

No:

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR TREATED HIDES AND SKINS OF UNGULATES, INTENDED FOR DISPATCH TO OR FOR TRANSIT THROUGH THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA - 7318EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 7318EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7318EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7318EHC. 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

Export health certificate 7318EHC may be used for the export of treated hides and skins of ungulate origin to the Republic of Macedonia. Treated in this context means either dried or salted.

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. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE

In accordance with the requirements of the Veterinary Authorities of Macedonia, the wording, numbering and lay out of the certificate reflect the model veterinary certificate laid down in Chapter 5(B) of Annex XV to Regulation (EC) 1069/2009. However, please note that there is no footnote (1) in the certificate.

Because the text of this veterinary certificate originally related to the import of hides and skins from a third country into the European Union, the context of some of the wording of the certificate is not always directly relevant or applicable to an export from the UK to Macedonia. As such, specific guidance on completing this style of certification has been provided in these notes.

4. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DISPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

I.3. - Central Competent Authority

The certifying OV should enter "Defra".

I.4. - Local Competent Authority

The certifying OV should enter the name of the local office of Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency responsible for the exporting establishment. In cases where the exporting establishment is located in Northern Ireland, "DAERA" should be entered instead.

I.7. to I.10. - Country/Region ISO Codes

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 has been entered at Box **I.7.** Box **I.8.** should be marked N/A (not applicable).

The ISO Code for Macedonia is 'MK' and this has been entered at Box **I.9.** The certifying OV should make enquiries to verify the Macedonian regional destination code, which should be entered in Box **I.10.**

I.11. - Approval Number

Establishments in the EU which treat hides and skins and those handling treated hides and skins must be respectively approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended). In England, this is enforced in England by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Certifying OVs are advised that, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, references to Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 shall be construed as references to Regulation (EC)

1069/2009 and that establishments, plants and users approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 before 4 March 2011 shall be deemed to be approved or registered, as required, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

Alternatively, if the hides and skins are salted in a slaughterhouse, then the approval number will be that allocated to the slaughterhouse in accordance with its approval under the EU Hygiene package, including 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. In England, the EU Hygiene package is implemented and enforced by the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

OVs should enter the relevant approval or registration number in addition to the name and address of the establishment.

I.15. - Identification

The registration number of transport vehicles, flight number or name of the vessel must be provided. In case of unloading and reloading, the consignor must inform the BIP of entry.

I.16. - Border Inspection Post (BIP) of Entry

The expected BIP of entry must be entered at Box **I.16.**

I.19. - HS Code

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system in which articles are grouped into various categories. It is used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics. The appropriate HS Code, from the three options below, should be entered in Box **I.19.:**

- 41.01** - Raw hides and skins of bovine (including buffalo) or equine animals (fresh, or salted, dried, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved, but not tanned, parchment-dressed or further prepared), whether or not dehaired or split.
- 41.02** - Raw skins of sheep or lambs (fresh, or salted, dried, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved, but not tanned, parchment-dressed or further prepared), whether or not with wool on or split, other than those excluded by note 1(c) to this chapter.
- 41.03** - Other raw hides and skins (fresh, or salted, dried, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved, but not tanned, parchment-dressed or further prepared), whether or not dehaired or split, other than those excluded by note 1(b) or 1(c) to this chapter.

The above codes and descriptions are taken from Section VIII of the HS Code. Further information on HS Codes, including the Section Notes referred to in the above descriptions, can be found online at <https://www.uktradeinfo.com/TradeTools/ICN/Pages/ICNSearch.aspx>

I.28. - Official Identification

Further to **I.11.** above, OVs should enter the relevant approval number of the processing plant in addition to the other required information.

I.28. - Schedules

If necessary, a separate schedule may be used to identify the consignment. The schedule must contain the same information as that required in Box **I.28.** of the certificate and this box must be annotated "See Attached Schedule". Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian.

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Official Veterinarian should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or in Box **I.28**. should be deleted with diagonal lines.

5. PART II - CERTIFICATION

Taking into consideration the additional guidance below, the health attestation may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation.

If any of the health attestations are to be certified on the basis of a declaration, the declaration should be from an authorised signatory of the transporting company and 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. OVs are reminded that the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2012 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated".

II.1. - Slaughtered animals

References to "in accordance with Union legislation or equivalent legislation of Republic of Macedonia" should be construed as being references to the EU Hygiene package, including Regulations (EC) 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 (with respect to veterinary public health). The second option is likely to be the easiest to comply with if the hides/skins intended for export are obtained from animals which pass ante-mortem inspection and have made it onto the slaughter line.

II.2. - Treatments

This certificate allows for one of two versions of paragraph **II.2.** to be certified and each version consists of a number of permissible treatment options.

For hides and skins coming from animals originating in an EU member state, it is recommended that the first version of paragraph **II.2.** is certified. This is on the basis that fresh meat originating from an EU member state can be freely circulated within the EU and is therefore of an equivalent sanitary status to the fresh meat described in this version of the paragraph.

If the hides and skins come from animals originating from a third country, then either version of paragraph **II.2.** may be certified, depending on the status of the third country with respect to Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010. The status of the third country and the treatment applied to the hides and skins may be determined by reference to a certified copy of the veterinary certificate which accompanied the hides and skins into the EU.

In either case, the version of paragraph **II.2.** which is not to be certified should be struckthrough in its entirety and the remaining treatment options which do not apply should also be struckthrough and these deletions should be signed and stamped by the OV in the usual manner.

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