

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8115EHC titled:

EXPORT OF DEER BONES AND DEER SKINS FOR INDUSTRIAL PROCESS PURPOSE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING

Associated Documents: 8115EHC, 618NDC

THIS CERTIFICATE SHOULD ONLY BE USED FOR THE EXPORT OF DEER SKINS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

1. **IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8115EHC.

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.

NOTE

i. ESTABLISHMENT REGISTRATION

All UK establishments wishing to export deer bones or deer skins to China must be registered with the Chinese authorities. See paragraph 6(f) below.

ii. OV REGISTRATION

The Chinese authorities must have the details of the certifying OV on file, including specimens of his or her OV stamp and signature. See paragraph 4 and Appendix 1 below.

iii. CONSISTENCY IN RECORDING DETAILS:

Both the OV and the exporter should note that it is imperative that the details on the EHC, and on all documents accompanying the consignment, match the details displayed on the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) approval list and that consistency is maintained across all accompanying documentation.

iv. Certificate entries to China must be typed/printed:

2. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

This certificate may be used for the export to the People's Republic of China of bones and skin derived from wild or farmed deer, which were killed or slaughtered in the UK only.

3. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

In the past, the Chinese authorities have expressed concerns over poorly presented examples of export health certificates, particularly in relation to handwritten entries and amendments made by certifying OVs. Extra care should therefore be taken when completing this certificate.

Any entries must be typed or printed and the ONLY permitted handwritten entry is the signature of the OV. Any authorised deletions that cannot be typed or entered electronically must be made using a ruler and a fine black pen. Diagonal deletions MUST NOT be used. Each line to be deleted must be ruled out providing an effect similar to that of typewritten horizontal strikethrough deletions. The OV stamp to be inserted ONLY on the space provided (next to the OV signature). If the final date of certification cannot be typed in, this may be entered using an inked rubber stamp in any ink colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

For exports from Great Britain, the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle has two possible procedures for OVs to issue the final signed 8115EHC (see below for Northern Ireland). Provided appropriate checks and inspections are carried out with respect to these procedures being followed, the final 8115EHC can be signed by the Official Veterinarian in accordance with the ten principles of certification as stated by the RCVS and adopted by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe.

See: <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

THE TWO OPTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

OPTION A: (Preferred option)

- The Exporter requests the electronic 8115EHC and EXA07 Application Form from APHA Carlisle, electronically completes all the details known to them and emails the part-completed forms to the OV.
- The OV completes 8115EHC with the remaining details.
- Both fully completed forms are emailed back to APHA Carlisle.
- The final certificate is printed by APHA Carlisle onto Crown paper and sent to the OV for signature.

OPTION B:

- The Exporter completes an electronic EXA07 Application Form requesting either a single or block of 8115EHCs to be issued to their nominated OV.
- Carlisle issues Certificate(s) to the OV.
- The OV completes certificates using a typewriter and then stamps as detailed above. Mistakes will require a new certificate as amendments to typed entries can cause problems in clearing the consignment in China.

Further details of all of these procedures can be obtained from APHA Carlisle.

For **exports from Northern Ireland**, **DAERA** should be consulted on the preferred method of application for and issuing of the final certificate.

The 8115EHC certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Specialist Service Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. **PROVIDING SPECIMEN COPIES OF OV SIGNATURES AND STAMPS TO CHINA:**

Exporters and Official Veterinarians (OVs) providing final export certification must note that China requires that all OVs carrying out export certification for deer bones and deer skins must provide specimen copies of their signature and OV stamp, well in advance of the intended export, to ensure that they have been received and acknowledged by the Chinese authorities, before any exports take place. See below.

It is recommended that specimen copies of stamps and signatures of alternative OVs should also be provided, to allow for absences such as sickness and holidays.

This information must be provided on the form attached at **Appendix 1**. The completed form must be scanned and sent by e-mail to:

- APHA Carlisle for OVs in Great Britain or
- DAERA for AVIs in Northern Ireland.

APHA and DAERA will forward the information to Defra in London for onward transmission to the Chinese authorities.

Updates to the list will be sent to China on a **quarterly** basis, depending on demand. On each occasion, several weeks should be allowed for the information to be processed by the authorities in China and received by their port control authorities. Exporters should, therefore, plan ahead and ensure that any likely changes or additions to their OV's details are communicated well in advance.

However, it is imperative that the exporter and/or their importer ensure that the Chinese officials at port/s of entry into China have a copy of the certifying OV's stamp and signature on file, prior to signing this EHC.

Unless there are changes, specimen signatures and stamps only need to be sent once.

5. **PARAGRAPHS II (b) and II (c) - UK APPROVAL NUMBER OF PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT AND COLD STORE**

These relate to the approval of the game-handling establishment responsible for producing the bones and skins and the cold store responsible for storing them immediately prior to export. These may either be two separate facilities or a single facility carrying both activities, in which case, the details of that single facility should be entered in each paragraph.

Game-handling establishments must be approved in accordance with the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the EU Hygiene package, which includes Regulations (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs, 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

The approval and associated number may be certified on sight of a valid approval document, or by reference to the appropriate enforcement authority (FSA, FSS or FSA_NI) responsible for the establishment.

6. HEALTH INFORMATION

Paragraph IV may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations.

- (a) **Paragraph IV 1 - Notifiable disease clearance**
This paragraph may be certified provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form 618NDC.
- (b) **Paragraph IV 2 - UK origin**
The OV should make due enquiry to verify that the animals were either farmed deer born and raised on holdings in the UK or were wild deer killed in the UK.
- (c) **Paragraph IV 2 - Not slaughtered due to infectious animal disease**
The OV should make due enquiry to verify that the animals were killed (in the case of wild deer) or slaughtered for human consumption and not culled because of a suspicion of an infectious animal disease.
- (d) **Paragraph IV 3 - Not under restrictions due to anthrax**
This paragraph may be certified provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form 618NDC.

Form 618NDC may normally be provided on the basis that the UK is currently free from anthrax.

However, if a case of anthrax has been confirmed in the UK then the exporter or OV will need to provide APHA or DAERA with details of the holdings of origin for farmed animals or the locations where the wild animals were killed to determine if the required clearance from anthrax may be granted.

- (e) **Paragraph IV 4 - Post-mortem inspection and not culled (for disease purposes).**
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the animals were killed (in the case of wild deer) or slaughtered for human consumption and subjected to post-mortem examinations carried out by either a Meat Hygiene Inspector or an Official Veterinary Surgeon at the approved game-handling establishment identified at paragraph II(b) of the certificate.
- (f) **Paragraphs IV 5 and IV 6 - UK approval and Chinese registration**
The processing establishment and cold store are those premises identified at paragraphs II(b) and II(c) of the certificate respectively.

UK approval may be certified on the basis that the game-handling establishment and cold store are approved as described under **paragraph 5 above**.

Chinese registration may be certified on the basis that the premises identified at paragraphs II(b) and II(c) of the certificate have both been registered by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

The registration status of the game-handling establishment and the cold store must be verified by contacting APHA or DAERA.

GACC's registration process for this sector has not been formalised at this time so establishments wishing to become registered should contact APHA or DAERA for the latest guidance.

(g) **Paragraph IV 7 - Freezing requirement**

Note that this paragraph means freezing to a temp of -18 degrees Celsius within 48 hours of packing.

(h) **Paragraphs IV 8, 9 and 10 - processing and intended use**

These paragraphs may be certified on the basis that the game-handling establishment is operating in compliance with the terms of its approval under UK food hygiene legislation as referred to in paragraph 5 above and on the basis of an exporter's declaration of intended use or the labelling on the product as appropriate.

7. 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 and/or declared intended use. 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.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

8. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate and these notes are 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) - in Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#specialist-service-centres-ssc>

In Northern Ireland, please contact the DAERA trade administration team:
e-mail- tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk

Phone - 02877442146

APPENDIX 1

Details of Official Veterinarians Requesting Authorisation to Certify Consignments of Deer Bones and Deer Skins to the People's Republic of China

Official Veterinarian Name (in block letters)	Signature (in any colour other than black)	Stamp (in any colour other than black)

GUIDANCE FOR SUBMITTING STAMPS:

- Please ensure that the stamp is perfectly upright
- Please try to ensure that both the stamp and the printed name fall well within the boxes provided.
- If they go beyond the borders, this might cause confusion at the Chinese CIQ (border point) if the line is misconstrued as being part of the standard stamp or name.
- You may expand the boxes if necessary and add extra lines as required.

- The stamp **MUST** be sharp and wholly legible, as must be the name.
A new stamp should be acquired if necessary
- The stamp should be in a colour other than black, preferably the colour to be used on actual certification to China.