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**EXPORT OF PETFOOD IN HERMETICALLY SEALED CONTAINERS AND/OR DRIED PETFOOD OF NON BOVINE ORIGIN CONTAINING NO MAMMALIAN MEAT MEAL, BONE MEAL, OR MEAT AND BONE MEAL TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - 4185 EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, 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.

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.

1. Under paragraph II(a) the relevant approval number should be entered appropriately. Petfood manufacturers which export to EU Member States are registered under the Animal By-products Order 1999 as amended (ABPO). The registration number can be obtained from the registration document or by reference to APHA.
2. Paragraph IV (2) refers to raw materials originating from the EU member states other than the UK. Countries listed by the OIE as not being free from BSE are: United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, the Republic of Ireland, Portugal and Oman. It is the responsibility of the certifying OV to make due enquiry as to the origin and status of meat/offal/animal waste used in the product. The OV should also be aware that only tallow which has been produced in accordance with the Bovines & Bovine Products (Trade) Regulations 1999 may be used in animal feed intended for export.
3. Paragraphs IV (3) (a) and (c) may be certified for low risk ingredients as defined in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Animal By-

Products Order 1999.

4. Processing requirements in paragraphs IV (3) and (4) may be certified on the basis of examination of relevant processing records.
5. Paragraph IV (5) may be certified on the basis of the OV's knowledge of processing and handling procedures at the production premises.
6. Paragraph IV (6). Certifying veterinarians should be aware of their responsibilities in respect of sealing of containers. It is our interpretation that the OV must be present for the closing and sealing of containers.
7. Paragraph IV (7) may be certified on the basis of the results of microbiological testing carried out on the batch intended for export.