No: .....

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR IMPORTS INTO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO OF FOOD FOR DOGS AND CATS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM – 7556EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Associated Document: 7556EHC

IMPORTANT
These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7556EHC. **The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate** 7556EHC. **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 Morocco of pet food and other products that are intended for feeding to dogs or cats.

This certificate should not be used for products intended for feeding to other species unless if specific permission has been granted by Morocco's Office National de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits Alimentaires (ONSSA).

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.

Foreign text: The Official Veterinarian should note that the foreign text in this certificate is an official translation of the English text and the Official Veterinarian is accordingly authorised to complete the export health certificate, even if they are unable to read and understand the meaning of the foreign text.

Any spaces in the foreign text must be left blank and English wording must not be entered. However, if the Official Veterinarian is able to read and write the foreign text and if facilities are available to enter the foreign text in type, the Official Veterinarian can enter the information where appropriate.

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 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 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. COMPLETION OF PART I – Product Information

I.3 – Central Competent Authority
This should be completed with "**Defra**".

I.4 – Local Competent Authority
The certifying OV should enter either "**APHA**" or, if the the exporting establishment is located in Northern Ireland, "**DAERA**".

I.7 – Country of origin
This should be completed with the name of the country in which the finished products were manufactured.

I.8 – Region of origin code
In most cases, this paragraph need only be completed with the name of the region of origin.

However, if the country of origin and the product fall within the scope of emergency disease control legislation laid down by the importing authorities, then this paragraph should be completed with the appropriate region name and code number as specified under such emergency legislation.

In these cases, the APHA Centre for International Trade, in Carlisle or DAERA in Northern Ireland should be consulted for further specific guidance.

I.9 – Place of origin

This should be completed with the details of the UK establishment of dispatch including, if applicable to the operation of the establishment, its approval or registration number allocated under the UK statutory instruments referred to in the guidance for **paragraph II.4** below.

I.11 – Place of loading
The place of loading or the port of embarkation must be entered.

I.12 - Date of departure
The date of departure must be entered.

I.13 – Means of transport
The means of transport i.e. aeroplane, ship, railway wagon, road vehicle must be indicated. The option 'Other' is not applicable to the movement of products and should not be selected. The flight number, name of the vessel, the train number and rail car or the number plate of the road vehicle should be entered as the means of identification as appropriate.

If the means of transport changes after the certificate has been signed, the consignor must inform the officials at the intended point of entry.

Optionally, the number of the airway bill, bill of loading, or the commercial number of the train or road vehicle may be entered as the documentary reference.

I.19 – Identification of the commodities
If the consignment consists of several different types of products then it may be necessary to use a separate schedule to identify the full consignment. The schedule must, as a minimum, contain the same information as that required in **Box I.19** of the certificate and this box must be annotated "See Attached Schedule".

Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and be signed, dated and stamped by the Official Veterinarian.

The schedule must be stapled inside the health certificate and the Official Veterinarian should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also.

Any blank spaces in the schedule or in **Box I.19** should be deleted with diagonal lines.

4. PART II – Sanitary requirements
Taking into consideration the additional guidance below, the health attestation may be certified on the basis of the OV's knowledge and familiarity with the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the processing establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

II.1 – Status of the meat used
This paragraph goes beyond the standard requirements set out under UK animal by-products legislation and Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) for meat used for the manufacture of pet food.

Under the abovementioned Regulations, it is not necessary for the meat used to be fit for human consumption. The certifying OV must therefore make due inquiry to verify that the meat used in the consignment was either fit for human consumption or was obtained from

slaughtered animals which passed both ante- and post-mortem inspection.

II.2 – Processing requirements for non-canned pet food

If the consignment only consists of pet food in cans, pouches or other hermetically sealed containers this paragraph may be struck through and this deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

The text of this paragraph equates to the combined requirements set out under paragraphs 3(b)(i) and (ii) of Chapter II of Annex XIII to Regulation (EC) 142/2011. However, these paragraphs only represent two of the five processing options offered under paragraph 3(b) for processed pet food other than canned pet food.

Paragraph 11.2 may therefore be certified on the basis that the ingredients of animal origin or the pet food itself have been processed in accordance with the parameters set out under Regulation (EC) 142/2009, particularly those set out under Annex X or paragraph 3(b) of Chapter II of Annex XIII thereof.

For processed ingredients of animal origin, this may be supported by the fact that they were legally imported into the UK or were supplied by establishments approved or registered in line with the guidance provided for box I.9 given above.

II.3 – Processing requirements for canned pet food

This paragraph reflects the standard processing requirement laid down under paragraphs 3(a) of Chapter II of Annex XIII to Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) for canned pet food. In England, this is enforced by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended). Similar legislation exists in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

If the consignment does not contain any pet food in cans, pouches or other hermetically-sealed containers then this paragraph may be struck through and this deletion signed and stamped in the usual manner.

II.4 – Supervision by the competent authorities

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the manufacturing establishment is approved or registered as follows:

(a) UK establishments handling unprocessed animal by-products or manufacturing products derived from unprocessed animal by-products must be approved in accordance with the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended).

Certifying OVs are advised that, in accordance with Articles 54 and 55 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, references to Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 shall be construed as references to Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 and that establishments, plants and users approved or registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 before 4 March 2011 shall be deemed to be approved or registered, as required, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009.

(b) UK establishments handling processed ingredients of animal origin may be approved or registration in accordance with the

Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under Regulation (EC) 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene

(c) In the case of manufacturing establishments located outside the UK, the approval number of the manufacturing establishment would either relate to approval or registration in accordance with specific legislation in force in the country of manufacture. In the case of manufacturing establishments located in EU member states, this would be in accordance with the EU legislation referred to in **paragraphs (a) and (b)** above.

In all cases, confirmation of approval or registration may be ascertained on sight of a valid approval/registration document or by reference to veterinary import certification or by reference to the Centre for International Trade – Exports, in Carlisle.

II.6 – Specified risk materials

For the purposes of this paragraph, the definition of "specified risk material" from Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended), as summarised below, may be used:

- the skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes, and the spinal cord of **bovine animals aged over 12 months** and originating in a third country having a controlled or an undetermined BSE risk or originating from any EU Member State;
- the vertebral column excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum, but including the dorsal root ganglia, of **bovine animals aged over 30 months** and originating in a third country or EU Member State having a controlled or an undetermined BSE risk;
- the tonsils, the last four meters of the small intestine, the caecum and the mesentery of **bovine animals of all ages** and originating in a third country or EU Member State having a controlled or an undetermined BSE risk;
- the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of **ovine and caprine animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum** and originating in a third country having a controlled or an undetermined BSE risk or originating from any EU Member State;
- the spleen and ileum of **ovine and caprine animals of all ages** and originating in a third country having a controlled or an undetermined BSE risk or originating from any EU Member State.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the use of specified risk material in the manufacture of pet food made in the UK or imported into the UK is prohibited under the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which which currently implement and enforce the principles and controls laid down under the Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended).

II.7 – Freely sold in the country of origin

Further to above guidance for **paragraph I.7** of the certificate, the

country of origin may be considered to be the country where the product was manufactured.

This paragraph may therefore be certified on the basis of the manufacturing establishment's approval or registration in accordance with the legislation in force in the country of manufacture, in line with the guidance given for **paragraph II.4** above.

Alternatively, in the case of pet food made outside the UK, this may be certified either on the basis of a certificate of free sale issued by the competent authority in the country of manufacture, or on the basis that the product was legally imported into the UK and is therefore eligible to be sold in the UK.

5. 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. 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