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NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

In relation to 8710EHC titled:
EXPORT TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO OF DRY, SEMI-MOIST OR CANNED PETFOOD CONTAINING INGREDIENTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Associated Documents: 8710EHC

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 8710EHC. **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 from the UK of canned or processed petfood manufactured using ingredients of animal origin to Trinidad and Tobago.

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 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. Paragraph II – Approval of the Processing Plant

Paragraph II(b) refers. Establishments in the UK manufacturing petfood from unprocessed animal materials 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.

Alternatively, establishments which manufacture petfood using processed ingredients of animal origin must be approved or registered 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.

The appropriate approval or registration number should be entered into this section. If the establishment is in possession of approval/registration under both of the abovementioned Regulations then the number entered should reflect the number which is used on product labels or on other paperwork associated with the export.

For products manufactured in processing plants outside of the UK, the approval number under the relevant processing country competent authority should be entered. The OV should refer to relevant approval documentation, commercial documentation or veterinary certification relating to the legal importation of the product or its ingredients into the UK.

5. Health Information (section IV refers)

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid 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.

(a) Paragraph IV. 1 may be signed on the basis of the certifying officer's knowledge and experience of the manufacturing practices in the establishment of origin and any other evidence, including production records etc, as he/she considers necessary.

Processed or canned petfood which has either been manufactured, packaged and tested in the European Union in accordance with Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) or which has been legally imported into the European Union is no longer considered to pose any significant risk to public or animal health and is said to have reached its 'end point' – on the basis that the minimum treatments required under Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) for the production of processed petfood (for example, at least 90°C throughout its substance) and canned petfood (a minimum F_o value of 3) are considered sufficient to inactivate these viruses.

This paragraph may therefore be signed on the basis that the petfood was produced to the sourcing, processing and microbiological standards set out under Regulation (EC) 142/2011 (as amended) in an establishment satisfying the controls set out under Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended).

Compliance of non-UK product, materials or establishments may be supported by reference to relevant approval documentation, commercial documentation or veterinary certification relating to the legal importation of the product or its ingredients into the UK.

Alternatively this clause can be certified on the basis that the product does not contain poultry derivatives. In this case the clause should NOT be struck through.

(d) Paragraph IV. 2 refers. This paragraph may be certified either on the basis of African Swine Fever (ASF) freedom or the inactivation of the ASF virus by heat treatment or dry curing:

ASF FREEDOM:
For pork meat and derivatives of UK origin, ASF freedom can be confirmed by requesting a 618NDC from APHA Carlisle.

For pork meat and derivatives of non-UK origin, this can be certified on the basis of relevant import documentation confirming freedom in the country of origin.

ASF INACTIVATION:
This can be certified on the basis that any pork meat or derivatives have undergone one of the specified treatments to inactivate ASF, which are taken from OIE article 15.1.23.

Source: https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_asf.htm

Where only one clause is being certified, the others must be struck through in the usual manner.

Alternatively this clause can be certified on the basis that the product does not contain pork derivatives. In this case NONE of the delete-able options should be struck through.

(e) Paragraph IV. 3 refers. This can be certified on the basis that the bovine material used is a Category 3 animal by-product referred to in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended) or derived from such a by-product, which means that there are no BSE related restrictions in place on their use in petfood.

Alternatively this clause can be certified on the basis that the product does not contain bovine ingredients. In this case the clause should NOT be struck through.

(f) Paragraph IV. 4 may be signed on the basis of the certifying officer's knowledge and experience of the manufacturing practices in the establishment of origin and any other evidence, including production records etc, as he/she considers necessary. Category 3 animal by-products referred to in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 (as amended) or derived from such by-products may be regarded as low risk.

(g) Paragraphs IV. 5 and 6 may be signed on the basis of the certifying officer's knowledge and experience of the manufacturing practices in the establishment of origin and any other evidence, including production records etc, as he/she considers necessary.

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