Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health certificate for the entry into the Union of products of animal origin and certain goods that originated in the Union, are moved to a third country or territory and moved back to the Union after unloading, storage and reloading in that third country or territory.

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Contents

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EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE ENTRY INTO THE UNION OF PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AND CERTAIN GOODS THAT ORIGINATED IN THE UNION, ARE MOVED TO A THIRD COUNTRY OR TERRITORY AND MOVED BACK TO THE UNION AFTER UNLOADING, STORAGE AND RELOADING IN THAT THIRD COUNTRY OR TERRITORY

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Official Control Regulations (EU) 2017/625

Animal Health Regulations (EU) 2016/429

Model official certificates - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

Model official certificates - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744

Hygiene rules for food of animal origin - Regulation (EC) 853/2004

Lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted - Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. This document contains links to the EU law valid at the time of writing, but this is subject to change. You should ensure you use the latest version:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the ‘find results by document number’ option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click ’document information’, and then scroll down to ‘all consolidated versions’ and select the most recent version.

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the ‘Official Journal of the European Union’.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians or Official Inspectors as per section 7 below) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This Export Health Certificate may be used for the entry into the Union of products of animal origin and certain goods that originated in the Union, are moved to a third country or territory and moved back to the Union after unloading, storage and reloading in that third country or territory.

This certificate can be used for the re-export of products of animal origin back to the EU or for movement of these products to Northern Ireland where the products were eligible for placing on the EU market and where the products have been unloaded, stored and reloaded in Great Britain (i.e. without processing or repackaging of these products).

This certificate can be used for products covered by the certificates laid out in articles 8 to 29 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 (amended by Regulation 2023/2744) including fresh meat of bovine, ovine and porcine animals; fresh meat of poultry, eggs and egg products, meat preparations and meat products, fishery products, milk and dairy products, honey and composite products (refer to the legislation for full list).

3. APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU or NI

The products must be stored and transported in accordance with the relevant requirements of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 but may be stored in and dispatched from establishments which are either "registered" food establishment (i.e.registered in line with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 by the relevant Local Authority) or "approved" food establishments (i.e. approved by the relevant local authority, Food Standards Agency or Food Standards Scotland or local authorities).

Approved food establishments | Food Standards Agency

FSS Approved Establishments | Food Standards Scotland

For approved establishments in Northern Ireland the "EC" suffix which is present in the health/ID mark, and appears on the label, is not part of the approval number should not be included when referring to establishment approval numbers in the certificate.

4. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

Where possible, information should be provided within the main body of the certificate but if there is insufficient space to enter the required information in Part I or Part II of the certificate a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the certifying officer should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the certifying officer in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

5. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language/s of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

Signing, stamping and pagination

The foreign language version/s and any schedules (if any) may be stapled to the English version but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document according to the EU Commission.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the English, foreign language version/s and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

COs will have to make handwritten corrections to page numbering as may be required. E.g. 1/4 to 4/4 (if present) on the foreign language parts in the example given above will need to be crossed out and the 1/11 to 11/11 entered.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any) at the bottom.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Vet Gateway, any handwritten corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part 1. The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in part I of the EHC needs to be amended. (E.g. if box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part 1 is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However, we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part 1 of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online

Guidance for Certifiers in the link below.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/exports/guidance-ehc-certifiers.pdf

UK approved establishments will be uploaded to Europa website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu

Please check the guidance on completion of part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG. For completion of box I.8-Region of Origin Code, if applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC. This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a European Community Decision. The approved regions or zones must be indicated as described in the Official Journal of the European Union.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See section Additional Schedules below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the notes for the completion of certificates provided for in Chapter 4 of Annex I to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link: (Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744. Implementing Regulation - EU - 2023/2744 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/2235/oj

I.7 Country of origin- Indicate the name and ISO country code of the country where the goods were produced, manufactured or packed (labelled with the identification mark). This should be an EU MS or NI.

I.11 – Registration/Approval No - Chapter II of Annex I of Regulation 2020/2235 stipulates that a registration/approval number shall be included 'where applicable'. Where a product is exported from a registered establishment it may be the case that no number is available. **The EU have confirmed that this box can be left empty in this scenario. OVs may wish to consider speaking to the specific BCP of entry to confirm whether they would prefer N/A to be entered in this scenario.**

I.27 - Description of consignment

CN Code

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: HEALTH INFORMATION

Refer to the Notes at the end of the certificate for guidance on completing this section.

II.1. Health attestation

II.1.1. and II.1.2 These paragraphs can be certified where the products have been produced in the EU or Northern Ireland (NI) and on the basis of the EU or NI oval identification mark applied to the products (which demonstrates that the products were eligible for placing on the market in the European Union and have been produced in compliance with Regulation (EC) 853/2004).

In the case of composite products (where an oval identification mark may not be present on the product) this attestation may be certified on the basis of commercial evidence indicating that the products were eligible for placing on the market in the EU at the point of production in the EU or NI.

Information on NI oval marks can be found in the link below.

Guidance on health and identification marks that apply from 1 January 2021 | Food Standards Agency

II.1.3 This can be certified where the destination of the consignment is in the European Union or Northern Ireland.

II.1.4 This can be certified by an OV based on their own personal knowledge and a declaration made by the exporter confirming that the product has not been tampered and did not undergo any other handling than unloading, storage, re-loading, and transporting. The country code to be entered for Great Britain is "GB-0" as listed in column 2 of the table set out in Part 1 of Annex XXII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. Check footnote 1 in the certificate.

Note: If the EU or NI origin products have been processed or repackaged after their import into Great Britain then this certificate cannot be used for re-export.

II.2. Storage attestation

II.2.1. and II.2.2

These paragraphs can be certified on the basis that the storage and re-loading establishment(s) are either "registered" food establishments (i.e. registered in line with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 by the relevant Local Authority) or "approved" food establishments (i.e. approved by the relevant local authority, Food Standards Agency or Food Standards Scotland).

Approved food establishments | Food Standards Agency

FSS Approved Establishments | Food Standards Scotland

The loading of the consignment needs to be supervised by the OV or a designated person acting on behalf of the OV (e.g. a Certification Support Officer).

6. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Personnel may be authorised to collect evidence which may be used to support veterinary certification. In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA.

In **England, Scotland and Wales,** CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ (AHP)-CSO) qualification.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) should be obtained. CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks.

They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.

Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the OV Instructions Exports section of the APHA Vet Gateway.

Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)

For groupage exports from Great Britain, where certain types of products are produced from a stable supply chain and are fully packaged for the final consumer, exporters who are GEFS members may use 30 day support attestations to provide information to OVs to facilitate completion of this certificate.

For further information including the definition of groupage exports, the template 30 day support attestation which must be used and requirements for exporters, suppliers and vets to use the scheme see:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/Products_Exports.html

You can check that exporters are GEFS members by consulting the GEFS membership list or emailing the exporter's name, GEFS membership number and the address of the exporting premises to GEFS@defra.gov.uk

7. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification Certifying Officers (CO) (Official Veterinarians (OV)) must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify.

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC). For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the APHA Vet Gateway.

9. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as "retained EU law" under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this "retained EU law". The EU standards that this legislation includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

10. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

8461NFG

Version History:

EHC

Part I: I.27: Identification mark and approval or registration no of plant/establishment/centre is removed. Manufacturing plant is added.

Notes:

Part II:

Footnote 1: is amended with “Consignments that originate in the Union and are moved to a third country or territory, and moved back to the Union after unloading, storage and reloading.”

NFG

Version 5 published 31 May 2024:

Section 1: Applicable Legislation is amended with addition of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292, 2023/2744.

Part I: Detail of the Consignment: Link to amended Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 is added for completing Part I of the EHC.

II.1.4: Referred to footnote 1 for further guidance.