

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR IMPORT OF DOG AND CAT FOOD PRODUCTS INTO INDIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 4221EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 4221EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4221EHC. 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

This certificate may be used for the export of dog food and cat food from the United Kingdom to India.

Note that there are restrictions on the ingredients of ruminant origin which may be used - see paragraph **II.3** of the certificate and the corresponding guidance for more information.

Important: Under the advice of the British High Commission in New Delhi, this certificate closely follows the wording of the model certificate published by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the Gazette of India dated 22nd September 2021.

As a result, the wording and format cannot be amended, and deletions may only be made if specifically allowed for in the certificate.

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. COMPLETION OF PART I - GENERAL INFORMATION FOR IMPORTATION

Exporters may need to seek clarification on how this section must be completed via their contacts in India.

I.2 - Date

In the absence of any guidance from the Indian authorities, it is recommended that this be completed with the date on which the certificate is signed.

I.4 - Country of origin

This should be completed with United Kingdom, as the exporting country.

I.5 - Issuing Competent Authority

In all cases, "Defra" should be entered as the Ministry.

For exports from Great Britain, "APHA" should be entered as the Department.

For exports from Northern Ireland, "DAERA" should be entered as the Department.

I.10 - Destination country

In the absence of any guidance from the Indian authorities, it is recommended that this is completed either with the details of the final destination or, if this is not known, the details of the

consignee referred to in I.3.

I.11 -Registration, accreditation, or approval number

This should be completed with the UK approval number of the establishment responsible for manufacturing the product to be exported.

The manufacturing establishment must be approved in accordance with the **Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (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 **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009**.

The approval number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document or by reference to the responsible local APHA or DAERA office. OVs should enter the relevant approval or registration number in addition to the address of the premises of origin.

I.13 -Registration, accreditation, or approval authority

This should be completed with the details of the APHA or DAERA office responsible for approving the UK pet food establishment.

I.14 -Sanitary import permit number

This should be completed with details of the valid import permit which would cover this consignment.

4. PART II - CERTIFICATION

Taking into consideration the additional guidance below, the sanitary information may be certified on the basis of the OV's knowledge and familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

II.1 -Species of origin

A tick should be entered against any of the options which apply, and any options which do not apply may be struck through in the usual manner.

The reference to healthy animals may be supported by the fact that the product was made using Category 3 material referred to in Article 10(a) to (m) of the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009**.

The principles and controls laid down under the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** continue to be enforced and implemented by the **Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013** (as amended) and by equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

II.2 -Health of the animals

Note that some of this paragraph may not apply to fish material, however **no text should be deleted**.

This may be supported by the fact that the product was made using Category 3 material referred to in Article 10(a) to (m) of the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009**.

The principles and controls laid down under the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** continue to be enforced and implemented by the **Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013** (as amended) and by equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

However, further to **paragraph II.2.i**, the certifying OV should make due enquiry to ensure that the animals were subjected to both ante- and post-mortem inspections.

II.3 -Ruminant ingredients

This relates to the presence of ruminant derived materials. Options related to materials not contained in the product may be struck through in the usual manner.

Note: no ingredients derived from slaughtered bovine animals may be used in the manufacture of the products.

This paragraph requires that the product does not contain any "*specific risk materials from ruminant origin as defined by Office International des Epizooties*". This may be certified on the basis that the product was made exclusively from Category 3 material referred to in Article 10(a) to (m) of the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009**.

The principles and controls laid down under the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** continue to be enforced and implemented by the **Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013** (as amended) and by equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

The only permitted ruminant materials are:

- i **milk** or **milk products** of any ruminant species;
- ii **tallow** derived from **ovine** and/or **caprine** animals which has a maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% by weight;
- iii other **ovine** or **caprine** materials imported from a country which was free of BSE and scrapie at the time of export to the UK.

If the above **option iii** APPLIES, then the information at paragraphs **II.3.iii(a) to (e)** must be entered in the spaces provided. Although not specified, copies of the import certificates used to bring the ovine or caprine material into the UK may need to be made available at the point of entry.

If the above **option iii** DOES NOT apply, then this entire paragraph, including sub-paragraphs **(a) to (e)**, should be struck through in the usual manner.

II.4 -Processing parameters

At least one of the listed heat treatments must have been applied during the manufacture of the final product. Any non-applicable treatments may be struck through in the usual manner.

II.5 -Laboratory analysis

This may be supported by satisfactory laboratory test results.

Although not specified, copies of the laboratory test results may need to be made available at the point of entry.

II.6 -Prohibited ingredients

For the most part, this may be supported by the fact that the product was made exclusively from **Category 3 material** referred to in Article 10(a) to (m) of the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009**.

The principles and controls laid down under the **retained Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** continue to be enforced and implemented by the **Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013** (as amended) and by equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

However, since the clauses do not correspond directly to Category 3 descriptions, the certifying OV should make due enquiry to confirm compliance.

II.6(h) - Prohibited for international trade

A list of goods prohibited for import into India is published via:

<https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/?opt=itchs-import-export>

The list can be viewed by going to the "**Prohibited Item Details**" within the "*Schedule 1 - Import Policy - ITC(HS)*" section.

Exporters may need to seek clarification via their contacts in India regarding the eligibility of the ingredients in their products.

5. SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS

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.

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