

EXPORT OF FRESH, FROZEN OR CHILLED BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA - 6882EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6882EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6882EHC.

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 CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 6882EHC may be used for the export of fresh, frozen or chilled beef and beef products from the United Kingdom to Antigua and Barbuda. Exporters and OVs must note that the animals from which the exported meat is derived must have been born and reared in the United Kingdom only.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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. 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.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

OVs may certify paragraph IV(a) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

5. TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (TSE) STATEMENTS

Paragraph IV(b), the second sentence of paragraph IV(c) and paragraphs IV(f) and IV(g) refer. OVs may certify these statements on the basis of compliance with TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as transposed into national and EU legislation.

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

6. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

The first sentence of paragraph IV(c) refers. Only meat and meat products derived from animals born and reared in the UK are eligible for export to Antigua and Barbuda.

OVs may certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of purchasing and operational patterns of the food business operator (FBO) and exporter. OVs may also wish to obtain written declarations from the FBO and/or exporter confirming that the conditions of this paragraph have been met for the exported goods.

7. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION/COMPLIANCE WITH EU HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Paragraphs IV(d), IV(e), IV(h) and IV(i) 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 Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004, as transposed into national legislation, and the Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

8. 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