

NO:

**EXPORT OF MILK/MILK PRODUCTS TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
- 5439EHC**

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 5439EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

We understand that certificate 5439EHC reflects the requirements laid down in Algerian Legislation. As a result, the wording and the details (e.g. at paragraphs IV (6) and IV (10)) cannot be amended. However, provided the guidance notes below are followed or relied upon, the certificate may be signed.

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 5439EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5439EHC. 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 5439EHC may be used for the export of dairy products from the United Kingdom to Algeria.

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.

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 IV 1. For FMD, the paragraph may be signed on the basis of UK legislation on the control of FMD which prevents the sale or supply of milk from a holding on which the disease is suspected or confirmed.
 - For the other OIE diseases formerly in list A to which cattle are susceptible and which can be transmitted via milk (Rinderpest, Contagious Bovine pleuropneumonia, Lumpy Skin Disease, Rift Valley Fever, and Vesicular Stomatitis) the paragraph may be signed on a similar basis and on the basis that the UK has been free from these diseases for the past 12 months.
 - Written authority for the latter will be provided on form 618NDC by the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA.
4. Paragraphs IV 2 and 3.

Certify IV.2 for milk (including milk powder) or IV.3 for milk products.

Keep one of the applicable treatment requirements and strike through the attestations that do not apply.

Compliance with treatment requirements may be certified on the basis of:

- knowledge of the production process operating in the establishment;
 - checks on company records of processing, quality control checks etc. for the batches certified; and
 - on the basis of supplementary supporting evidence provided by the responsible Environmental Health Officer.
5. Paragraph IV 4. This requires procedures to be in place to avoid possible contamination with the FMD virus or cross-contamination by materials not similarly certified.
 6. Paragraph IV 6.

A monitoring programme for specified residues in milk is implemented in the UK by the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 and the 5439NFG (Cleared 20/12/2004) (Revised 24/11/2023)

programme in question is referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS).

On the basis of this scheme, it can be considered that milk and milk products do not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the European Union of any antibiotic/veterinary medicinal product; any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally; any pesticide; or any heavy metal, known to be harmful to human health.

The NSS also covers PCBs, and although a maximum residue limit (MRL) has not been set, the results of surveillance indicate that the level found is below that stated in the table at paragraph IV 6.

Dioxins, copper and iron (and "disinfectants") are not covered by the NSS.

However, the Food Standards Agency has, since 1989, carried out surveys for dioxins (and PCBs) in food (including milk and milk products) as part of the Total Diet Study (TDS).

Also, following the recent concern regarding possible contamination from the burning of carcasses during the FMD outbreak, the FSA carried out a testing programme for dioxins (and dioxin-like PCBs) in foods, including milk, produced close to the pyres.

The UK TDS data suggest average concentrations of 1.12 ng WHO - TEQ/kg fat basis for dioxins. The "FMD" programme has so far not found any concentrations of dioxins in either milk or milk products which exceed 4 pg WHO - TEQ/kg milk fat.

Results of the official surveys on dioxin levels will be reviewed regularly, and this guidance updated if necessary. However, the results to date indicate that the levels in UK milk are below the Algerian maximum shown in the table at paragraph IV 6 (please note that the levels in the certificate are expressed per gram of fat and not kilogram of fat).

The certificate may be signed on this basis.

No official surveys are carried out for **iron or copper**. Thus, certification regarding compliance with the standards mentioned in the table at paragraph IV 6. must be based on monitoring programmes by the manufacturer, or on tests on batches intended for export.

As these tests are relatively simple, DEFRA recommends consignment specific testing.

No international protocols exist for the surveillance of disinfectants, or their residues, in milk. Good milking hygiene practice at the farm, and quality assurance checks at the processing establishment, should ensure that contamination of milk by the disinfectants (usually iodophor based) routinely used in the dairy industry is prevented. Therefore, the certificate may be signed on the basis of recorded quality assurance checks to ensure that there is no physical and/or organoleptic evidence of contamination.

7. Paragraph IV 7. This may be signed on the basis of the Radiation Monitoring Programme for radioactivity in food and the environment carried out by the FSA in the UK. The FSA monitors milk at several dairies across the UK and complete meals from large consumption areas such as canteens or restaurants. The FSA, in association with the environment agencies, publishes an

annual report - Radioactivity in Food and the Environment - which summarises the results of such monitoring and any additional monitoring carried out on the basis of risk, e.g., around the nuclear sites.

The results of these monitoring in 2003 demonstrate that even the most exposed members of the public received radiation doses from consumption of food and exposure to environmental radioactivity due to discharges and direct radiation that were below the statutory United Kingdom annual dose limit to members of the public of 1 mSv (millisievert), i.e., below European Union limits and within Government targets.

8. Paragraph IV 8. This may be certified on the basis that the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Order 1996 prohibits the sale or supply for human consumption of milk from animals affected with or suspected of suffering from BSE.
9. Paragraph IV 9. A laboratory report showing the results of microbiological analysis carried out on each batch of products being certified should be attached to the certificate. This report should be annotated with the health certificate number and the annotation signed, stamped and dated by the certifying veterinarian.
10. Paragraph IV 10. This requires specific monitoring for the organisms/toxins mentioned. The requirements are not clear with respect to the level of monitoring required. Therefore, the number of samples taken on each occasion that a batch is checked and the frequency of such checks should be in line with the microbiological monitoring under the Dairy Hygiene legislation. Provided the results are below or comply with the threshold value mentioned in the final column, the certificate may be signed. The middle column should be disregarded, as the value of "m" is not defined.
11. **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