

No:

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8196EHC titled:
EXPORT OF UNPROCESSED HIDES AND SKINS TO LEBANON

Associated Documents: 8196EHC and 618NDC

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 8196EHC.

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**

This certificate may be used for the export of hides and skins to Lebanon.

Because of the highly processed nature of the following products:

- (a) hides and skins having undergone the complete process of tanning;
- (b) 'wet blue';
- (c) 'pickled pelts';
- (d) limed hides (treated with lime and in brine at a pH of 12 to 13 for at least eight hours),

exporters wishing to export the above products are advised to confirm, via their commercial contacts or the British Embassy in the destination country, if the importing authorities require these products to be accompanied by this certificate.

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.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the 8196NFG (Agreed 07/10/2019) (Revised 28/12/2023)

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 DECOP 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 I(a) refers. The description of the products should include reference to the species of origin of the product.
4. Paragraph IV refers. The health information may be certified on the basis of the following guidance in conjunction with the necessary evidence resulting from the OV's familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or records including veterinary import certification.

In addition, the certifying OV should be familiar with the requirements of Regulations (EC) 1069/2009 and 142/2011 (as amended).

(a) **Paragraph IV 1 - From animals fit for slaughter**

This may be certified on the basis that the hides/skins were collected from animals slaughtered for human consumption in a slaughterhouse approved in accordance with 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.

In England, the EU Hygiene package is implemented and enforced by the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In the case of hides and skins imported from countries outside the European Union, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of the wording of the veterinary certificate accompanying the product into the UK.

(b) **Paragraph IV 2 - Origin or treatment**

One of the three options presented must be certified. The options which are not to be certified should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

(i) **Paragraph IV 2(a) - Notifiable disease clearance**

UK freedom from foot and mouth disease 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, Carlisle, or the issuing DAERA office in Northern Ireland.

If the UK does not currently satisfy this criterion or if this paragraph is not to be certified, then it should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

Certifying OVs and exporters should be aware that, if the UK is unable to satisfy this criterion, the importing authorities may impose animal health restrictions which could lead to consignments being rejected regardless of whether the remaining conditions of this certificate have been met.

(ii) **Paragraph IV 2(b) - 2% Sodium carbonate treatment**

It is expected that this paragraph would only be certified for UK origin hides and skins when paragraph IV(a) cannot be certified.

If this paragraph is not to be certified, then it should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

(ii) **Paragraph IV 2(c) - Legally imported**

This may be supported on sight of the veterinary certificate or commercial document which accompanied the product into the UK from either a country outside the EU or from member state of the EU respectively.

If this paragraph is not to be certified, then it should be struck through and the deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

5. **SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS**

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 and/or declared intended use. 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.

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