

VETERINARY CERTIFICATES FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM MILK OF COWS, EWES, GOATS AND BUFFALOES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION INTENDED FOR CONSIGNMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - 7539EHC AND 7540EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 7540EHC (or, exceptionally, 7539EHC).

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with either export certificate 7540EHC (or, exceptionally, 7539EHC).

The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the relevant certificate. 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**

7540EHC **MUST** be used for the export of all dairy products for human consumption and dairy products derived from the milk of cows, ewes, goats and buffaloes for human consumption from the United Kingdom and intended for consignment to the Republic of Turkey, which fall within the Commodity Codes:

04.01;	04.02;	04.03;
04.04;	04.05;	04.06;
15.17;	17.02;	19.01;
21.05;	22.02;	28.35;
35.01;	35.02;	or 35.04.

as listed at NOTE I.19 of 7540EHC.

Only dairy products that fall outside the Commodity Codes listed above are eligible to use 7539EHC.

NOTE:

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF 7539EHC MIGHT RESULT IN YOUR CONSIGNMENT BEING REFUSED ENTRY - IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT YOU OBTAIN CONFIRMATION FROM YOUR AGENT/IMPORTER THAT 7539EHC WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, PRIOR TO USE.

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 I.2 refers.
This MUST consist of the prefix 'GB' (ISO Country Code for the UK), followed by a unique number in CENTAUR format, i.e. year/AHDO number/sequential number.
The prefix 'GB' and the unique serial number are pre-printed on the certificate prior to issue. The unique number MUST be printed on the certificate; if this number is entered in manuscript, the certificate will be INVALIDATED.
4. Paragraph I.5 refers.
Enter `APHA` for consignments certified from GB, and `DAERA` for consignments certified from Northern Ireland.
5. Paragraph I.7 refers.
ISO 3166 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes. The ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is "GB" and this should be entered at **Box I.7**.
6. Paragraph I.8 refers
Box I.8 should normally be left blank.
However, if the UK and the product fall within the scope of emergency disease control legislation laid down by the importing authorities, then this paragraph should be completed with the appropriate region names and ISO codes if these are specified under such emergency legislation.

In these cases, the APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle or DAERA in Northern Ireland, should be consulted for further specific guidance.

7. **Paragraph I.11 refers**

The details of the approved FBO where the dairy product was manufactured should be entered here.

8. **Part II.1 Animal Health Attestation - 7539EHC**

• **II.1.1 (i), (ii), and (iii) refer.**

These clauses may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004. In the UK, the EU Regulation is implemented by the Food Hygiene Regulation 2006.

The Regulation requires that raw milk must come from animals:

- (a) that do not show any symptoms of infectious diseases communicable to humans through milk;
- (b) that are in a good general state of health, present no sign of disease that might result in the contamination of milk and, in particular, are not suffering from any infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, or a recognisable inflammation of the udder.

• **II.1.2. refers.**

Either one of the options under (a) **or** one of the two options under (b) will apply depending on the species from which the milk is sourced.

o **II.1.2. (a) and II.1.2. (b)**

The options which do **not** apply should be struck through, leaving only the applicable option.
This may be certified on the basis of familiarity of the process/HACCP audits, suitable/satisfactory evidence and examination of the records available at the establishment.

9. **Part II.1 Animal Health Attestation - 7540EHC**

• **II.1. (a) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) refer.**

These clauses may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004. In the UK, the EU Regulation is implemented by the Food Hygiene Regulations 2006.

The Regulations require that raw milk must come from animals:

- (a) that do not show any symptoms of infectious diseases communicable to humans through milk;
- (b) that are in a good general state of health, present no sign of disease that might result in the contamination of milk and, in particular, are not suffering from any infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, or a recognisable inflammation of the udder.

• **II.1. (b)**

This may be certified on the basis of familiarity of the process/HACCP audits, suitable/satisfactory evidence, and examination of the records available at the establishment.

10. **II.2. PUBLIC HEALTH ATTESTATION - 7539EHC and 7540EHC**

All the assurances under this may be certified on the basis of the oval mark, which demonstrate compliance with the EU legislation mentioned.

- **Residue levels** Council Directive 96/23/EC is implemented by the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 2016 and a programme referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS). On the basis of this scheme, it can be considered that animal products for human consumption 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.

- **Microbiological Criteria**
 EU Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for food stuffs. In the UK, the EU Regulation is implemented by the Food Hygiene Regulations 2006. The regulation requires milk to meet these microbiological criteria, namely absence of *Salmonella spp* and other pathogenic organisms associated with milk in 25 grams of milk/product. If the manufacturing plant does not have such a monitoring programme in place, then the batch(es) being certified for export must be tested for *Salmonella spp* in accordance with this standard. If necessary, the certifying OV may ask to examine laboratory reports.

10. Alternative pasteurisation treatments - producing a negative reaction to the alkaline phosphatase test

Alternative treatments may be those referred to in the following report prepared for, and accepted by, New Zealand Government:
<http://foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/Pasteurisation Dairy-Science Research.pdf>

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