

EXPORT OF MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - 7877EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued together with export certificate 7877EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7877EHC.

OVs AND EXPORTERS ARE ADVISED THAT CERTIFICATE 7877EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment. They should attempt to obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match or no import permit is available, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7877EHC, however this decision and any consequences thereof are taken strictly at the exporter's own risk.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7877EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to Central African Republic of fresh/frozen meat and meat products derived from animals of the porcine, ovine, caprine and bovine species slaughtered in and originating from the United Kingdom and/or a Member State (MS) of the European Union (EU).

Exporters and certifying OVs must take particular note of the disclaimer at paragraph 7.

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 7877NFG (Cleared 23/01/2018) (Revised 13/12/2023)

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 EHC 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. SLAUGHTER FOR DISEASE ERADICATION PURPOSES

Paragraph IV(a) may be certified on the basis of the EU oval mark confirming that the animals from which the meat is derived were healthy and did not originate from area or zone subject to disease control measures due to an outbreak of epizootic notifiable disease to which the species is susceptible.

Meat from establishments where a disease outbreak is suspected or confirmed may not enter the human food chain but must be disposed of by slaughterhouses as a Category 2 animal by-product, i.e. high-risk material containing potential contamination.

Meat from animals in protection or surveillance zones is classed as 'restricted meat'. It must be kept separate from other meat products and must be marked with a special mark instead of normal health or identification marks. Restricted meat cannot be traded with other EU MSs or exported from the EU.

4. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(b), IV(c) and IV(d) may be certified on the basis of the EU oval mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 together with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 and 2073/2005 (The EU Hygiene Regulations). These Regulations are enforced in all MSs of the EU.

In the UK, the primary food legislation providing the framework for 7877NFG (Cleared 23/01/2018) (Revised 13/12/2023)

all food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended). Similar legislation applies in Northern Ireland.

Enforcement of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the EU Hygiene Regulations is provided through secondary legislation in England by The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland it is provided by The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

5. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

With regard to veterinary residues, paragraph IV(e) may be certified on the basis of the results of the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS), which implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC on veterinary residues and to which all EU approved meat establishments are subject.

The above Directives 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 Wales and Northern Ireland.

In addition, HACCP requirements described in Regulation (EC) 854/2004 place an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives.

With regard to compliance with microbiological criteria, paragraph IV(e) may be certified on the basis of the microbiological monitoring required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005, forming part of the EU Hygiene Regulations.

6. EXPORT OF BEEF PRODUCTS - BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

Paragraph IV(f) may be certified on the basis of compliance with European TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 (as amended)). The Regulation sets out the requirements for TSE monitoring, animal feeding and the removal of specified risk material and is enforced in all MSs of the EU.

In the UK, enforcement of the above Regulation takes place through the following national legislation:

- **England:** The TSEs (England) Regulations 2010 as amended by The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) and TSEs (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and The TSEs (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013;
- **Wales:** The TSEs (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended by The TSEs (Wales) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2008 and The TSEs (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010;
- **Scotland:** The TSEs Regulations (Scotland) 2010;
- **Northern Ireland:** The TSEs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation.

7. DISCLAIMER

Whereas 7877EHC takes into account recommendations by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for trade in this commodity, exporters and certifying OVs are advised that the certificate has not been drafted in accordance with any specific import requirements of

the importing country and has not been officially agreed with the authorities of Central African Republic.

Accordingly, use of 7877EHC for export of fresh/frozen meat or meat products to Central African Republic is at the exporter's risk.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country if these are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or an import permit provided, the exporter must copy these to the APHA CIT at Carlisle when applying for the certificate.

If the advice or the permit do not match the assurances provided on 7877EHC, the exporter should contact the APHA CIT at Carlisle via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

For export from Northern Ireland, exporters should contact the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at:

vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk