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EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - 8539EHC

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

**Associated Documents:** 8539EHC 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 8539EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8539EHC. 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 8539EHC may be used for the export of dairy products from the United Kingdom to Democratic Republic of Congo.

**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](mailto: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. Health Information**

- **Paragraphs IV. 1.** may be signed on behalf of the Department by an Official Veterinarian provided written authority to do so on form 618NDC has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.
- **Paragraph IV 2.** may be certified on the basis that under the United Kingdom residue surveillance programme, the products, or the milk from which the products were manufactured, are considered to be free from harmful levels of residues of antibiotics (below the Maximum Residue Limit - MRL), hormones (below MRL), pesticides (below MRL), or any other substances known to be harmful to human health.

Fitness for human consumption may be certified on the basis that establishments must be approved in accordance with 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.

In England, the EU Hygiene package is implemented and enforced by the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended).

Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The approval number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document, or by reference to the enforcement authority (APHA, DAERA or Local Authority) responsible for the manufacturing establishment.

### **4. 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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)