

**EXPORT TO CANADA OF BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM RABBITS**

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

**Associated Documents: 5097EHC**

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 5097EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 5097EHC. 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 to Canada of blood and blood products that were collected from rabbits of UK origin and which are intended for in-vitro use only.

**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 certification.

**DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies**

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return 5097NFG (Cleared 10/11/2015) (Revised 09/01/2024)

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 IV - Health information**

Paragraph IV may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with any necessary evidence resulting from the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the facility. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation and/or records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements and valid declarations.

**(a) Paragraph IV(a) - Origin of the material and commingling**

That the donor animals were healthy may be certified on the basis of satisfactory physical examination of the animals previously carried out by the OV or another veterinarian or by a suitably qualified employee of the facility prior to the collection of the exported material, supported by appropriate records and documentation.

The certifying OV should be satisfied that the standard operating procedures preclude commingling with animal materials from other sources.

**(b) Paragraph IV(b) - Myxomatosis and rabbit VHD**

This paragraph may be signed on the basis of scrutiny of the facility's comprehensive disease control and veterinary treatment records, supported by the certifying OV's own observations of the donor animals.

**(c) Paragraph IV(c) - In-vitro use**

The certifying OV should make due enquiry to verify that the consignment is intended for in-vitro use only. This may be supported by reference to relevant marketing literature and usage instructions.

**4. 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 should be called for and put on file.

5. **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)