

EXPORT OF RAW MILK CHEESE TO AUSTRALIA - 8708EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

Associated Documents: 8708EHC, 8708SUP

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**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8708EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8708EHC.

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.

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1. **Scope of the certificate**

Certificate 8708EHC may be used to accompany exports to Australia of the following raw milk cheeses ONLY:

- Appleby's Cheshire
- Appleby's Double Gloucester
- Hafod
- Isle of Mull
- Keen's Cheddar
- Kirkham's Lancashire
- Lincolnshire Poacher
- Montgomery's Cheddar
- Sparkenhoe Red Leicester
- St Andrew's Anster
- St Andrew's Cheddar
- Westcombe Cheddar

The exporter must also apply to the Australian Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry for an Import Permit.

A manufacturer's declaration (8708SUP) must also be completed by each producer and endorsed by the certifying officer to accompany each consignment for export.

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**

Certifiers are only required to return a certified copy of EHCs for the following EHC types:

- if the commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
- EHC's where the certifier cannot submit certifier feedback

If you are required to return a certified copy to CITC, email a scanned copy to [certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk](mailto:certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk).

Retain a copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified for two years.

Certifiers 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.

#### **IMPORTANT - NON-COMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION**

The Australian Department Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) requests to be notified of any adverse finding during inspections of exporting establishments conducted by the UK Competent Authorities, that may cause product in trade to fail requirements stipulated by the United Kingdom or by the Australian Government.

In the case that the OV is not satisfied that the product meets the requirements for certification, or has any concerns about the safety of the product, they should NOT certify the consignment for export to Australia.

If the OV is unsure whether the product in question is compliant with domestic requirements they may wish to discuss the matter with the Local Authority enforcement officer responsible for carrying out statutory inspections of the premises.

They should then notify [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk) with details of the non-compliance.

### **3. IV HEALTH INFORMATION**

Paragraph IV.i may be certified on the basis that the 12 raw milk cheeses approved for export to Australia are of bovine origin.

Paragraphs IV.ii and IV.iv may be certified on the basis that the UK appears on the Foot and Mouth free country list published by the Australian Director of Biosecurity (see links below), NOT the WOA (OIE) list. The country of origin/manufacture must have been declared

free from the relevant diseases by Australia at the time of collection and processing.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Freedom:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/legislation/fmd-free-country-list>

Paragraph IV. iii may be certified based on milk hygiene legislation in force in the UK which ensures that only healthy animals are used for milk production.

Paragraph IV.v may be certified on the basis that the product is stamped, or on provision of the manufacturer's declaration 8708SUP. Note that a manufacturer's declaration must be provided for each consignment regardless of whether the product is date stamped.

The given manufacture date must not be before the date the curd was set.

Paragraph IV.vi may be certified on the basis that the manufacturer is an approved UK food business and has the necessary HACCP plans in place.

Paragraph IV. vii and viii may be signed on the basis that the manufacturer complies with domestic food and dairy hygiene legislation, including retained EU legislation (retained EU regulations 852/2004 and 853/2004).

In addition, the 12 raw milk cheeses have been approved for export based on Australia's assessment that they meet the requirements of paragraph IV. viii.

The OV may also request additional information, assurances, or documentary evidence from the exporter and/or manufacturer to support certification of paragraph IV. viii.

#### **4. MANUFACTURER DECLARATION**

A manufacturer declaration must be completed by each producer ahead of each export. The stamp and/or trademark of the manufacturer MUST appear on BOTH pages of the declaration.

It is not expected that every consignment will be tested as per the monitoring requirements in Part III, however monitoring and testing should be carried out on a sufficiently regular basis that each consignment can be assumed to meet the required parameters.

#### **9. 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)