Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

NFG: EHC for entry into the EU or NI of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of the animals of the family Bovidae (other than domestic bovine, ovine, and caprine animals), camelid animals and cervid animals kept as farmed game

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Contents

No: 8366

RUF - Veterinary certificate for the entry into the Union of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of animals of the family Bovidae (other than domestic bovine, ovine and caprine animals), Camelid animals and Cervid animals kept as Farmed Game.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICER (CO) AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235,

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

Regulation (EC) Nos 999/2001, 178/2002, 852/2004 and

Regulation (EU) 853/2004.

Regulation (EU) 2022/2292

Regulation (EU) Nos 2017/625, 2019/624 and

Regulation (EU) 2019/627.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that EU Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) Nos 854/2004 and 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

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 EU'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for entry into the union of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of animals of the family Bovidae (other than domestic bovine, ovine and caprine animals), Camelid animals and Cervid animals kept as Farmed Game. 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 RUF model of veterinary certificate may be used for the entry into the Union or transit through the Union of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of animals of the family Bovidae (other than domestic bovine, ovine and caprine animals), Camelid animals and Cervid animals kept as **Farmed Game**, in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) Nos 2020/692 and 2020/2235. It may not be used for animals killed prior to the date of authorisation for dispatch into the Union or where restrictive measures have been adopted by the Union against dispatch of this meat.

The Certificate is to be completed in accordance with the notes for completion provided in Chapter 4 of Annex I of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235: (Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744. Implementing Regulation - EU - 2023/2744 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Fresh meat that was imported into GB cannot currently be re-exported to the EU as fresh meat using this EHC.

For the re-export of EU origin Products of Animal Origin from the EU please use 8461 EHC. Find an EHC - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer or by an OV (OV) appointed by 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.

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 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.

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 on-line 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, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version are struck through, both versions can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English.

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.

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 European 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 hand written 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 EHCs (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 EU.

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 'Addition of 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

Box I.27- reference to batch number/s.
There is no specific format requirement for batch numbers and slaughter/production/best before date(s) may be used as appropriate.
Batch codes are intended to identify an amount of product that has been produced under the same conditions and so any hazard identified in a part of the batch can be presumed to be present in the whole.
Batch information is likely to be checked by BCPs as part of identity checks. Batch information in the health certificate should match information available when inspecting the product (e.g. on product labelling).

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: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public Health Attestation

The public health attestations should be deleted if the whole consignment is intended for transit through the EU territory only.

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with. See section 7 for further guidance if products originate from a third country or the EU.

The OV needs to be aware of the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 999/2001, 178/2002, 852/2004, and 853/2004 as well as Regulation (EU) Nos 2017/625, 2019/624 and

2019/627 and certify that the fresh meat included in Part 1 of the certificate was produced in accordance with the relevant regulatory requirements.

The fresh meat also needs to satisfy the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 and be stored and transported in accordance with the relevant requirements of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.

The OV also needs to ensure the fresh meat, meets the relevant guarantees covering life animals and products thereof provided by the residue plans submitted in accordance with Directive 96/23/EC, in particular Article 29, and the UK complies with TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.

If applicable, see section 7 for further guidance where the meat is not of UK origin. The attestations can be certified if it originates from an EU approved establishment in a third country, has been legally imported into the UK and evidence is provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) that demonstrates compliance with the relevant attestations.

II.I This can be certified on the basis of the OV's own knowledge of the listed legislation.

II.1.1 refers -
For meat from Bovidae, camelids and cervid animals kept as farmed game and slaughtered in the UK, this may be certified on the basis of the meat being produced in (an) establishment(s) that is/are approved since all approved food establishments must also satisfy the requirements of Regulation (EC) 852/2004. A list of EU approved establishments in Great Britain can be found here:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

II.1.2, II.1.3, II.1.4 and **II.1.5** refers -
These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of application of the oval mark in the format as required by the EU confirming that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant and cold store as applicable are officially approved and operating in accordance with retained EU Regulation Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 2017/625, 2019/624, 2019/627 and, in the case of microbiological criteria, Regulation No. 2073/2005.

These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

It should be noted that Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 does not require testing of fresh meat from farmed game animals. II.I.5 can be certified on the basis of general compliance to Regulation 2073/2005 without testing.

II.1.6 refers –
For fresh meat from farmed game animals of the family Bovidae, Camelidae and wild cervids slaughtered in the UK this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, which is/are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

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 in Annex -I to Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/405 for the concerned animals and products covered under this EHC.

See section 6 for further advice on residue check guarantees. The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin.

II.1.7 refers –
This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian's own knowledge of the operations at the game handling establishment and/or the conditions of transport. Alternatively, a declaration from another OV with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed. This could be part of the standard Support Health Attestation.

II.1.8 refers –
Supplementary guarantee. This paragraph should be deleted unless the farmed cervid meat originates from Canada or USA (if so, see section 7). This paragraph is applicable to farmed cervid meat obtained from countries referred to in Chapter F of Annex IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. This currently applies to farmed cervid meat in Canada and USA.

Please refer to guidance in II.2.6 below in relation to export of exposed and packaged meat in the same consignment regarding separation.

II.1.9 refers –

II.1.9 (a) When the animal was slaughtered in the holding of origin, a written statement by an OV with the information stated in II.1.10(a) has been complied with.

II.1.9 (b) refers – This paragraph can be certified by a declaration from the OV.

Delete II.1.9 if not applicable.

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

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The fresh meat described in the certificate must meet the animal health requirements listed in section 2 of the certificate in accordance with its third country listing in Article 230(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. Regulation 2021/404 contains third country listing requirements. The UK and Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists outlined in 2021/404.

If applicable, see section 7 for further guidance where the meat is not of UK origin. The attestations can be certified if it has been legally imported into the UK and evidence is

provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) that demonstrates compliance with the relevant attestations.

II.2.1 refers-

Enter territory code. The list of third countries/parts of countries eligible to export fresh meat to the EU is outlined in Annexe XIII of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance. Paragraph (a) and the first option (b) may be certified on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. Vaccination of animals against Foot and Mouth Disease and Rinderpest is not permitted in the UK. All other option (b) should be deleted if the first option (b) can be certified.

II.2.2 refers - There are 3 options:

If the animals were introduced in GB from NI, the third option applies and the ISO code for NI should be entered as XI.

Option 1 to be certified for animals that have remained in the territory mentioned in II.2.1 since birth or at least 3 months. Evidence of this is likely to be required (e.g. declaration from the owner of the animals).

Option 2 to be certified if animals are introduced into the territory at II.2.1 from a territory listed in Part 1 of Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) No 2021/404.

Option 3 can be certified for animals moved into the territory at II.2.1 from an EU Member state (this may include NI).

II.2.3 refers -

Point II.2.3 (a) should be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered and under the control of APHA. The certifying OV should verify that records are kept for minimum of 3 years by the farmer. Supporting evidence may be required.

Point II.2.3 (b) This may be certified based on establishments receiving regular animal health visits from a veterinarian. If the farm of origin is a member of an approved farm assurance scheme Farm assurance schemes: evidence of vet visits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (e.g. Red Tractor, QMS) which requires annual veterinary visits, then this statement may be certified on the basis of the relevant farm assurance scheme membership.

The veterinary visits should take place at least once per year and must be a visit of the establishment at herd/flock level for the purpose of detection of, or information on, occurrence of animal disease, or a statutory visit for herd health reasons.

If farms are not part of recognised farm assurance schemes that mandate annual veterinary inspections, then a declaration from a private veterinarian confirming veterinary visitations to the farm are performed at least annually (or at a higher frequency if deemed proportionate to the animal health and welfare compliance risk in the holding) is

required. A sample Establishment Veterinary Visitation Attestation form can be found on APHA Vet Gateway (ET242).

- This is an EU requirement which must be certified based on evidence such as membership of a recognised farm assurance scheme or via provision of a Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN) on the Food Chain Information (FCI) document. Where available, the vet attestation can also be checked on the relevant digital systems in Great Britain.

Point II.2.3 (c) may be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 4 of this guidance. The diseases of relevance for meat is Foot and Mouth Disease and Rinderpest as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. The OV should check/verify disease freedom for these diseases and other Category A listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882 (listed above too).

Point II.2.3 (d) can be certified on the basis that vaccination of animals against Foot and Mouth Disease and Rinderpest is not permitted in the UK.

First option (e) could be certified based on disease clearance and the two other options (e) should be deleted.

II.2.3 (f) can be deleted as it is not applicable to the UK because the UK has not been listed with the specific condition '*Maturation, pH and de-boning'* in Part I of Annex XIII of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

II.2.4 refers –

First option (a) applies to transport of animals to slaughterhouse. If applicable, this can be certified on receipt of written declaration from the approved slaughterhouse food business operator (FBO). This may require provision of declarations by hauliers where transport is not done by the slaughterhouse FBO.

This paragraph could be certified based on compliance with the legal requirements of The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) (No. 3) Order 2003 (as amended) and equivalent legislation in Scotland and Wales or additional supporting evidence from farm assurance schemes or declarations on Food Chain Information or from the FBO. Also, this can be certified according to compliance with the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

This also may be certified on the basis the animals were not transported through a non-approved third country.

Second option (a) applies to transport of unskinned carcasses to slaughterhouse. If applicable, this can be certified on receipt of a written declaration from the slaughterhouse FBO. The certifying OV may also prefer to verify information with the resident OV at the slaughterhouse. The third attestation within second option (a) may be certified on the basis the animals were not transported through a non-approved third country.

(b) include dates of slaughter or range of slaughter dates.

(c) may be certified if animals have not been in contact with animals of lower health status. This may be done on the basis of certifying OV knowledge of the establishment or declaration from the FBO.

(d) should be deleted as it is not applicable to the UK because the UK currently has not got a specific condition for 'no vaccination programme carried out' or 'maturation, pH and deboning' in Part I of Annex XIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

II.2.5. refers – See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

II.2.6 refers -

This may be certifiable on the basis of the certifying OV knowledge of the establishment. Or a declaration from another OV with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed.

There are two options marked as "either" "or". If you export carcass and packaged meat, you will need two different EHCs. In case you want to use a single EHC for both commodities you need to contact the BCP of entry to make sure they will accept both in a single EHC.

II.2.7 refers –

Supplementary guarantees. Delete as not applicable for game meat originating from the UK. The UK does not have any specific conditions listed in Part I of Annex XIII in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

II.3 Animal Welfare Attestation [to delete when the Union is not the final destination]

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of No 1099/2009 (EC).

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified areas 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 Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

Where it is possible for the CO (CO) (OV (OV) or Food Competent CO FCCO)) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

For Great Britain:
In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

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 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 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-non-statutorysurveillance-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-in-food-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-of-monitoring-programme.

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.

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.

7. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES' OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE). [WHEN APPLICABLE]

Fresh meat that was imported into GB cannot currently be re-exported to the EU as fresh meat using this EHC.

NI origin:

A consignment could potentially contain animals or animal products which have originated in NI. For 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 matters of compliance indicated by EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, compliance can be certified on the basis that from 1st January 2021, under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and UK and the Ireland / NI Protocol, approved and registered premises in NI will implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004, 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 in the required EU format, for products placed on the market in NI.

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. 2073/2015 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 Directive 96/23/EC, (repealed by OCR Regulation 2017/625) 96/22 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) 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 auto-clearance 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 accord 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.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the exporter must also request this information from the exporter in NI. The NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter/ CO. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The 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:

Imported POAO from the EU can be re-exported in certain circumstances:

- POAO imported from EU into GB and re-exported back to the EU after storage in GB without removing the POAO from its original pancaking.
  Re-export of Products of Animal Origin of EU or NI origin back to the EU or NI after storage in Great Britain: certificate 8461 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- POAO imported into GB from the EU that undergoes further processing and is exported to the EU as a new product. Processing means any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes. POAO that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked,

milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed, are not considered to have undergone further processing and cannot currently be re-exported to the EU.
- POAO imported into GB from the EU which is used to made/assemble a composite product.

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.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin. In order to export to the EU a product which contains POAO imported from a Third Country, the imported POAO must come from an EU listed country and should have undergone further processing in GB.
"processing" means any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes.

"unprocessed products" means foodstuffs that have not undergone processing, and includes products that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed.

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 products of animal origin (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 approved establishments.

If the POAO ingredients originated or were processed in a country other than the UK, it may be necessary to obtain an official certificate from the countries of origin for the ingredients in question to enable the certificate to be signed.

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 the UK 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 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-marks-that-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. ANIMAL WELFARE ATTESTATION

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of No 1099/2009 (EC).

11. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Statement

BSE control is enforced under the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018, the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Wales) Regulations 2018, the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (Scotland) and the Bovines and Bovine Products (Trade) Regulation 1999.

Animals born or reared in the UK before the 1st August 1996 must not be certified for export. In addition, the following bovine animals cannot be certified for export if they are, under the UK TSE Regulations, subject to restrictions/slaughter at the time of consignment for trade:

- Offspring born within 24 months of clinical suspicion or confirmation of BSE in the dam;
- Cohort of a BSE case.

Defra IT systems would identify and trace these (offspring and cohort) animals as soon as a suspect BSE case is identified or a bovine tested under the BSE active surveillance programme receives a positive result from a rapid test, and therefore for all practical purposes, if an animal is not subject to a BSE related restriction at the time of certification, it can be certified for trade.

12. 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 black 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

13. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCS

When completing export certification COs (CO) (OVs (OV) and Food Competent COs (FCCO)) 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.

14. 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 EU (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.

15. DISCLAIMER

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact 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

PB 8366 NFG

Version History

EHC

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:

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

Notes - Footnote 12 is added.

Published 31 May 2024

Part I:

Identification Mark and Approval or registration number of plant/establishment are removed.

Part II:

II.1.6: 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.

II.1.7 is removed: Related to guaranteeing compliance with the maximum residue levels for pesticides laid in Regulation 396/2005 and minimum level for contaminants laid down in Regulation No 1881/2006.

II.1.9 is now **II.1.7.**

II.1.10 is now **II.1.9**

II.2.7 superscript [1] is added.

NFG

Version 13: 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 12: Published 31 May 2024

Applicable Legislation is amended with addition of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292, 2023/2744 and 2020/2235.

Section 2: Scope of the certificate: Link to the Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 is added for providing guidance to complete Part I of the certificate.

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

II.1.6: Further clarity is added that 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.

II.2.3. (b) Information is added about Farm Assurance Scheme to align the information that we hold on other NFGs under the same requirement.

Section 5: Residue check guarantees: Further information is added: “In practice, monitoring conducted in UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.”

Version 11: Published 16 January 2024

Section 2 Scope of the Certificate and Section 7 Consignments or parts of the consignment originating from NI, EU member states or from third countries (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 10: Published 28 March 2023

Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

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