C; or
- (e) subject to a preservation process other than tanning;

Certifying OVs and exporters should be aware that, if the foot and mouth disease freedom requirement cannot be certified, the importing authorities may impose animal health restrictions which could lead to consignments being rejected regardless of whether the remaining conditions of this certificate have been met.

- (ii) **Inactivation of foot and mouth disease virus**  
Paragraph IV 3 (b) refers. If paragraph IV 3(a) cannot be certified then it should be deleted and paragraph IV 3(b) must be certified instead.

If this paragraph is to be certified, then the hides and skins present in the consignment must have been salted for a period of at least 28 days as stipulated. This 28 day salting process is currently the only treatment recognised in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code as being capable of destroying the foot and mouth disease virus in raw hides and skins.

5. If 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. 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.

The RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2012 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated". Where possible, supporting evidence for declarations should be called for and put on file.

6. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)