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**VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR FEEDSTUFF NOT CONTAINING RAW MATERIALS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA - 6966EHC**

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

**Associated Documents:** 6966EHC and 618NDC

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6966EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6966EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 6966EHC may be used for the export to the Republic of Serbia of animal feedingstuffs, premixes or feed additives which do not contain any ingredients of animal origin.

**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.

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 6966NFG (Cleared 07/05/2014) (Revised 09/01/2024)

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 4.2 refers. This should be completed with either "APHA" or "DAERA" depending on whether the certificate was issued in Great Britain or Northern Ireland.
4. Paragraph 8.2 refers. Animal feed manufacturers must be approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene. In England, this is enforced by the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These controls on manufactured animal feedstuffs are regulated by the Food Standards Agency. However, such animal feed manufacturers can be considered to be under veterinary approval on the basis that they are required to operate under conditions designed to safeguard the health of the animals which are fed their products.

The approval or registration number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document.

OVs should enter the relevant approval or registration number in addition to the name and address of the premises.

5. Paragraph 9 refers. Taking into consideration the additional guidance below, the health attestation may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation.
  - (a) Paragraph 9.1 may be certified on the basis that the manufacturing establishment is approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene, as described above.
  - (b) Paragraph 9.2 refers. This refers to the absence of ingredients of animal origin rather than just unprocessed animal materials.
  - (c) Paragraph 9.3 may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade - Exports

- at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

- (d) Paragraph 9.4 may be certified on the basis that the manufacturing establishment is approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene, as described above. This may be supported by reference to satisfactory and relevant laboratory test results from the processing establishment's routine testing/monitoring programme for the presence/absence of harmful organisms in its products or in the ingredients they use.
- (e) Paragraph 9.6 may be signed on the basis of the UK National Surveillance Scheme for residues. All member states of the EU are required by Council Directive 96/23/EC to operate a monitoring programme for specified residues in meat. This Directive is implemented in the UK by the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 and the programme in question is referred to as the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS). On the basis of this scheme, it can be considered that meat and meat products do not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the European Union (Regulation 2377/90/EEC) of any antibiotic/veterinary medicinal product; any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally; any pesticide; or any heavy metal, known to be harmful to human health.
- (f) Paragraph 9.7 refers. The United Kingdom has a comprehensive programme in place to monitor radioactivity in food and the environment. The results demonstrate that even the most exposed members of the UK public received radiation doses from consumption of local food and exposure to environmental radioactivity (due to discharges and direct radiation) that were below the statutory EU annual dose limit to members of the public of 1 millisievert per year from artificially-produced radionuclides as set in the Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996.
6. If 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 for declarations should be called for and put on file.

7. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time, and may not necessarily comply fully with the  
6966NFG (Cleared 07/05/2014) (Revised 09/01/2024)

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)