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EXPORT OF MILK AND EGG PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 7206EHC and 618NDC.

IMPORTANT
These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7206EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7206EHC. 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 7206EHC may be used for the export of products containing milk **and** eggs for human consumption to the Republic of South Africa.

A different certificate – 1047EHC – should be used for the export of milk products only.

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. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraphs IV. 3.2.1 and 3.3.1 in respect of origins from the United Kingdom only on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, on form 618NDC.
In the case of origins outside the UK, *either* supporting certification or evidence from those countries is required *or* the treatment options certified.

4. PARAGRAPHS IV.2.1.1 and 3.1 (HERDS/FLOCKS UNDER VETERINARY RESTRICTIONS)

This should be interpreted as herds/flocks under veterinary restrictions because of suspicion and/or confirmation of notifiable disease to which the species of origin is susceptible and which can be transmitted through the (raw) product. It includes FMD, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, lumpy skin disease, notifiable avian influenza and Newcastle disease. It does not include diseases like bluetongue.

The paragraph may be signed on the basis of EU legislation (and in the case of herds/flocks of UK origin, disease orders made under the Animal Health Act 1981) which require restrictions on movement of milk/egg should disease be suspected and the slaughter and disposal of animals if disease is confirmed.

5. PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS (PARAGRAPHS IV. 2.4, 2.5, 3.2.2 AND 3.3.2 REFER).

These processing requirements may be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian's knowledge of processing at the manufacturing establishment, including HACCP provisions as relevant. The time, temperature and pH requirements are the minimum required i.e. interpreted as 'at least' even if this is not explicit. In the case of milk and pasteurisation, 'equivalent' treatments are not catered for, so a derogation must be requested if the options available cannot be complied with. Generally speaking, evidence that the equivalent treatment is capable of inactivating alkaline phosphatase is required. A number of Official Control Laboratories (OCLs) or Control Bodies provide an ISO 17025 accredited test for alkaline phosphatase, and such laboratories must be used.

For a composite product, if the final product is subjected to the required treatment criteria as applicable individually for ingredients in question, the paragraph can be signed.

If products are to be exported from establishments other than those at which the treatment(s) were carried out, certification must be based on veterinary support documents confirming the processing details.

6. THE ADDITIVES REGULATION

Section IV. 4. may be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian's knowledge of processing at the manufacturing establishment and the requirements of the Regulations covering the use of the principal classes of food additives (sweeteners, colours, preservatives, antioxidants, emulsifiers, stabilisers and carrier solvents). Guidance on this can be found at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/guidance.pdf

7. THE SEAL NUMBER

Section 1 e) refers.
The veterinary authorities of South Africa [Enquiries: Directorate Plant Health & Quality, Fax: 012 319 6350 or www.nda.agric.za] have provided the following guidance for exporters:

From 1st January 2005 any consignment imported into South Africa packed with either wood packing material or dunnage, will require treatment to remove any pests present (by heat or methyl bromide fumigation).

Treatment must be indicated on packing material.

The importation is subject to:

- *the consignment being accompanied by the import permit;*

and,

- *the arrival of the consignment at the port of entry being reported immediately to the State Veterinarian/Quarantine Master who will break the seals, inspect the consignment and documentation and if found satisfactory, release it to the importer. Under no circumstances may the seals be broken and the goods unloaded or taken into receipt without his/her written permission.*

8. **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