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**EXPORT OF PETFOOD CONTAINING MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS (EXCLUDING BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS) TO SINGAPORE - 6998EHC**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

**Associated Documents:** 6998EHC and 618NDC

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export health certificate 6998EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6998EHC. 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 6998EHC may be used for the export to Singapore of petfood containing meat and meat products other than beef or beef products. For the purposes of this certificate, the term 'beef or beef products' refers to ingredients derived from slaughtered cattle.

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 6998NFG (Cleared 16/09/2011) (Revised 17/11/2023)

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 II(b) refers. Petfood manufacturing plants must be approved in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended). In England, this is enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 (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.

Confirmation of approval can be ascertained on sight of a valid approval document or by reference to the APHA Centre for International Trade - Exports, in Carlisle.

4. Paragraphs IV (a) and (b) may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the procurement, processing and handling procedures in place at the manufacturing establishment, supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or suitable records.

Paragraph IV (b) should be completed with the details of the significant treatment(s) used during the manufacture of the product, that is, those designed to destroy pathogenic organisms.

5. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. The first indent may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office of APHA or DAERA, on form 618NDC.

If the United Kingdom has not been free of the named diseases for the prescribed time then the second indent may instead be certified on the basis of compliance with paragraph IV(b) of the certificate.

In either case, the indent not being certified must be deleted in the usual manner.

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)