

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF MEAT (SHEEP AND GOAT) AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO THE KSA - 8039EHC

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 to you together with export certificate 8039EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8039EHC.

Exporters are 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.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Bilateral negotiations with Saudi Arabia have resulted in the BSE related ban on the export of ovine and caprine meat being lifted and agreement of conditions for their export to Saudi Arabia. The meat/products must originate from establishments that Defra has recommended to the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) for approval, following expressions of interest and FSA/FSS's checks on their compliance with UK hygiene legislation. This list of establishments can be found on the SFDA website at the link below:

https://sfda.gov.sa/en/list_countries

The agreed conditions are reflected in export certificate 8039EHC, which has been issued for use solely for exports of meat and meat products derived from the ovine and caprine species to Saudi Arabia.

2. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS: HALAL CERTIFICATE/HALAL SLAUGHTERING CERTIFICATE

Certificate 8039EHC must be accompanied by a certificate issued by an Islamic agency registered with the SFDA and SASO, as listed on <https://halal.sfda.gov.sa>

Verification of the Halal certificate/Halal slaughtering certificate must be undertaken for all relevant consignments of food. In the case of meat and meat products, the Muslim agency (Societies and Islamic councils) in the exporting country that approved by the GCC will supervise the slaughter process and provide documentation according to GCC requirements.

For further advice on Halal certification, exporters should contact UKECP via the link below:

<http://www.ukecp.com/contact-ukecp>

3. 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.

4. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit.

5. SCHEDULES

Section I.16 refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. The schedule must contain the same information in the same order as in this section and the section must be annotated 'See attached schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled to the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. COMPLIANCE WITH UK HYGIENE REGULATIONS/FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of Section 1.17 may be certified on the basis of evidence that all establishments in the supply chain for the meat and/or meat product intended for export - slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store - are/were operating in accordance with UK food hygiene legislation. As a minimum, they must be officially approved by the UK competent authorities and listed for export to Saudi Arabia (see paragraph 1 above).

The meat/product must bear the oval mark confirming compliance 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), as transposed into UK law.

The primary food legislation providing the framework for all food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended) and, in Northern Ireland, The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

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. Food hygiene legislation is implemented and enforced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA)/Food Standards Scotland (FSS). Their Manuals for Official Controls detail the requirements.

For the purposes of this certificate, the term 'inspection by veterinarians' in paragraph 3 means inspection under veterinary supervision.

Exporters and the certifying OVs are also advised to show due diligence by consulting and following the 'Advisory on meat exports'.

7. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

The SFDA has agreed that GCC requirements on residues in meat are considered equivalent to EU requirements (also see paragraph 11 of these notes)

Accordingly, paragraph 5 of Section I.17 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 to which all EU approved meat establishments are subject.

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.

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.

8. **ANIMAL FEED CONTROLS**

Paragraph 7 of Section I.17 may be certified on the basis of compliance with TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation). The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations, the FSA and FSS) ensure compliance with the legislation.

The TSE Regulation implements and enforces the 'total feed ban' through the National Feed Audit. Porcine origin processed animal protein (PAP) cannot be fed to farmed livestock, including ruminants, under the total feed ban, but porcine blood products can. The latter is not common practice in the UK.

However, for reassurance, it might be prudent to ask for evidence that this is indeed the case. Through-chain supporting attestations to this effect (farmers' declaration, FCIs, Supporting Health Attestations - SHAs - from the supply chain) is one way of covering this off.

9. **BORN AND REARED IN BRITAIN**

Paragraph 1 of the Additional Health Attestations refers. For the purpose of this certificate the term born and reared in Britain means born and reared in the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).

The certifying OV must carry out the necessary checks to verify this statement. 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 sheep to the slaughterhouse

Through-chain supporting attestations to this effect (farmers' declaration, FCIs, Supporting Health Attestations - SHAs - from the supply chain) should be requested if the certifying OV is not familiar with the sourcing arrangement.

OVs may further certify that the livestock were officially registered with the competent authority of the exporting country on the basis that all livestock - in this case sheep and goats - must be officially identified in accordance with EU and UK legislation, namely Council Regulation (EC) No. 21/2004 (as amended), The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

10. **TERRITORY WHERE THE ANIMALS WERE REARED**

Paragraph 2 of the Additional Health Attestations refers. OVs should enter England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland after receiving appropriate confirmation of where the animals were reared prior to slaughter.

11. **EQUIVALENCE OF EU AND SAUDI LEGISLATION**

Background Information

As part of the effort to open trade to Saudi Arabia and other members of the GCC, a large questionnaire detailing official controls in place in the UK was submitted by the UK authorities. Official controls are carried out by the competent authorities in EU countries to verify business compliance with the requirements set out in Agri-food chain legislation.

Issues covered included the safety and quality of food and feed, plant health, animal health and welfare together with import controls on animals and goods entering the EU from non-EU countries.

Following detailed consideration, the GCC countries agreed that the questionnaire formed the basis for establishing trade in fresh meat from the UK. It was also agreed that the various legal controls in place in the UK on animal transport, food quality, microbiological standards in food, preparation, transportation, handling and storage of fresh meat and chilled and frozen foods may be regarded as equivalent in their scope and enforcement to those controls in place in the GCC countries.

Certification

Paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Additional Health Attestations refer. Specific references to GSO (GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council) Standardisation Organisation) requirements are made in these paragraphs, namely:

- GSO 714** - Transportation regulations of livestock by rail, road and ships - Part 1: transport of sheep and goats.

- GSO 1400** - Transportation regulations of livestock by rail, road, and ships - Part 2: Transport of cows and buffaloes (NB: not applicable for this certificate).

- GSO 996 - Basic requirements and quality factors for fresh beef, buffalo, mutton, goat and camel meat.
- GSO 1016 - Technical regulation concerned with microbiological limits for some foodstuffs intended for human consumption and for some food ingredients used in the food industry.
- GSO 815 - Code of hygienic practice for preparation, transportation, handling and storing of fresh meat.
- GSO 323 - Requirements for transportation and storage of chilled and frozen foods.

Accordingly, references to compliance with the GSO Regulations referred to in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Additional Health Attestations may be certified on the basis that GSO Regulations have been deemed equivalent to the relevant EU and UK legislation by the GCC authorities and specifically by the SFDA.

12. ** IMPORTANT **** REFERENCES TO APPROVAL NUMBERS FROM 30/09/2019**

The UK has reached an agreement with Saudi Arabia to update the details of the approval numbers of all UK establishments requiring listing with Saudi Arabia. **With effect from 30/09/2019** the approval/registration numbers for establishments listed to export Meat (Sheep and Goat) and Meat Products to Saudi Arabia will cease to have references to "UK" or "EC". From that time, approval/registration numbers will include the central unique identifier code ONLY [four numerical digits for abattoirs (under FSA/FSS/DAERA control) - or - five/six alpha-numerical digits for cold stores, dairy and fish establishments (where under local authority approval)].

The format of the approval/registration number including the "UK" prefix and the "EC" suffix shall continue to be used and entered in the relevant Sections of 8039EHC export health certificates signed before and up to 30/09/2019.

The format of the approval/registration number without the "UK" prefix and the "EC" suffix shall be used and entered in the relevant Sections of 8039EHC export health certificates signed after 30/09/2019.

Illustrative examples

Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED BEFORE 30/09/2019	Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED AFTER 30/09/2019
UK 2090 EC	2090
UK AB123 EC	AB123

Consignments certified before 30/09/2019 (which must contain UK and EC references in the approval/registration number) will be accepted for export to Saudi Arabia upon arrival within a transitional period of 6 months after 30/09/2019.

THE NEW FORMAT APPLICABLE FROM 30/09/2019 MUST BE USED IN ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORTS OF MEAT (SHEEP AND GOAT) AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO SAUDI ARABIA, INCLUDING INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES OR SUPPORT HEALTH ATTESTATIONS SIGNED FROM THAT DATE.

The authorities of Saudi Arabia will expect that the details of the establishments entered onto the certificate are both correct, consistent and in accordance with their own records of approved

establishments. Approval codes, and other details, should exactly match the details as listed on the Saudi Food and Drug Authority website https://sfda.gov.sa/en/list_countries.

The new listing by Saudi Arabia replaces the previous listings by Saudi Food and Drug Authority.

Health/ID marking of products: Saudi Arabia will accept consignments of product bearing either the current format of oval health/ID marks (with "UK" and "EC") or any other acceptable format prescribed by the UK authorities following the UK's exit from the EU. Some consignments might contain a mix of products which each might bear different health/ID marks. Products will be identified as originating from the final establishment of production by cross-reference with the **central unique identifier number of the establishment in the oval mark/stamp of the product.**

13. **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