**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

# Notes For Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of live fish, live crustaceans, products of animal origin from those animals and certain fishery products (i.e. cephalopods) intended for human consumption 8361

## August 2024

### Contents

**No: 8361**

**EHC for entry into the EU or NI of live fish, live crustaceans, and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption.**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR COS AND EXPORTERS**

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Exporters and Certifying Officers (COs) regarding the signing of EHCs for entry into the EU of live fish, live crustaceans, and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption.

COs are deemed 'Official Inspectors' as indicated on the EU certificates. 'COs' are persons who have been specifically designated (authorised) for this purpose by the APHA on behalf of the national competent authorities. For additional details please see note three 'CERTIFICATION BY A CO', below.

This NFG should be read in conjunction with the health certificate and not be read as a standalone document. This NFG should have been issued to the CO together with the relevant export certificate(s) for export to the EU of fishery products intended for human consumption.

We strongly advise that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements via their importer from the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry to the EU and/or from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

Please note, NFGs will be further amended as the need arises. COs and exporters should use the latest version available.

## 1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

(EC) No. 178/2002

Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004

Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005

Commission Regulation (EC) 1881/2006

Regulation (EU) 2022/2292

Regulation - (EU) 2023/915

Commission Decision 2011/163/EU

Regulation (EU) No 2016/429

Regulation (EU) No 2017/625

Regulation (EU) No 2018/1882

Regulation (EU) 2019/627

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/691

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 repeal Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.

EU legislation can be accessed via the following link.

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

Please ensure that you use the latest and/or consolidated versions and take into account any recent amendments not yet available in consolidated versions.

**Consolidated legislation**

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of EU 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.

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

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 EU'.

**The Official Control Regulations and Hygiene Regulations package**

COs must be aware of the provisions of Regulations (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, laying down the general principles and requirements of food law and procedures in the matters of food safety. Additionally, COs must ensure they are aware of Regulation (EC) Nos 852/2004, 853/2004 and 2017/625, which set out the requirements surrounding primary and secondary processing of products and the establishment in which the fishery products for human consumption were produced, the implementation of HACCP principles, and the requirements surrounding hygienic handling and processing. These Regulations also make reference to other regulations that may be directly relevant, and COs should check for additional requirements according to the commodity being exported.

Regulations (EU) 2019/625, 2019/626 and 2019/627 contain additional provisions relating to fishery products and apply much of the requirements applicable to Member states in regulation 853/2004 to goods and imports from listed third countries.

The sourcing, processing, handling, and packaging of goods for export must comply with all requirements in order to certify the goods for entry into the European market area. Specific attention is required for compliance with the sub-paragraph points listed in the EHC under Part II.1.

The hygiene and Official Control Regulations referenced in the Certificate, have been incorporated into UK law. They are primarily implemented and enforced according to the Food Law Code of Practice as published by the FSA and FSS.

UK legislation will no longer automatically be updated by changes in EU legislation. Where a discrepancy may arise in the requirements of the EU's Regulations and similar regulations as implemented in the UK, the requirements of the EU text will apply for EU certification purposes.

In relation to animal disease biosecurity, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and Regulation (EU)2020/2236, implementing that Directive, may be relevant. Notes in the EHC indicate when these requirements apply.

## 2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate may be used for the entry into the EU or NI of live fish, live crustaceans, certain fishery products (i.e. cephalopods) and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption.

Specifically excluded are: Live Bivalve Molluscs (LBM), which by definition include live echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods, and products of animal origin from these animals. These should be exported using certificate 8364.

## 3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV (OV) or FOOD COMPETENT CO (FCCO)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate can be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV (OV) appointed by the APHA 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.

In England, Scotland, and Wales this certificate may also be also be signed by a Food Competent CO (FCCO) who is authorised by APHA. An FCCO can only sign this EHC when the animal health attestation (II.2) can be deleted.

The FCCO or OV must sign and stamp, with their Official stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The FCCO or 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 of the BCP (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of 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/vetbordercontrol/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 AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled, and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.
- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps, and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official.

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

You can also contact the APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

## 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 guidance lay down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission 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)

http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/2235/oj

### *I.17 Accompanying documents*

Enter documents which accompany the consignment which need to be checked at BCPs and are required by EU legislation. Catch certificates, storage documents and processing statements do not need to be referenced here.

### *Where this box does not apply, insert "N/A" rather than scoring it through.I.19 Container/seal number*

COs may agree with exporters that evidence of the container number (and, if applied, a seal number) are provided by photographic evidence, video or CCTV, if this can be done securely, e.g. forwarded by a specific predetermined phone number via an encrypted messaging app.

### *I.20 Certified as for*

**'Human consumption'**: concerns only products of animal origin intended for human consumption for which an animal health, official certificate or animal health/official certificate is required by Union legislation.

**'Further processing'**: concerns products that *have to be further processed before being placed on the market* as well as live aquatic animals and products of animal origin from aquatic animals other than live aquatic animals, which are destined for a disease control

aquatic food establishment as defined in Article 4(52) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

“Further processing” means any type of measure or techniques affecting anatomical wholeness (e.g. bleeding, evisceration, heading, slicing, filleting) which produces waste or by-products which could cause risk of disease spread.

The term of “further processing” in relation to box I.20 refers to the type of processing that may occur in EU which generates waste. If the “further processing” as defined above doesn’t occur in the EU then this option must not be selected.

Please note that this definition is not referring to the definition of “further processing” used in terms of triangular trade. For the purposes of triangular trade, processing refers to any process that substantially alters the initial product including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, extraction, extrusion or a combination of these processes as defined by Article 2 of assimilated regulation 852/2004.

**‘Canning industry’**: for whole fish initially frozen in brine at – 9 °C or at a temperature higher than – 18 °C and intended for canning in accordance with the requirements of Section VIII, Chapter I; Point II(7) of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

**‘Live aquatic animals for human consumption’:** means animals destined to be prepared with a view to being supplied live to the final consumer.

***HS Codes***

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

**Box I.21** - Transits - If a consignment is transiting the EU to a third country, indicate the name and ISO country code of the third country of destination. Animal health rules apply to consignments transiting the EU, however public health rules do not apply to consignments of fishery products transiting the EU.

**Box I.27 –** Date of collection/production – Guidance in Chapter 4 of Annex I of Regulation 2020/2235 states this should be the “oldest” date of collection/production - we have clarification from the EU Commission that this means the earliest date of final production of items contained in the consignment. The earliest date of final production of items contained in the consignment should be entered, e.g. the date of packing.

Identify the type of packaging according to the definition given in Recommendation No 21

(10) of UN/CEFACT (United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business).

## PART II: Public and animal health attestations

### II.1 Public Health Attestation

**II.1.** Public Health Attestation – This cannot be deleted as GB does not have equivalence agreements with the EU, nor is it part of the EU.

Please note that if products are of aquaculture origin, COs must ensure those fulfil the residues' guarantees. Please see Section 5 'Residue Check Guarantee' below.

Products must have satisfactorily undergone the official controls laid down in: Articles 67 to 71 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 (laying down official controls on fishery products and approval of factory, freezer or reefer vessels).

The CO signing the EHC is responsible for checking that the consignment complies with or is subject to the particular public health attestations as set out in Part II.1 of the EHC. It is the responsibility of the CO (CO), using their professional judgment, to determine what evidence is required to be satisfied that the attestations contained within the EHC (EHC) have been met.

COs (COs) are reminded that they certify in a professional capacity on behalf of the national central competent authority and may take into account official advice provided by the APHA (APHA) (acting on behalf of national central competent authorities in GB) in the completion of the EHC and certification of a consignment. This advice may be available as official direct communications, official websites and the latest version of the NFG accompanying the draft EHC.

**Processing undertaken at approved food establishments.**

The starting point for certification of consignments of POAO is the Food Business Operator's implementation and compliance with the relevant Regulations as indicated by the legal application of the oval identification mark for the commodity. This indicates that the products have been produced at an approved food establishment in accordance with the requirements of the public health regulations of the UK, which match those in the certificate. Approved Food Establishments are subject to the Food Law Code of Practice risk-based inspection regime, which is implemented by the relevant Competent Authority.

Where you as CO are not part of the team that audits and enforces the food hygiene regulations, you should check with the appropriate Local Authority that there are no concerns or enforcement issues that may affect the status and certification of the commodity being exported. Therefore, COs (COs) should obtain, as appropriate, confirmation from the relevant professional working for the Competent Authority (a food competent authorised officer) that there are no concerns or investigations relating to the approval and safe production of food at the establishment(s) of production in addition to the presence of the

identification mark. A supporting health attestation provided by a Food Competent CO from the competent authority responsible for the official controls, may serve for this purpose.

For **primary production and handling prior to arrival at the approved premises**, compliance with the referenced regulations, e.g. hygiene inspections of vessels the landing of catch and transport: This EHC requires the CO (CO) to attest that fish "*have been caught and handled on board vessels, landed, handled and where appropriate prepared…..in compliance with the requirements laid down in Section VIII, Chapters I to IV of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004*".

Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England and Wales and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) have asked Local Authorities to register and inspect fishing vessels to verify compliance of the food business with the stated requirements. The aim of all of these regimes is for 100% of exporting fishing vessels to be registered and inspected. The registration of fishing vessels as a food business and the inspection of these vessels is the responsibility of the local authority where the fishing vessel is registered or for the port where the vessel most often lands, although a UK fishing vessel can be inspected at any UK port.

The evidence available to the CO as regards the registration and inspection status of fishing vessels differs across the UK. See the table below. The CO is entitled to request evidence from the business requiring the EHC, to provide reasonable supplementary evidence. COs should use their professional judgement to check with official sources that the evidence provided is verifiable and accurate. If the CO considers that there is insufficient evidence provided, they could refuse to sign the EHC, until the required evidence has been provided.

In situations where goods arrive with a corresponding support health attestation, this should already include an attestation as to the registration status of the vessel in accordance with the stated requirement above. The CO may rely solely on this attestation for certifying the consignment. (Where evidence should emerge that supporting attestations are not reliable, this should be passed on to the APHA for investigation).

Where goods arrive without a supporting attestation, the CO will have to verify compliance with the requirements of the EHC, themselves, specifically the point regarding the hygienic handling on board vessels, as follows.

The following table provides a summary of the evidence available to the CO in different parts of the UK, to inform their professional judgement:

| **Country where products are being certified** | **Source of fishery products listed on EHC** | **Evidence available** |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| England and Wales | England | • Place reliance upon the official controls-based regime for vessel registration and inspection as a proxy for all vessels registered and inspected by the competent authorities.<br><br>• Can contact the relevant LA to check vessel registration and inspection status.<br><br>• Can request evidence from the business requiring the EHC that supplying vessels have been registered. |
| | Wales | |
| | Scotland | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Scotland | England | • Place reliance upon the official controls-based regime for vessel registration and inspection as a proxy for all vessels registered and inspected by the competent authorities. |
| | Wales | • Can contact the relevant LA to check vessel registration and inspection status.<br><br>• Can request evidence from the business requiring the EHC that supplying vessels have been registered and therefore are included in the official controls regime. |
| | Scotland | • Local Authority and FSS COs will be able to access the Scottish National Database (SND) to check if a vessel has been registered and inspected and its current status.<br><br>• Place reliance upon the official controlsbased regime in Scotland for vessel registration and inspection as a proxy for all vessels registered and inspected by the competent authorities.<br><br>• Can request evidence from the business requiring the EHC that supplying vessels have been registered. |

If a vessel registered in NI (NI) or an EU Member State lands fish into GB for export to the EU, the CO may contact DAERA or the relevant NI or EU competent authority to ascertain evidence of vessel registration or inspection, if the relevant information cannot be provided by the food business operator (FBO). However, it is a legal obligation that all such fishing vessels must be registered and inspected according to the EU's requirements. In equivalent circumstances this evidence is not required by the EU. You, as the CO, may rely on this statement in these NFG to certify goods originating from NI and EU vessels for compliance with the relevant EU hygiene controls required on the certificate.

For goods that were processed prior to arrival at the approved food establishment of despatch, or that were processed elsewhere prior to export, for the avoidance of doubt, COs (including OVs) may rely on an official completed EHC (UK or foreign as appropriate) or an attestation document on a UK Local Authority's letterhead, which provides the relevant assurances needed for completion of the official EHC that will accompany the goods for export. Any such supporting document must be appropriately stamped and signed by a CO, to facilitate completion of the final export certificate.

See below for further information relating to the identification mark.

COs should make additional appropriate checks and inspections to satisfy themselves that the standards required for the certification of the goods are being met, including the specification, quantity, and packaging of the goods.

**II.1 -**

**(a)** This can be certified if the country of origin is listed by the Commission Annex IX of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 (amended by Implementing Regulation 2021/606) in accordance with Article 127(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. For example, if originating in Great Britian, the applicable code is GB. GB is listed in this annex. There is no requirement for code of origin to be entered here.

**(b)** Can be certified based on the establishment(s) being approved by the relevant competent authority and being listed by the EU. See Section 8 for more information.

**(c)** Can be certified based on the CO's personal knowledge, or documentary evidence (e.g., storage/freezing declarations) if applicable, of the consignment described in Part I.

**(d)** Can be certified based on the CO's personal knowledge, or documentary evidence (e.g., operator's records/declarations) if applicable, of the consignment described in Part I.

**(e)** Can be certified based on the CO's personal knowledge, or documentary evidence (e.g., operator's records/declarations) if applicable, of the consignment described in Part I.

**(f)** Can be certified based on the CO's personal knowledge, or documentary evidence (e.g., operator's records/declarations) if applicable, of the consignment described in Part I.

**(g)** Can be certified based on the CO's personal knowledge, and the consignment described in Part I is marked in accordance with those regulations.

**(h)** This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997.

Said provisions fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products thereof provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Article 6(2) of commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292. The UK is listed "X" in Annex -I to Commission Implementation Regulation 2021/405 for the aquaculture finfish and finfish products.

See section 5 for further advise on residue check guarantees. The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor residues of residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin.

**(i)** This attestation can be certified based on previous [UK] monitoring of live animals from wild catch. The plan is based on passive surveillance and business led testing relying on previous surveys conducted, which showed the risk to public health to be negligible, with predictable and non-significant levels.

For wild fish and crustaceans refer to FSA/FSA guidance under Section 5 of this document

**(j)** Can be certified on the basis of the CO's personal knowledge of the consignment and its compliance with the relevant regulations.

**II.1 (a)** - This attestation on antimicrobial medicinal products is added which must be crossed out or deleted until 3 September 2026.

**II.2 Animal health attestation**

If applicable the OV signing the EHC must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II.2 of the health certificate have been complied with.

Where the whole of II.2 is not deleted, an OV must sign the certificate rather than an FCCO.

The whole of Part II.2 can be deleted as per footnote (2) if the consignments consist of:

a) species other than those listed in the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.

i. To note, as per footnote 3, species listed in column 4 of this annex shall only be regarded as vectors under the conditions set out in Article 171 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692:

- POAO from aquatic animals other than live aquatic animals shall not be regarded as vectors
- Aquatic animals shall only be regarded as vectors under conditions set out in Annex XXX of Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

*OR*

b) wild aquatic animals and POAO from those wild aquatic animals which are landed from fishing vessels for human consumption

*OR*

c) products of animal origin from aquatic animals (other than live aquatic animals) which are ready for direct human consumption without undergoing further processing in the Union.

This means that II.2 can be deleted for POAO (other than live aquatic animals) which have been eviscerated and are not known to be going for further processing the EU.

"Further processing" means any type of measure or techniques affecting anatomical wholeness (e.g., bleeding, evisceration, heading, slicing, filleting) which produces waste or by-products which could cause risk of disease spread. To note this does not include wrapping or packaging.

II.2 **cannot** be deleted where the consignment consists of any of the following:

- Listed live aquatic animals from aquaculture
- Listed wild live aquatic animals that are hand gathered
- Uneviscerated fish from listed aquaculture species
- Products which are known to be going for further processing in the EU

from listed aquaculture species, for example:

For uneviscerated salmon from aquaculture going to any destination in the EU, II.2 **cannot** be deleted, and this will require certification by an OV.

For eviscerated salmon from aquaculture destined for filleting in the EU, II.2 **cannot** be deleted, and this will require certification by an OV.

For eviscerated salmon from aquaculture fit for human consumption and destined for the final consumer, or not undergoing further processing (as defined above) , II.2 **can** be deleted, and this can be certified by a FCCO or an OV.

See Annex below for further examples.

**II.2.1 -** The CO must ensure that they are aware of the relevant diseases listed in Part 4 of Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. Certification can be based on Notifiable Disease Clearance (see paragraph below), supporting documentation from the establishment vet can also be sought.

Annex I of Commission Decision 2021/260 and Annexes XII, XIII, XIV and XVIII of Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/620 lay down MS's/territories/zones or compartments declared free from some listed diseases.

**II.2.2 –** Note: this only applies to aquaculture animals and POAO from aquaculture animals.

**II.2.2.1 -** This can be certified on the basis the aquaculture premises is authorised by the Fish Health Inspectorate and in compliance with The Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) or (Scotland) Regulations 2009 .

**II.2.2.2 –** This can be certified on the basis of history of surveillance by Fish Health Inspectors in accordance with Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations (2009) or Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations (2009), and one or more of the following measures:

- The certifying OV's direct knowledge of the site and its disease status.
- Records of a health visit to the site by a veterinarian who has knowledge of the premises and its operation.

***General Animal Health Requirements***

**II.2.3.1 and II.2.3.2 -** These attestations can be deleted if consignment contains only the aquatic animals detailed in Footnote 6.

Note: The exemption from certain elements of Part II.2 as set out in Footnote (6)(c), concerns crustaceans which are packaged and labelled for human consumption in accordance with the specific requirements for those animals as set out in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and which are intended for further processing without temporary storage at the place of processing. 'Temporary storage' is not defined but 'without temporary storage' should be understood to mean **without any storage** i.e. the crustaceans should be processed on arrival at the place of processing for footnote (6)(c) to apply.

**II.2.3.1 -** The appropriate code should be entered as per Annex XXI of Implementing Regulation 2021/404 (amended by Implementing Regulation 2021/634). For example, if from Great Britain enter: 'GB-0'.

**II.**2.3.2- Aquatic animals undergo clinical inspection as per Article 166 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

**II.2.3.3 -** This can be certified based on the OV's knowledge of the dispatching establishment and transport conditions. Evidence may be requested from the operator, including route plan.

**II.2.3.4 –** This can be certified as GB aquaculture premises which do not meet GB standards will be subject to formal controls preventing them from trading to other areas, and packaging conditions that prevent contamination.

**II.2.4** ***Specific Health Requirements [Either/Or Option]***

**Either:** This section may be deleted if Footnote 6 applies.

As per footnote 4 where statements are not applicable, they should be deleted where indicated.

**II.2.4.1** - Requirements for species listed (as per Footnote 3) for infection with

- **Epizootic Haematopoetic Necrosis** *(Rainbow Trout and Redfin Perch **and Vector Species as applicable)***
- **Infection with Taura Syndrome Virus** *(Gulf White Shrimp, Pacific Blue Shrimp, Pacific White Shrimp **and Vector Species as applicable)***
- **Infection with Yellow Head Virus** *(Gulf Brown Shrimp, Gulf Pink Shrimp, Kuruma Prawn, Black Tiger Shrimp, Gulf White Shrimp, Pacific Blue Shrimp, Pacific White Shrimp **and Vector species as applicable)***

To note: only live aquatic animals are regarded as vectors

The first paragraph may be completed based on the Notifiable Disease Clearance status of the waters of origin of the consignment. See paragraph below on notifiable disease clearance.

Freedom from *Epizootic Haematopoetic Necrosis, Infection with Taura Syndrome Virus and Infection with Yellow Head Virus* in GB can be certified by default. Should this change for any reason, e.g., a disease status is being investigated, the CO (CO) or organisation holding relevant certificates will be officially notified of suspension to certify for this status.

**II.2.4.1 (i)** This may be completed based on the Notifiable Disease Clearance status of origin of the consignment. See paragraph below on notifiable disease clearance for imported consignments this may be certified based on the accompanying import EHC or attestation of competent authority

**II.2.4.1 (ii)** May be certified if of GB origin as vaccination for these diseases is prohibited. If of foreign origin, then it may be certified based on GB's import requirements.

**II.2.4.2 -** Requirements for species listed (as per Footnote 3) as susceptible to infection with

- **Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS)** (*Herring, Whitefish, Pike, Haddock, Pacific Cod, Atlantic Cod, Pacific Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Rockling, Brown Trout, Turbot, Sprat, Grayling, Olive Flounder, Marble Trout, Lake Trout, Wrasse, Lumpfish **and Vector species** **as applicable)***
- **Infectious Haematopoetic Necrosis (IHN)**(*Chum Salmon, Coho Salmon, Masou Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Sockeye Salmon, Pink Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Atlantic Salmon, Lake Trout, Marble Trout, Brook Trout, Arctic Charr, Whitespotted Charr **and Vector species listed** **as applicable)***
- **Infection with HPR-deleted Infectious Salmon Anaemia Virus (ISAV)***(Rainbow Trout, Atlantic Salmon, Brown and Sea Trout **and Vector species** **as applicable)***
- **Infection with White Spot Syndrome Virus** *(All Decapod Crustaceans **and Vector species** **as applicable)***

To note: only live aquatic animals are regarded as vectors

As per footnote 7, this section may be deleted if the destination Member State does not have disease free status, nor is it subject to an optional eradication scheme, for the diseases specified. The relevant Member States (for which this section cannot be deleted) are listed in the following annexes of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620:

Annex XII- Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS)

Annex XIII- Infectious Haematopoetic Necrosis (IHN)

Annex XIV- Infection with HPR-deleted Infectious Salmon Anaemia Virus (ISAV)

Annex XVIII- Infection with White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV)

The first paragraph may be completed regarding **VHS, IHN and ISAV** based on the Notifiable Disease Clearance status of the waters of origin of the consignment. See paragraph on Notifiable disease clearance below.

However, although **Infection with White Spot Syndrome Virus** is classed as a Notifiable Disease, its disease status is undetermined currently in GB waters. This disease must therefore be deleted in the paragraph. Susceptible species may therefore only be exported to countries which neither have disease free status nor are subject to an optional eradication programme as per Footnote 7. *(However, at time of writing (27/4/21), no Member States are considered free of WSSV nor do they have an approved eradication programme).*

**II.2.4.2 (i) -** For imported consignments this may be certified based on the accompanying import EHC or an attestation from the competent authority.

**II.2.4.2 (ii) -** This may be certified if of GB origin as vaccination for these diseases is prohibited. If of foreign origin, then it may be certified based on GB import requirements.

**II.2.4.3 -** Requirements for species listed as (per Footnote 9) susceptible to infection with

- **Spring Viraemia of Carp (SVC)** *(Bighead Carp, Goldfish, Crucian Carp, Grass Carp, Common Carp, Koi Carp, Silver Carp, Sheatfish, Tench and Orfe)*
- **Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)** *(Salmonidae Family)*
- **Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN)** *(Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Atlantic Salmon and Whitefish)*
- **Gyrodactylus Salaris (GS)** *(Atlantic Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Arctic Char, North American Brook Trout, Grayling, North American Lake Trout, Brown Trout and any species which have been in contact with a susceptible species are also regarded as susceptible)*
- **Salmonid Alphavirus (SAV)** *(Atlantic Salmon, Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout) And*

*Requirements for species listed (as per footnote 3) susceptible to infection with*

**Koi Herpes Virus (KHV)** *(Common Carp and Koi Carp and Vector species* as applicable*)* - To note: only live aquatic animals are regarded as vectors

This section may be deleted if the Member State of destination does not have approved national measures in place for a specific disease as per Footnote 8.

Otherwise, appropriate deletions should be made.

The relevant member states and geographical demarcations which currently have approved national measures in place are listed in Annex I and II to Implementing Decision 2021/260.

The paragraph may be completed based on the Notifiable Disease Clearance status of the waters of origin of the consignment, in reference to each disease.

GB waters are currently free from Spring Viraemia of Carp (SVC) and Gyrodactylus Salaris (GS)

GB waters are classed as not recognised as free of **Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD).** National controls are in place. **Koi Herpes Virus (KHV)** has an undetermined status in GB waters.

GB waters are also not currently considered free of either **Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis** or **Salmonid Alphavirus**.

Consignments of Species susceptible to:

1. Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)

2. Koi Herpes Virus (KHV)
3. Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPN)
4. Salmonid Alphavirus (SAV)

These species may be exported to Member States which have approved national measures for said diseases (as per footnote 8) if the country of origin of the aquatic animals fulfils health guarantees necessary to comply with the national measures.

These species may also be exported to Member States which have approved national measures (as per footnote 8) if the animals or products are destined for a disease control aquatic food establishment approved in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/691. In this case the whole “either” option of II.2.4 should be deleted and the “or” option should be certified.

*(At time of writing (June 21) only NI and Eire waters are free and have approved national measures for **BKD and KHV.** Continental parts of the territory of Sweden have national measures approved for **BKD.***

*Continental parts of the Territories of Finland and Sweden are free and have national measures for **IPN.** Coastal parts of the territory of Sweden have national measures approved for **IPN.***

*Continental parts of the territory of Finland are free and have approved national measures for **SAV**.)*

**Or: *II.2.4 Specific Health Requirements cont.***

This section may be deleted if Footnote 6 applies

**II.2.4 -** This paragraph may be certified if the consignment is destined for an approved disease control aquatic food establishment for processing for human consumption. Otherwise, it should be deleted and the above EITHER option should be certified.

**II.2.5 -** These points may be certified on the basis of the CO's personal knowledge of the establishment and a signed declaration by the Operator.

**II.2.6 - *Transport requirements***

Although there is not a (4) by this paragraph to permit its deletion, the EU Commission has confirmed that the whole paragraph II.2.6 can be deleted if the EHC is used to certify POAO. If the EHC is used to export live aquatic animals, this paragraph must be certified.

**II.2.6.1 -** Can be certified based on the CO's knowledge of the processes and scrutiny of the route plan the exported consignment will take to enter the EU and reach its place of destination.

**II.2.6.2** and **II.2.6.3 -** A CO (CO) or Certification Support Officer (CSO) must be present to confirm that the requirements have been met, as applicable.

**II.2.6.4 -** Can be certified based on the CO's knowledge of the processes and scrutiny of the Route Plan the exported consignment will take to enter the EU and reach its place of destination.

The CO should ensure that the transport conditions of the fish or crustaceans do not alter their health status including confirming that they do not come into contact with water that has been in contact with live fish or crustaceans of a lower health status.

**II.2.7 - *Labelling requirements***

**II.2.7.1 -** The stipulations of labelling are detailed as described in Article 169 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. The legible label must clearly link the consignment/containers to this EHC. Any traceability information which is entered in Part 1 of the EHC which can link the consignment to the certificate may be used.

**II.2.7.2 -** This can be deleted if the consignment does not contain live animals. c) An estimated number of live aquatic animals is acceptable.

**II.2.7.3 -** This can be deleted if the consignment does not contain POAO from aquatic animals (other than live animals).

## 4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified zones or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified: The disease status of each farm in Great Britain is accessible at:

- https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/fish-health-inspectorate#diseasestatusoffishshellfish-and-crustacea-in-england-and-wales
- Authorised Aquaculture Production Businesses and Authorised Processing Establishments: registers - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
- https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-status-of-fish-and-shellfishdiseasesinscotland/.

Note: For aquaculture purposes the CO must treat GB and NI as separate epidemiological areas or zones.

## 5. RESIDUE CHECK GUARANTEES

The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin. Sample collection is conducted at the point of production i.e. at farm and slaughterhouse.

The domestic legislative basis for this monitoring is outlined in The Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations of 2015 and equivalent legislation in Wales (2019) and NI (2016). The monitoring conducted in GB is in accordance with the legislative requirements of Directive 96/23 (EC), 96/22 (EC), Decision 97/747 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) concerning residue testing of products of animal origin. The residues tested in the programme are in accordance with Annex I and II of Directive No 96/23 (EC), specifically, and include veterinary medical products, banned substances and environmental contaminants. In practice, monitoring conducted in the UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.

With regards to maximum levels used to determine sample non-compliance, for authorised veterinary medicines GB work to the GB Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) published here; these MRLs are aligned to the EU veterinary MRLs published under Reg (EU) 37/2010. If a pesticidal compound has an MRL for food-producing species then this MRL is used as the respective non-compliance threshold, but if a pesticide does not have a foodstuff MRL then the MRLs as listed in Regulation (EC) 396/2005 are applied. For contaminants, such as heavy metals and mycotoxins, the limits as set out in Reg (EC) 1881/2006 (repealed by Regulation 2023/915) are used to determine sample non-compliance.

The results of the statutory surveillance programme can be accessed on the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/residues-statutory-and-nonstatutorysurveillance-results

The EHC residue testing requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance to the national surveillance programme, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

The national monitoring programme for pesticide MRLs in food and feed in place under Regulation 396/2005 is underpinned by national legislation, The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (England and Wales) 2008 (as amended) and devolved administration equivalents. A national monitoring programme for Maximum Residue Levels is managed by the Health and Safety Executive. This involves testing a selection of produce that has already been placed on the market in Great Britain to provide assurance that only authorised pesticides, within permitted levels, are present. The results are published in an annual report. Annual reports can be found on gov.uk.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expert-committee-on-pesticide-residues-infood-prif-annual-report

Any EHC residue pesticide requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance with the pesticide residue monitoring scheme.
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-ofmonitoringprogramme.

From 2022 the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland will begin operating periodic sampling programs for wild caught fish, crustaceans and cephalopods landed in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and NI. The requirement for such monitoring is outlined in EU Regulation 2019/627. This regulation requires that testing of wild caught fish crustaceans and cephalopods is conducted as part of official controls for compliance with Retained EU Commission Regulation no. 1881/2006. Regulation 1881/2006 establishes maximum levels (mls) for certain contaminants in fishery products including lead, cadmium, mercury, dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Sampling of wild caught fish, crustaceans and cephalopods, representative of the species landed in the UK, and the regions in which they are landed, will be conducted, either at the point of landing or sale or other suitable point in distribution and tested for the relevant contaminants. Legislation requires that food business operators should not place foods on the market unless they comply with the maximum levels for chemical contaminants established by Regulation 1881/2006. They should therefore

carry out monitoring of food products and raw materials used in manufacture, in order to ensure that they are in compliance with the legislation.

Enforcement authorities are also expected to monitor products on the market for the presence of these contaminants, as part of official control and surveillance programmes, to ensure they do not exceed maximum levels established by the legislation

The frequency and amount of testing conducted in the sampling programmes will take into account the findings from previous studies by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland (which have generally shown high levels of compliance with maximum levels of contaminants in targeted species of wild caught fish, crustaceans and cephalopods), in addition to other relevant evidence and updated in reflection of the results of the monitoring programmes. COs may continue to certify fishery product EHCs on the basis of the above statement.

## 6. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA. CSOs can collect evidence, directed by an OV, which may be used to support OV certification of matters which do not require a clinical assessment or judgement e.g., for POAO and ABPs.

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 EHC (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 emailing the exporter's name, GEFS membership number and the address of the exporting premises to GEFS@defra.gov.uk

## 7. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM A THIRD COUNTRY (TRIANGULAR TRADE)

**NI origin:**

For NI origin raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, this can be certified under the terms of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the NI Protocol (NIP). The NIP treats NI as if it is in the EU SPS zone (which includes the EEA/EFTA states). Approved and registered premises in NI continue to implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004 and 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in Annex 2 to the Protocol. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI, and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625, Directive (EC) Nos 96/22 and 470/2009 can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and

maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using autoclearance NDC found here:

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By-Products are handled in accordance with EU Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the GB exporter/CO must request this information from the NI exporter. This NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

**EU origin:**

For imported goods that need to be certified for export from GB, these are normally subject to import certification, or the availability of a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) issued by the BCP (BCP) of entry to verify that they are compliant with GB import requirements and for placing on the GB market. COs including OVs may use these official documents to provide supporting evidence of compliance with relevant requirements for the re-export of products . In this context OVs may rely on the CHED issued by an Official Fish Inspector (a

non-veterinarian) for Fishery Products and live bivalve molluscs, live echinoderms, live tunicates or live marine gastropods for human consumption, cleared via a GB BCP.

Where the CHED or accompanying import certificate are not available or do not provide sufficient supporting information, the CO should seek a supporting attestation from an 'authorised veterinarian' who has personal knowledge of the matters in question. This may be further supported by relevant commercial information or records. It is the responsibility of the GB exporter to obtain the necessary supporting information to enable the CO to verify compliance with export requirements.

For goods sourced in the EU and EFTA countries, especially those that are not accompanied by a veterinary certificate or CHED issued by a BCP - COs may rely on the oval ID mark applied at approved food establishments in the EU as evidence that the goods were produced compliant with EU food production requirements for placing on the EU market - but care must be taken not to extrapolate this to animal health requirements not covered by the obligations of a food approved establishment, i.e. matters that extend beyond the scope of Regulations 852/2004 and 853/2004.

To export consignments of fishery products of EU origin back to the EU on 8361:

Products from fish must bear a GB ID mark and either:

1. Footnote 2 must apply meaning part II.2 of the EHC is deleted, *or*
2. The fish must be eviscerated (meaning II.2.3.1 can be deleted)

This means that listed species of fish from aquaculture which are intended for further processing in the EU, can only be re-exported to the EU on 8361 if they are eviscerated (see footnote 6).

To export consignments of crustacean products of EU origin back to the EU on 8361, the product must be packaged and labelled for human consumption in accordance with 853/2004 and bear a GB ID mark.

For live aquatic animals, the country undertaking the export must be the country of origin of the establishment of origin of the animals. This means EU origin crustaceans or fish for human consumption cannot be exported to the EU from GB as **live animals**.

EU products which are only stored in GB before being re-exported to the EU can be reexported using EHC 8461.

**Third Country Origin:**

It is also possible that some consignments may contain fishery products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin. In order to export Third Country origin products to the EU, the imported products must come from an EU listed country and an EU approved establishment.

To export consignments of fish/crustacean products of Third Country origin, which have not been further processed in GB, to the EU, footnote (2) must apply, meaning part II.2 of the EHC is deleted.

If Part II.2 of the EHC cannot be deleted, the fishery/crustacean product must have undergone some form of further processing in GB.

This means that listed species of fish from aquaculture which are intended for further processing in the EU, can only be exported to the EU if they have first been further processed in GB.

*"Further processing" means any type of measure or technique affecting anatomical wholeness (e.g. bleeding, evisceration, heading, slicing, filleting) which produces waste or by-products which could cause risk of disease spread.*

For live aquatic animals, the country undertaking the export must be the country of origin of the establishment of origin of the animals. This means Third Country origin fish or crustaceans for human consumption cannot be exported to the EU from GB as **live animals**.

COs may obtain the necessary supporting information from a copy of the original EHC used for import of these products into the UK.

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

**It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.**

## 8. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be listed as a 'UK approved establishment' and a list of UK approved establishments for import of POAO to the EU, can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU, and this does not include establishments with pending applications for approval.

If the final product contains POAO from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed as UK and/or EU approved establishments.

There are lists of approved establishments for other commodities, e.g. germinal products on the link above.

**For approved establishments in NI 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.**

## 9. OVAL MARK ON 'PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN – POAOs'

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries an oval health or identification mark and that official controls are carried out by enforcement authorities to ensure the appropriate marking has been applied. Domestic legislation has been introduced to ensure these requirements continue to apply in GB as retained legislation.

The health marks indicate that meat is fit for human consumption and the identification marks show when foods of animal origin have been produced in officially approved establishments which are compliant with retained EU food hygiene Regulations (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EU) No 2017/625. Also, the primary food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended).

https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/guidance-on-health-and-identification-marksthat-applies-from-1-january-2021

Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that carcases, half carcases or quarters, or half carcases cuts into three pieces, of domestic ungulates, farmed game mammals (other than lagomorphs) and large wild game bear the official health mark or that the primary, secondary and/or shipping packaging on food products of animal origin show the identification mark.

## 10. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES:

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO 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 CO 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.

Further guidance is available here:

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

## 11. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCS

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professionalconduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

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 APHA 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.

## 12. 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

## 13. 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 APHA (APHA) in Carlisle. 

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

PB 8361 NFG

Annex

Please note this is an illustration of common examples of exports and should not be viewed as a definitive table of all possible scenarios. The CO must ensure that all relevant requirements in the EHC are met and ensure their professional judgement is applied with regards to the intent for further processing in the EU

| Commodity for export | Who can certify these EHCs? | Is there a requirement for regular health inspection of the aquaculture premises by a vet? | Does the consignment need clinical inspection by an OV? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Any species of wild caught fish/shellfish landed by a fishing vessel | FCCO or OV | No | No |
| Any species not listed in column 3 or 4 of the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882 | FCCO or OV | No | No |
| Any product (other than live animals) of species **only listed in column 4** of the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882 | FCCO or OV | No | No |
| Any product (other than live animals) **not** intended for further processing* in the EU or NI | FCCO or OV | No | No |
| Uneviscerated farmed salmon/trout | OV | Yes | Yes |
| Eviscerated farmed salmon/trout intended for further processing* in the EU or NI | OV | Yes | No |
| Eviscerated farmed salmon/trout **not** intended for further processing* in the EU or NI | FCCO or OV | No | No |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eviscerated farmed salmon/trout ready for direct human consumption which is destined for sale at a fish market and **not known** if going for further processing in the EU | FCCO or OV | No | No |
| Uneviscerated farmed salmon/trout destined for sale at a fish market | OV | Yes | Yes |

* "Further processing" means any type of measure or techniques affecting anatomical wholeness (e.g. bleeding, evisceration, heading, slicing, filleting) which produces waste or by-products which could cause risk of disease spread. To note this does not include wrapping or packaging.

# Version History

## EHC

**Published 30 August 2024**

**Part II:**

**II.1 (a)** - Attestation about the administration of antimicrobial medicinal products is added.

**Notes** - Footnote 13 is added.

**Published June 2024**

**Part I:**

**I.27:** Identification Mark is removed.

**Part II:**

**(a):** Space to add the country and region where the fishery product is obtained, and which are authorised for entry into union is removed.

**(h):** Council Directive for residue plan 96/23 EC and Commission Implementing Regulation 2011/163 for listing of concerned animal and products, is replaced by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for control plan and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 for listing.

**(i)** Council Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 is replead by Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915 for monitoring arrangements for fishery products from wild catch and addition of pesticide residues in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.

**II.2.3.2:** Reference to Article 166 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 for clinical inspection I added.

**II.2.7.3: (a)** Labelling requirements is amended to “products of animal origin from fish other than live fish intended for further processing in the union”. Human consumption is removed from this statement.

**(b): II.2.7.3:** Labelling requirements is amended to “products of animal origin from crustaceans other than live crustaceans intended for further processing in the union”. Human consumption is removed from this statement.

**Notes:**

**Footnote 11** is added which gives option for II.2.3.3 to delete attestation that are not applicable as per note (6) point (a) to (c).

**Footnote 11** is now **footnote 12.**

# NFG

**Version 15: Published 30 August 2024**

**Applicable Legislation:** Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 added

**Part II: II.1 (a)** - Guidance is added about the attestation related to antimicrobial medicinal products.

**Version 14: Published June 2024**

**Part II:**

**II.1 (a):** Guidance is amended as this EHC does not require for country or region code to be added. Space to fill the code is removed from the EHC.

**Version 13: Published xx 2024**

**Applicable Legislation** is amended with addition of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292, Regulation 2023/915 and Regulation 2023/2744.

**Part I: Detail of the Consignment**: Link to Amended Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 is added for completing Part I of the EHC. Box I.27 is amended by adding references to Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 and Identification mark guidance is removed.

**I.20**: Further processing: further clarity is added to define “further processing” option in I.20.

**Part II: Certification -**

**h):** Further clarity is added for the national surveillance scheme and mentioned provisions, fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292.

**(i):** Further guidance is added for monitoring plan for fishery products originate from wild caught animals. Old attestation under point (i) is removed.

**Section 4: Residue check guarantees**: Further information is added: “In practice, monitoring conducted in the UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for

veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.”

**Version 12: Published 16 January 2024**

Section 5 Consignment or Part of the Consignment Originating from the NI, EU Member States or from Third Country (Triangular Trade):

After 15 January 2024, POAO consignments moving from Great Britain to NI that require an EHC will have to follow the rules on triangular trade. Separate rules apply to products that are eligible to move to NI via the NI Retail Movement Scheme.

**Version 11: Published 28 March 2023**

Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

Amended to standardise the advice we provide on documentary evidence across POAO NFGs.