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NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8152EHC titled:
EXPORT TO JAPAN OF GELATINE MANUFACTURED USING BONES OF BOVINE ORIGIN

Associated Documents: 8152EHC.

IMPORTANT
These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8152EHC. **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**

This certificate may be used for the export of gelatine to Japan, including gelatine made from the bones of bovine animals.

Although the wording of the certificate does not restrict the intended use of the product, exporters are advised to seek confirmation from the importing authorities that their specific product would be accepted on the basis of this certificate, particularly if the product is intended for human consumption.

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. **Paragraph II(a) – UK approval number**

This relates to the UK establishment producing/preparing the product to be exported, and not necessarily the establishment which manufactured the gelatine from the raw materials of animal origin.

Establishments manufacturing gelatine which is not intended for human consumption must be approved in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended). However, registration under this Regulation may be sufficient if the establishment is only handling gelatine manufactured elsewhere. In England, this Regulation is enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Certifying Official Veterinarians are advised that, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended), references to Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended) shall be construed as references to Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended) and that establishments, plants and users approved or registered in accordance with regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (as amended) before 4 March 2011 shall be deemed to be approved or registered, as required, in accordance with regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

Alternatively, the gelatine may be manufactured in a food business premises 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 or registration status of UK establishment's may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document, or by reference to the enforcement authority (APHA, DAERA or Local Authority) responsible for the establishment.

The equivalent status of establishments located on other countries may be verified on the basis of commercial documentation and/or

import certification.

4. Paragraph IV – Health information

Paragraph IV may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations.

Paragraph IV 1(a) – Specified risk material

The excluded materials referred to in this paragraph correspond to the definition of specified risk material laid down under Chapter D of Annex IX of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended).

Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended) requires the removal and safe destruction of specified risk material from ruminant animals which are slaughtered in a slaughterhouse approved in accordance with the EU Hygiene package which includes Regulations (EC) 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 (see **paragraph 3** above).

This paragraph may therefore be certified on the basis that the bovine bones were obtained from a slaughterhouse approved in accordance with the abovementioned EU Hygiene package or (if from a country outside the EU) in accordance with equivalent legislation enabling the bovine material or the gelatine to be legally imported into the UK.

Paragraph IV 1(b) – Processing method options

The option that is not being certified should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

It is expected that in the majority of cases the option at **paragraph IV 1(b)(i)** will be certified.

If the option at **paragraph IV 1(b)(ii)** is to be certified, the exporter must obtain agreement from the Japanese authorities with respect to using an alternative method to process the bovine bones. In such cases, this paragraph may only be certified on sight of written confirmation from the Japanese authorities expressly authorising the use of the specific alternative method to process the bovine bones that were used to make the gelatine present in the consignment. The certifying OV must also make due enquiry to confirm that the bovine bones were subjected to the specific alternative processing method authorised by the Japanese authorities.

5. SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS

Where declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process and/or declared intended use. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should 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.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

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