

EXPORT OF BIOLOGICAL OR PLANT PRODUCTS CONTAINING LACTOSE TO AUSTRALIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 8817EHC.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8817EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8817EHC. 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 8817EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to Australia of biological or plant products for environmental or industrial use containing lactose in accordance with a valid import permit issued by the Australian competent authority.

The number of the import permit issued by, for example, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, must be entered into the appropriate space on the front page of this certificate.

The import permit may also include requirements that are outside the scope of this certificate, such as the need for specific manufacturer's declarations. The exporter should therefore ensure that the necessary steps have been taken to satisfy any additional applicable requirements of the import permit.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Certified Copy Requirements

Certifiers are only required to return a certified copy of EHCs for the following EHC types:

- If the commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
- EHCs where the certifier cannot submit certifier feedback via the electronic system

If you are required to return a certified copy to CITC, email a scanned copy to certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

Retain a copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified for two years.

Certifiers 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 attestation

Paragraph IV must be completed to accurately reflect the sourcing, ingredients, processing and handling of the product (as appropriate) and to ensure compliance with the relevant elements of the valid import permit.

The number of the import permit must be entered into the appropriate space.

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) Paragraphs IV 1 - Countries of origin of lactose

The countries of origin of the lactose must be those stated in the corresponding import permit.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of examination of relevant documentation and/or records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements and valid declarations.

(b) Paragraph IV 2 - Countries of processing of lactose

The countries of processing of the lactose must be those stated in the corresponding import permit.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of examination of relevant documentation and/or records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements and valid declarations.

(c) Paragraph IV 3 - health status of dairy animals

For dairy products of UK origin, this paragraph may be certified based on milk hygiene legislation in force in the UK which ensures that only healthy animals are used for milk production.

For dairy products of non-UK origin, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of examination of relevant documentation and/or records including commercial documentation, import certification, veterinary statements and valid declarations confirming the health status of the animals

from which the milk was derived.

(d) **Paragraph IV 4 - milk heat treatment**

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of confirmation that the milk from which any dairy ingredients in the consignment were derived has undergone the stated heat treatment.

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.

4. 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. 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 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 (CIT) - Exports in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:

e-mail- tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk

Phone - 0289 0520989