

## NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8545EHC titled:  
**VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPORT OF FEED ADDITIVES CONTAINING DAIRY INGREDIENTS TO AUSTRALIA**

Associated Document: 8545EHC

### IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8545EHC. 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 from the United Kingdom to Australia of feed additives whose only ingredient of animal origin is lactose derived from bovine milk.

The number of the import permit issued by, for example, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, must be entered into the appropriate space on the front page of this certificate.

The import permit may also include requirements that are outside the scope of this certificate, such as the need for specific manufacturer's declarations. The exporter should therefore ensure that the necessary steps have been taken to satisfy any additional applicable requirements of the import permit.

#### 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](mailto: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.

retained for two years.

Certifying OV's 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) - Approval number**

Establishments producing feed additives or other animal feedingstuffs from processed ingredients of animal origin require approval or registration in accordance with the Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These statutory instruments currently enforce the principles and controls laid down under Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 laying down requirements for feed hygiene.

The approval or registration number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document or by reference to the local authority responsible for the manufacturing establishment.

**4. Paragraph IV - Health information**

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OV's 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.

**The certifying OV must ensure that the completed health information reflects the requirements of the import permit, particularly with respect to the country of origin.**

**(a) Paragraph IV (a) - Material of animal origin**

This paragraph relates to the use of materials derived from livestock, poultry, fish or other typically farmed animals. This is not intended to relate to the presence of beneficial bacteria or other beneficial microorganisms.

**(b) Paragraphs IV (c - first part) - Notifiable disease freedom for OV's in Northern Ireland**

For lactose originating from **milk collected in the UK**, the disease clearance may be certified provided written authority

to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form 618NDC.

**Paragraphs IV (c - first part) - Notifiable disease freedom for OVs in Great Britain**

Where it is possible for the Official Veterinarian (OV) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade - Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

OVs 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.

[http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External OV Instructions/Export Instructions/Certification Procedures/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External%20OV%20Instructions/Export%20Instructions/Certification%20Procedures/index.htm)

**For Great Britain:**

**In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance**

**(618NDC) from CITC:** OVs 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 an OV being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify OVs 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, OVs 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 OV disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when OV disease clearance can be reinstated.

For lactose originating from **milk collected outside the UK**, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a suitably worded veterinary statement or import certificate issued by the competent veterinary authority of the country of origin. Exporters should note that if an outbreak of the named diseases occurs in the country of origin after the issuing of such statement, the Australian authorities may refuse to accept the consignment.

(c) **Paragraphs IV (c i and ii) - Health of animals at milk collection**

For lactose originating from **milk collected in the UK**, the health of the animal at the time of milk collection may be certified on the basis of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments currently enforce the principles and controls laid down under the EU Hygiene package, including 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.

The above legislation requires that raw milk must be collected from animals that are 'in a good general state of health'. On this basis, it is expected that the **first option, (IV c i)** would be certified and that the second option would be deleted.

For lactose originating from **milk collected outside the UK**, the health of the animal at the time of milk collection may be certified on the basis of a suitably worded veterinary statement or import certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of origin confirming one of the options. The option which does not apply should be deleted.

(d) **Paragraphs IV (d) - Heat treatment**

For lactose originating from **milk processed in the UK**, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a suitably worded declaration from the manufacturer of the lactose.

For lactose originating from **milk processed outside the UK**, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a suitably worded veterinary statement or import certificate, or a suitably worded declaration from the manufacture of the lactose.

5. 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. 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.

The RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2012 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated". 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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)