

EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO TUNISIA - 7837EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 7837EHC 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 7837EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7837EHC. 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 7837EHC may be used for the export of thermally-treated milk and milk products from the United Kingdom to Tunisia.

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. 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 issuing office, within 10 days of shipment;
- Paragraph IV. 2. requires the dairy ingredients to be produced from animals which have been born and reared in the UK, as well as Paragraphs IV. 3 and 4. may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the manufacturer's procurement arrangements and/or the examination of manufacturer's records.
- Paragraphs IV. 5., 6., and 11. may be signed on the basis that the dairy ingredients used must bear oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004.
- Paragraphs IV. 7 & 8 refer.
All member states of the EU are required by Council Directive 96/23/EC to operate a monitoring programme for specified residues in milk. This Directive is implemented in the UK by the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 and the programme in question is referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS).
On the basis of this scheme, it can be considered that milk and milk products do not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the European Union of any antibiotic/veterinary medicinal product; any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally; any pesticide; or any heavy metal, known to be harmful to human health. The NSS also covers PCBs, although a maximum residue limit (MRL) has not been set.
- Paragraph IV. 9. may be signed on the basis of the following:
The Food Standards Agency, in association with the UK environmental agencies, monitors food and the environment in the UK. They publish an annual report - Radioactivity in food and the Environment - which summarises the results of monitoring. The results of these monitoring supports the conclusion set out in the paragraph.
- Paragraph IV. 10. refers.
The Food Hygiene package outlines acceptable limits for

dioxins.

Approved FBOs are deemed to be compliant with Food Hygiene Regulations.

The certifying OV may wish to request sight of records and approval documents that confirm compliance.

The certificate may then be signed on this basis.

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