

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of meat preparations intended for human consumption 8383

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No: 8383NFG

Export Health Certificate for the entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of meat preparations intended for human consumption

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to the OV together with the relevant export certificate applicable for exports of meat preparations. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate.

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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Regulation \(EC\) No 999/2001](#)

[Regulations \(EC\) No. 178/2002](#)

[Regulation \(EC\) No. 852/2004](#)

[Regulation \(EC\) No. 853/2004](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/624](#)

[Commission Implementing Decision 2019/627](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation\(EU\) 2020/2235](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692.](#)

[Chapter 4 of Annex I to the Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235.](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/404](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/405](#)

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN>

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of European Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the ‘find results by document number’ option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click ‘document information’, and then scroll down to ‘all consolidated versions’ and select the most recent version:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the ‘Official Journal of the European Union’.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate may be used for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of meat preparations intended for human consumption.

It may also be used for these products transiting the European Union to another third country.

“**meat preparation**” means meat to which foodstuffs, seasonings or additives have been added or which has undergone a treatment insufficient to modify its internal cellular structure and so alter its characteristics; as laid down in point 1.15 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004

Mechanically Separated Meat (MSM) produced using techniques that do not alter the structure of the bones used in the production of MSM and where the calcium content is not significantly higher than that of minced meat may be used to produce meat preparations by the addition of foodstuffs, seasonings or additives if:

- The Food business Operator has carried out analysis demonstrating that MSM complies with the microbiological criteria for minced meat and
- The meat preparation is clearly not intended to be consumed without first undergoing heat treatment.

The meat preparations must have been frozen to an internal temperature of at least -18°C if destined for the EU or Northern Ireland market. Freezing is not required by the EU for meat preparations transiting through EU territory, or Northern Ireland to another third country.

Meat preparations imported from the European Union cannot be certified for re-export as meat products using this EHC. EHC 8461 can be used in certain circumstances.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Health Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and

any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.
- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- COs are reminded to consult the Notes for Guidance prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information - COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance:

See <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm>

You can also contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R2235>

Box I.27- reference to batch number/s.

There is no specific format requirement for batch numbers and slaughter/production/best before date(s) may be used as appropriate.

Batch codes are intended to identify an amount of product that has been produced under the same conditions and so any hazard identified in a part of the batch can be presumed to be present in the whole.

Batch information is likely to be checked by Border Control Posts as part of identity checks. Batch information in the health certificate should match information available when inspecting the product (e.g. on product labelling).

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections> and <http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm>

PART II: CERTIFICATION

It is possible to insert multiple codes for different species of origins and ISO code of country/region.

If there is not space to fill out all the details for Species and Origin, a schedule may be used in place of the full information being entered in this space, please write "See attached schedule" in this space. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated, and stamped by the OV. See section 3 on how to include a schedule within the completed certificate.

II.1 Public Health attestation *[to be deleted if the European Union is not the final destination of the consignment]*

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The Official Veterinarian needs to be aware of the relevant requirements of Regulations (EC) Nos. 178/2002, 852/2004, 853/2004, 999/2001 as well as Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625, and certify that the meat preparations included in Part 1 of the certificate were produced according to HACCP principles, and the requirements surrounding the hygiene preparation processes respectively.

They must also ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, which lays out specified risk materials which the meat preparations must not contain and must not be derived from.

II.1 - This can be certified on the basis of the Official Veterinarian's own knowledge of the listed legislation.

The relevant listing is in Annexes to Regulation (EU) [2021/404](#). E.g., column 2 of the table in Part 1 of Annex XIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 for fresh meat of ungulates or in accordance with column 2 of the table in Part 1 of Annex XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 for fresh meat of poultry and game birds.

II.1.1 – For meat preparations produced in the UK and originating from animals slaughtered/cut in the UK, this may be certified on the basis of the meat preparations being produced in, and the slaughter/cutting taking place in(an) establishment(s) that is/are approved since all approved food establishments must also satisfy the requirements of Regulation (EC) 852/2004. The certifying Official Veterinarian may require FBO audit reports as further evidence. The food business operator can provide the required documentation to attest to the HACCP principles which are implemented and maintained in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.

II.1.2, II.1.3, II.1.5, II.1.6, II.1.7 –

These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of application of the oval mark in the format as required by the EU confirming that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant and cold store as applicable, are officially approved and operating in accordance with retained EU Regulation Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 2017/625, 2019/624, 2019/627 and, in the case of microbiological criteria, Regulation No. 2073/2005.

These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

II.1.2 – Please select the appropriate option.

II.1.3.1 (*Trichinella* attestation) – [May be struck out if the meat preparation does not contain any material from domestic porcine animals]

Great Britain has been recognised by the EU of as a third country applying the derogations referred to in Article 13(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 (*the Trichinella Regulation*), as enacted in EU law in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/519](#).

Great Britain is listed as a Third Country that may apply the following derogations from *Trichinella* testing in domestic pigs:

- Recognition of application of Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC): compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 3 (3)(a) or (b) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375
- Exempt un-weaned porcine animals under the age of 5 weeks from the requirement for trichinella examination compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2015/1375.

Northern Ireland is also listed separately by the EU as a Region benefiting from the same derogations:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/food_borne_diseases/trichinella_en

Consignments comprising product that meets different attestations may need to be issued with separate certificates so that product is segregated and certified accordingly. Each certificate should cover product meeting the same attestation.

If a particular product/meat complies with more than one of the attestations (e.g. meat from pigs from farms that apply CHC but which have nevertheless been tested for *Trichinella*), in some cases the OV may select and certify which option is more appropriate depending on other products forming the consignment and the condition(s) that they can meet.

Section II.1.3.1 may be certified by OVs, as follows:

The options which are not relevant shall be crossed out, initialled, and stamped by the certifying OV.

Certifying OVs may certify the relevant option based on her/his familiarity with the procurement processes at meat establishments as supported by the necessary documentary evidence (e.g. FCI, records of processing/freezing, testing, declarations etc), FBO declarations, support health attestations (and in the case of imported meat, the certificate accompanying the meat/product at the time of import) as they consider necessary.

- First option- should be certified if the carcasses of the pigs have been subjected to an examination by a digestion method for *Trichinella* as required in Annex I (testing) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 with negative results.
- Second option- should be certified if the carcasses or the meat was subjected to a cold treatment (freezing) as required by Annex II (cold treatment) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375.
- Third option - may only be certified if the meat was produced from domestic pigs originating in a holding officially recognised as applying Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC) or when the animals from which the meat was derived from were not weaned and less than 5 weeks of age.

Only one of the three statements can be certified per product/certificate and the OV must cross out the other options and stamp/initial their deletion.

Please see further information on *Trichinella* testing further down at Section 9 in this document.

II.1.3.2 – [May be struck out if the meat preparation does not contain material from solipeds or wild boars]

If slaughtered in the UK, carcasses of horses, wild boar and other farmed and wild animal species susceptible to *Trichinella* infestation shall be systematically sampled in slaughterhouses or game-handling establishments as part of the post-mortem examination. A sample shall be collected from each carcass and the sample shall be examined in accordance with Annexes I and II to Regulation 2015/1375 in an approved laboratory.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of application of the oval mark in the format as required by the EU confirming that the slaughterhouse, game handling establishment, cutting plant and cold store as applicable are officially approved and operating in accordance with the legal framework.

II.1.4 – Meat preparations for import into the European Union must be frozen to a temperature of -18°C or below.

II.1.8 – For fresh meat from animals slaughtered in the UK this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, which is/are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations. UK is listed in Decision 2011/163/EU.

II.1.9 – See section 5 for further advice on residue check guarantees. The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin.

For meat that originates from an EU approved establishment in a third country, has been legally imported into the UK, evidence must be provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) to demonstrate compliance with this attestation.

II.1.10 – This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian's own knowledge of the operations at the establishment and/or the conditions of transport. Alternatively, a declaration from another Official Veterinarian with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed. This could be part of the standard Support Health Attestation.

II.1.11 (BSE attestations) – [May be struck out if the meat preparation does not contain any material from bovine, ovine, or caprine animals]

In accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code, England, Scotland and Wales are controlled BSE risk in UK. All specified risk material (SRM) as described in the certificate must be removed from the meat intended for dispatch to the EU or NI as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislation.

The certifying Official Veterinarian must carry out additional checks to verify the origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived or the origin of the meat. This may be on the basis of their knowledge of the operational conditions at the slaughterhouse as regards the farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived and the checking and verification of documentation accompanying the cattle to the slaughterhouse. The Official Veterinarian may also wish to obtain Internal Movement Certificates as additional support.

BSE status of Member States or third countries or regions thereof according to their BSE risk:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0453-20200702&qid=1607603814945>

There are 3 'either/or' sections under II.1.11 relating to BSE risk of the country/region of origin of the meat preparation (i.e. where it was processed). The sub-options within each option refer to the country of origin of the animal that has provided the meat within the preparation.

First II.1.11 section - refers to exports to the EU of meat preparations originating in Negligible Risk Regions (not applicable to GB to date).

There are four 'either/or' options.

- The first option should be certified if the animals were born, reared and slaughtered in a NR zone.
- The second option should be certified if animals from NR zone but where there has been one indigenous BSE case and that meat was not derived from mechanically separated meat.
- The third option should be certified if the animals originated and reared in CR zone. For instance, this may apply if the animals originated from England, Wales, Scotland. If this is the case, the following attestations must be certified:
 - Point (i) may be certified as all relevant specified risk material (SRM) must be removed from meat intended for human consumption as required by Annex V to Retained EU Regulation 999/2001 and Schedule 7 to TSE Regulations (England) 2018 and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland.
 - Point (ii) may be certified based on Official Veterinarian knowledge or declaration from FBO.
 - Point (iii) should be certified as this method of slaughter is carried out in the UK in accordance with Retained EU Regulation 999/2001 and TSE Regulations (England) 2018 and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland.
- The fourth option is only applicable for meat derived from animals originating from a country/region of undetermined BSE risk. Points (i) to (v) must be satisfied. Supporting evidence or certification is required.

Second II.1.11 section - refers to exports to the EU of meat preparations originating in Controlled Risk regions.

Option (a) may be certified as this method of slaughter is not carried out in the UK in accordance with Retained EU Regulation 999/2001 and TSE Regulations (England) 2018 and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland.

Option (b) may be certified as all specified risk material (SRM) must be removed from meat intended for human consumption as required by retained EU legislation and UK TSE legislations and meat or minced meat must not be derived from Mechanically Separated Meat. Evidence/declaration from FBO maybe required.

There are two options for the third point (c) only one of which must be selected:

The first either can be certified for POAO obtained from animals of GB origin or a country with controlled or negligible risk.

The second option can only be certified if the animals from which the POAO was derived from are from an undetermined BSE risk country.

Third II.1.11 section - refers to exports to the EU of meat preparations from Undetermined Risk regions.

This may be deleted if the meat preparation is of UK origin, because at present there are no regions of undetermined risk status in the UK.

Generally, only one section can be kept. If you are certifying a meat preparation, containing fresh meat that originate in different countries and have different BSE risks, you may need to retain multiple statements. You should consult with the BCP of entry to determine whether this approach is acceptable

II 1.12 – *[May be struck out if the meat preparations do not contain any material from domestic Solipeds]*

The applicable option can be certified based on owner's declaration, movement records, declarations from the veterinary practitioner responsible for the flock/herd or import certification, where appropriate.

For the first option, where domestic Solipeds were slaughtered in the UK which immediately prior to slaughter had been kept in the UK for at least 6 months or since birth, or since importation from the European Union, this can be certified by the OV as Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC were transposed into UK legislation and can be found on the legislation.gov.uk website. (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/1996/22/contents> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/1996/23/contents>). Also, Directives 96/23/EC and 96/22/EC are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations. See Section 6 for Residue Check Guarantees listed below.

The second option can be certified by the OV where the material was imported from a Member State of the European Union or NI. Documentary evidence may be required.

II.1.13 and II.1.14 – *[May be struck out if the meat preparations do not contain material derived from cervid meat originating from Canada or USA.]*

This paragraph is applicable to farmed cervid meat obtained from countries referred to in Chapter F of Annex IX to [Regulation \(EC\) No 999/2001](#). This currently applies to farmed/wild cervid meat in Canada and USA.

II.2 Animal Health attestation

This section can be deleted if the meat preparation is entirely composed of meat of solipeds or leporidae or wild mammals other than ungulates.

The Official Veterinarian signing the export health certificate must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II of the health certificate have been complied with.

II.2.1 – Enter the applicable territory of origin code. The relevant listing is in Annexes to Regulation (EU) [2021/404](#). Part 1 of Annex XIII to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 for fresh meat of ungulates or in Part 1 of Annex XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 for fresh meat of poultry and game birds.

Please select the appropriate option on the origin of the fresh meat used to prepare the meat preparation.

- The first main “either” if the meat preparation contains fresh meat of GB origin.

- The first main “or” if the meat preparation contains fresh meat imported from a zone authorised by the Union to import fresh meat. If this option applies, please select the sub-option which applies for either fresh meat from ungulates or poultry and game birds.
- Second main “or” if the fresh meat used in the meat preparations is from EU or NI origin.

Generally, only one section can be kept. If you are certifying a meat preparation, containing fresh meat that originate in different countries, you may need to retain multiple statements. You should consult with the BCP of entry to determine whether this approach is acceptable.

II.2.2 – The meat must comply with the relevant model certificates laid down in [Commission Implementing Regulation\(EU\) 2020/2235](#) that match their species of origin. The certificate codes are listed in footnote 7 of the certificate. The certifying Official Veterinarian must be familiar with the relevant certificates in unison whilst completing this certificate.

II.3 Animal Welfare attestation [to delete when the Union is not the final destination],

This paragraph can be certified, if the animals were slaughtered in the UK, on the basis that Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of Retained EU Regulation 1099/2009.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Commodities of meat preparations containing poultry meat can be exported into the EU from the territory code listed in column 2 of the table 1 in Annex XIV [to Regulation \(EC\) No 404/2021](#). Ensure you are looking at the most up to date version of the Regulation. If the latest consolidated version does not include the latest amendment, this amendment needs to be looked at separately.

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Where it is possible for the Certifying Officer (CO) (Official Veterinarian (OV) or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

Avian influenza and territory codes:

If the commodity to be exported is listed against **GB-0**, it can be exported to the EU from the whole territory of the UK. You will have to insert “GB-0” into the “territory code” box on the EHC.

If the commodity to be exported is listed against **GB-1**, it means that the UK is being regionalised because of a disease outbreak. All premises of origin (e.g., hatchery, farms of

origin, slaughterhouse, cutting/processing/packaging/cold storage premises as applicable) have to be located in GB-1. If a fully packaged product is solely stored in a GB-2 zone cold store, but otherwise entirely produced and packaged in GB-1 zone then it is eligible for export.

Areas listed under GB-2 (and detailed as GB-2.1, GB-2.2 etc.) are restricted from exports between the “closing” and “opening” dates listed against those areas.

For more information on obtaining disease clearance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and to access an interactive map visit:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm>

Information on Avian Influenza can be found on [Briefing Note 5521](#).

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA. CSOs can collect evidence, directed by an OV, which may be used to support OV certification of matters which do not require a clinical assessment or judgement e.g. for POAO and ABPs.

In England, Scotland and Wales, CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ (AHP)-CSO) qualification.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) should be obtained. CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks.

They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.

Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the [OV Instructions Exports section](#) of the APHA Vet Gateway.

Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)

For groupage exports from Great Britain, where certain types of products are produced from a stable supply chain and are fully packaged for the final consumer, exporters who are GEFS members may use 30 day support attestations to provide information to OVs to facilitate completion of this certificate.

For further information including the definition of groupage exports, the template 30-day support attestation which must be used and requirements for exporters, suppliers, and vets to use the scheme see:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/Products_Exports.html

You can check that exporters are GEFS members by emailing the exporter's name, GEFS membership number and the address of the exporting premises to GEFS@defra.gov.uk.

6. RESIDUE CHECK GUARANTEES

The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin. Sample collection is conducted at the point of production i.e. at farm and slaughterhouse. The requirement for this monitoring is outlined in The Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations of 2015 and equivalent legislation in Wales ([2019](#)) and Northern Ireland ([2016](#)). The monitoring conducted in GB is in accordance with the legislative requirements of Directive 96/23 (EC), 96/22 (EC), Decision 97/747 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) concerning residue testing of products of animal origin. The residues tested in the programme are in accordance with Annex I and II of Directive No 96/23 (EC), specifically, and include veterinary medical products, banned substances and environmental contaminants.

With regards to maximum levels used to determine sample non-compliance, for authorised veterinary medicines GB work to the GB Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) published [here](#); these MRLs are aligned to the EU veterinary MRLs published under Reg (EU) [37/2010](#). If a pesticidal compound has an MRL for food-producing species then this MRL is used as the respective non-compliance threshold, but if a pesticide does not have a foodstuff MRL then the MRLs as listed in Regulation (EC) 396/2005 are applied. For contaminants, such as heavy metals and mycotoxins, the limits as set out in Reg (EC) 1881/2006 are used to determine sample non-compliance.

The results of the statutory surveillance programme can be accessed on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/residues-statutory-and-non-statutory-surveillance-results>

The EHC residue testing requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance to the national surveillance programme, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

The national monitoring programme for pesticide MRLs in food and feed in place under Regulation 396/2005 is underpinned by national legislation, The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (England and Wales) 2008 (as amended) and devolved administration equivalents. A national monitoring programme for Maximum Residue Levels is managed by the Health and Safety Executive. This involves testing a selection of produce that has already been placed on the market in Great Britain to provide assurance that only authorised pesticides, within permitted levels, are present. The results are published in an annual report. Annual reports can be found on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expert-committee-on-pesticide-residues-in-food-prif-annual-report>

Any EHC residue pesticide requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance with the pesticide residue monitoring scheme:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-of-monitoring-programme>.

7. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATE OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE) [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

For Northern Ireland origin raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, this can be certified under the terms of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP). The NIP8 treats NI as if it is in the EU SPS zone (which includes the EEA/EFTA states). Approved and registered premises in NI continue to implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004 and 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in Annex 2 to the Protocol. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Regulation (EU) No_ 2017/625, Directive (EC) Nos 96/22 and 470/2009 can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance

programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland>

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By-Products are handled in accordance with EU Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the GB exporter/CO must request this information from the NI exporter. This NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

EU origin:

Imported POAO from the EU can be re-exported in certain circumstances:

- POAO imported from EU into GB and re-exported back to the EU after storage in GB without removing the POAO from its original packaging.

[Re-export of Products of Animal Origin of European Union or Northern Ireland origin back to the European Union or Northern Ireland after storage in Great Britain: certificate 8461 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- POAO imported into GB from the EU that undergoes further processing and is exported to the EU as a new product. Processing means any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes. POAO that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed, are not considered to have undergone further processing and cannot currently be re-exported to the EU.
- POAO imported into GB from the EU which is used to made/assemble a composite product.

For imported goods that need to be certified for export from GB, these are normally subject to import certification, or the availability of a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) issued by the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry to verify that they are compliant with GB import requirements and for placing on the GB market. Certifying Officers including Official Veterinarians may use these official documents to provide supporting evidence of compliance with relevant requirements for the re-export of products. In this context OVs may rely on the CHED issued by an Official Fish Inspector (a non-veterinarian) for Fishery Products and live bivalve molluscs, live echinoderms, live tunicates or live marine gastropods for human consumption, cleared via a GB BCP.

Where the CHED or accompanying import certificate are not available or do not provide sufficient supporting information, the Certifying Officer should seek a supporting attestation from an 'authorised veterinarian' who has personal knowledge of the matters in question. This may be further supported by relevant commercial information or records. It is the responsibility of the GB exporter to obtain the necessary supporting information to enable the Certifying Officer to verify compliance with export requirements.

For goods sourced in the EU and EFTA countries, especially those that are not accompanied by a veterinary certificate or CHED issued by a BCP - Certifying Officers may rely on the oval ID mark applied at approved food establishments in the EU as evidence that the goods were produced compliant with EU food production requirements for placing on the EU market - but care must be taken not to extrapolate this to animal health requirements not covered by the obligations of a food approved establishment, i.e. matters that extend beyond the scope of Regulations 852/2004 and 853/2004.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin. In order to export to the EU a product which contains POAO imported from a Third Country, the imported POAO must come from an EU listed country and should have undergone further processing in GB.

"processing" means any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes.

"unprocessed products" means foodstuffs that have not undergone processing, and includes products that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed.

Certifying Officers may obtain the necessary supporting information from a copy of the original EHC used for import of these products into the UK.

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

8. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be listed as a 'UK approved establishment' and a list of UK approved establishments for import of POAO to the EU, can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU, and this does not include establishments with pending applications for approval.

If the final product contains POAO from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed as UK and/or EU approved establishments.

There are lists of approved establishments for other commodities, e.g. germinal products on the link above.

For approved establishments in Northern Ireland the "EC" suffix which is present in the health/ID mark, and appears on the label, is not part of the approval number should not be included when referring to establishment approval numbers in the certificate.

9. OVAL MARK ON 'PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN – POAOs'

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries an oval health or identification mark and that official controls are carried out by enforcement authorities to ensure the appropriate marking has been applied. Domestic legislation has been introduced to ensure these requirements continue to apply in GB as retained legislation.

The health marks indicate that meat is fit for human consumption and the identification marks show when foods of animal origin have been produced in officially approved establishments which are compliant with retained EU food hygiene Regulations (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EU) No 2017/625. Also, the primary food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended).

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/guidance-on-health-and-identification-marks-that-applies-from-1-january-2021>

Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that carcasses, half carcasses or quarters, or half carcasses cuts into three pieces, of domestic ungulates, farmed game mammals (other than lagomorphs) and large wild game bear the official health mark or that the primary, secondary and/or shipping packaging on food products of animal origin show the identification mark.

10. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

TRICHINELLA STATEMENT

Paragraph II.1.3.1 (first indent) may be certified if the carcasses of the pigs have been subjected to an examination by a digestion method for *Trichinella* with negative results. Samples for tests are sent to Biobest Laboratories but they can also be tested by on-site laboratories provided these have been approved by the UK National Reference Laboratory (APHA Bury St Edmunds).

Further detail can be found in the FSA Manual of Official Controls (Section 5 of Chapter 2.4):

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/MOC%20volume%201%20chapter-2.4.pdf>

or FSS Scottish Manual of Official Controls at:

FSS Chapter 2.4 Post Mortem, Health and Identification Marking v0.1
(foodstandards.gov.scot)

https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/downloads/Chapter_2.4.pdf

Paragraph II.1.3.1 (second indent) may be certified if the pig meat intended for export is held frozen at a time/temperature combination that is known to inactivate the larvae of *Trichinella*.

Details of the acceptable time/temperature combinations can be found in the FSA Manual of Official Controls at

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/MOC%20volume%201%20chapter-2.4.pdf>

or FSS Scottish Manual of Official Controls at:

FSS Chapter 2.4 Post Mortem, Health and Identification Marking v0.1
(foodstandards.gov.scot):

https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/downloads/Chapter_2.4.pdf

Paragraph II.1.3.1 (third indent) - may only be certified if the meat was produced from domestic pigs originating in a holding officially recognised as applying Controlled Housing Conditions (CHC) or if the meat was produced from domestic pigs unweaned and under the age of 5 weeks (the whole paragraph must be certified independently of which option(s) applies/apply).

FSA/FSS retain an internal list of GB holdings which are officially recognised as applying CHC for the perusal of resident officials in abattoirs.

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) ATTESTATION –

BSE control is enforced under the:

- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Wales) Regulations 2018
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (Scotland)
- The Bovines and Bovine Products (Trade) Regulation 1999.

Animals born or reared in the UK before the 1st August 1996 must not be certified for export. In addition, the following bovine animals cannot be certified for export if they are, under the UK TSE Regulations, subject to restrictions/slaughter at the time of consignment for trade:

- Offspring born within 24 months of clinical suspicion or confirmation of BSE in the dam;
- Cohort of a BSE case.

Defra IT systems would identify and trace these (offspring and cohort) animals as soon as a suspect BSE case is identified or a bovine tested under the BSE active surveillance programme receives a positive result from a rapid test, and therefore for all practical purposes, if an animal is not subject to a BSE related restriction at the time of certification, it can be certified for trade.

11. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

12. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the [APHA Vet Gateway](#).

13. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as "retained EU law" under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this "retained EU law". The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable.

14. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle.

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This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at product.exports@apha.gov.uk

PB 8383

Version History:

NFG –

Version 18 published 16 January 2024

- Part II: Certification, II.2.1 and Section 7 Consignment or Part of the Consignment Originating from the NI, EU Member States or from Third Country (Triangular Trade):

After 15 January 2024, POAO consignments moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland that require an Export Health Certificate will have to follow the rules on triangular trade. Separate rules apply to products that are eligible to move to Northern Ireland via the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme.

Version 17 published 28 March 2023

- Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

Amended to standardise the advice we provide on documentary evidence across POAO NFGs.

Version 16 published 20 February 2023

- Section 4 National Disease Control:

“Avian Influenza and Territory code” subtitle is added and reformatted.