Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding mechanically separated meat, of domestic bovine animals 8368

August 2024

Contents

14. Disclaimer

No: 8368NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding mechanically separated meat, of domestic bovine animals.

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

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Regulation (EC) 1760/2000

Regulation (EC) Nos 999/2001

Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002

Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004

Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Regulation (EC) 396/2005

Regulation (EU) 2022/2292

Regulation (EC) 1688/2005 (as amended)

Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005

Commission Decision 2007/453/EC

Commission Decision 2011/163/EU

Regulation (EU) No 2016/429

Regulation (EU) No 2017/625

Regulation (EU) No 2019/624

Regulation (EU) 2019/627

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405

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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32017R0625

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'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate for entry into the EU of fresh meat intended for human consumption, including minced meat but excluding mechanically separated meat, of domestic bovine animals. This also applies to transits through EU territory.

The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health 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 EHC can be used for the entry into the EU or NI of fresh meat or minced meat of domestic bovines intended for human consumption, excluding mechanically separated meat, excluding fresh blood (see endnote 15 on the EHC).

This certificate may also be used for these products transiting the EU to another third country.

Fresh meat means meat that has not undergone any preserving process other than chilling, freezing or quick-freezing, including meat that is vacuum-wrapped or wrapped in a controlled atmosphere. The definition of meat includes all edible parts of the animal including offal.

Minced meat is boned meat which has been minced into fragments and that must have been prepared exclusively from skeletal muscle (including the adjoining fatty tissues) (some exclusions apply).

Domestic bovine animals as defined in Article 2(5) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

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 export health certificate - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an 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 of the Border Control Post (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/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translation 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 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 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 BCP 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 *[To be deleted if the whole consignment is intended only to transit through EU territory]*

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

The OV needs to be aware of the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 178/2002, 852/2004, 853/2004, and 999/2001 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.

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 certifying OV's own knowledge of the listed legislation.

II.1.1 - For meat from bovine animals 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. The certifying OV may require FBO audit reports as further evidence.

For meat that originates from an EU approved establishment in a third country, has been legally imported into the UK, evidence must be provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) to demonstrate compliance with this attestation.

II.1.2; II.1.3 and II.1.5 –
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.

II.1.4. there are two options marked as "either" "or". If you export carcases 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 commodities in a single EHC, and attest both options.

II.1.6 - For fresh meat from bovine animals 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 other 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.

The testing results of the level of pesticides and residue in food are published in an annual report. Annual reports can be found on gov.uk.

Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) annual report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

For meat that originates from an EU approved establishment in a third country, has been legally imported into the UK, evidence must be provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) to demonstrates compliance with this attestation.

II.1.7 – This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian's own knowledge of the operations at the establishment and/or the conditions of transport.

Transport in compliance with hygiene requirements can be certified on the basis that the product has passed through an unbroken chain of establishments approved under 853/2004, each of which have an obligation to ensure that product leaving their site is transported in line with hygiene legislation.

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.

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

For meat that originates from an EU approved establishment in a third country, and has been legally imported into the UK, evidence must be provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) to demonstrates compliance with this attestation.

II.1.8 - ***BSE attestations***

The overall BSE attestations are referring to the country of origin of the meat (i.e. the country of slaughter/cutting) where they refer to country of origin. Sub-statements refer to the country of origin of the animals.,

In accordance with the WOAH Terrestrial Code, England, Scotland, and Wales are controlled BSE risk in UK. All specified risk material (SRM) as described in the certificate

must be removed from the meat intended for dispatch to the EU or NI as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislation.

BSE status of Member States or third countries or regions thereof according to their BSE risk:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0453-20200702&qid=1607603814945

There are 3 'either/or' sections under II.1.8 relating to BSE risk of the country/region of origin. There are 3 options:

- The first option may be certified if the country of origin is classified as a country or region posing a negligible BSE risk. This option cannot currently be selected for GB origin meat.
- The second option should be certified if the country of origin is classified as a country or region posing a controlled BSE risk. This option applies to exports of bovine fresh meat/minced meat originating from GB. If this is the case, the following attestations must be certified:
    - The first point (a) may be certified for meat derived from animals slaughtered in GB as this method of slaughter is not carried out in the UK in accordance with Retained EU Regulation 999/2001 and TSE Regulations (England) 2018 and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland.
    - If the meat is derived from animals slaughtered in other countries, please refer to Section 7 regarding triangular trade.
    - There are two options for the second point (b) only one of which must be selected:
        - The first can be selected when all the SRM was removed as required by Annex V to Retained EU Regulation 999/2001 and Schedule 7 to TSE Regulations (England) 2018 and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland. The presence of the oval mark in meat cuts and/or minced meat denotes the SRM was removed.
        - Or the second option may be certified for export of carcases or wholesale cuts where all SRM has been removed except the vertebral column of animals over 30 months old, which is classed as SRM. The certifying OV must verify a red stripe for relevant carcasses is applied, if applicable. Evidence/ a declaration from FBO may be required.
    - There are two options for the third point (c) of which at least one should be selected, or both if applicable:
        - The *either* option can be certified for POAO obtained from animals of GB origin or a country with controlled or negligible risk.
        - The *and/or* option can be certified if the animals from which the POAO was derived are from an undetermined BSE risk country.
- The third option applies if the country of origin is classified as a country or region posing an undetermined BSE risk. This option is not applicable for GB origin meat.

II 1.9 - This paragraph must be certified if minced meat is being exported, otherwise deleted. If this is applicable, **it must be frozen to -18ºC or below**. The first part of the paragraph may be certified on the basis of application of the oval mark in the format as required by the EU confirming that the cutting plant is officially approved and operating in accordance with retained EU Regulation Nos. 852/2004 and 853/2004.

II.1.10 – *Salmonella Guarantees [This can be deleted if meat is not destined for entry into Finland or Sweden.]*
There are special requirements of salmonella testing for meat from bovine animals, including minced meat, intended for export to Sweden and Finland, with reference to Chapter III, Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (EU). Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 sets out the sampling method and number of samples to be taken. Evidence must be collected and attached to EHC as supporting documentation. This can be supported by adding the relevant attestation to a Support Health Attestation.

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 referred to in section 2 of the certificate in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2020/692.

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 - Enter territory code. GB is listed for fresh meat of ungulates. The relevant listing is in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

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.

When the certificate refers to “obtain” it refers to the country where the animals were slaughtered.

II.2.2 – *[Three Either/Or 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.

For meat obtained **from animals** slaughtered in GB that were:

> **Either:** to be certified for animals that have remained in the territory mentioned in II.2.1 since birth, or at least 3 months.
>
> **Or:** to be certified for animals introduced into the territory at II.2.1 from a territory listed in Part 1 of Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) No 2021/404, and did not fulfil a 3 month residency requirement in GB.
>
> **Or:** can be certified for NI).

It is permissible to retain multiple “either/or” options in II.2.2 if the meat being certified meets more than one requirement, providing the EU BCP permits this.

II.2.3 –
(a) should be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered and under the control of APHA and that there is a legal requirement for record keeping and retention for at least three years as per the, The Cattle Identification Regulations 2007 and equivalent legislation in the Devolved Administrations,

(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), 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 a recognised farm assurance scheme that mandates 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.'

(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 are Foot and Mouth Disease, Rift Valley Fever and Rinderpest as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. The certifying OV should check/verify disease freedom for these diseases and other relevant ‘Category A’ listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882 (listed above too).

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

(e) First option (e) should be certified based on notifiable disease clearance and the two other options (e) should be deleted. There are no specific conditions listed next to UK in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Regulation 2021/634, adding GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

(f) Both options (f) should be deleted. The attestations imply in the footnotes it is only for certain countries listed with ‘assembly centre’ or ‘maturation, pH and deboning’. There are no specific conditions listed next to UK in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Regulation 2021/634, adding GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

(g) and (h) can be deleted. There are no specific conditions listed next to UK in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Regulation 2021/634, adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

II.2.4 –
(a) Applies to transport of animals to the slaughterhouse. 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
- the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and equivalent legislation in devolved administrations.

Or additional supporting evidence from farm assurance schemes or declarations on Food Chain Information or from the FBO.

(b) May be certified on the basis the animals were not transported through a non-approved third country and have not been in contact with animals of a lower health status. This may be certified based on a declaration from FBO or part of a SHA. Detail regarding the meaning of Lower Health Status and separation is given below.

(c) Dates of slaughter, or range of slaughter dates need to be entered here.

(d) 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's knowledge of the establishment or a support certification by another OV with the relevant knowledge (including as part of a SHA) Detail regarding the meaning of Lower Health Status and separation is given below.

(e) Should be deleted as it should not be applicable to UK origin meat. There are no specific conditions listed next to UK in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (as amended).

'Lower Health Status' animals would be those exhibiting clinical signs of listed diseases and/or tested positive to specific diseases in Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 relevant to the bovine species, or animals from zones listed differently to the zone of origin of the animal in Regulation (EU) 2021/404https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32021R0404(as amended).

'Separation' means that systems are in place to prevent direct contact between animals of a known lower health status, including separate transportation and being held in separate pens at the slaughterhouse, until the point of slaughter.

II.2.5 - This paragraph may be certified on the basis of UK Notifiable Disease Clearances. Please refer to point 4 "Notifiable Disease Clearance" below. Paragraph II.2.5 should not be crossed out as there are no footnotes in the EHC that indicates that.

II.2.6 - This may be certifiable on the basis of the certifying OV knowledge of the establishment. 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 commodities on a single EHC, and the attestation of both either/or options.

II.2.7 - The first paragraph may be deleted as it is not applicable to meat originating from UK. There are no specific conditions listed next to UK in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Regulation 2021/634, adding GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

The second paragraph may be deleted as it is not applicable to meat originating from UK. There are no specific conditions listed next to UK in Annex XIII to Regulation (EU) 2021/404. This regulation has been amended by Regulation 2021/634, adding GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

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

This paragraph can be certified, if the meat derived from animals that were slaughtered in the UK, in compliance with the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of Retained EU Regulation 1099/2009.

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 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.

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that GB 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 disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when disease clearance can be reinstated.

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

5. 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 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.

6. 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 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-statutory-surveillance-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.

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

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

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) No.s 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 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 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:

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 packaging.

- 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 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 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-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 HEALTH SCHEMES

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) ATTESTATION BSE control is enforced under the:

- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018;
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Wales) Regulations 2018;
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Scotland) Regulations 2010;
- 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.

SALMONELLA GUARANTEES FOR MEAT TO BE EXPORTED TO FINLAND AND SWEDEN

There are special requirements of Salmonella testing for beef meat, including minced meat, intended for export to Sweden and Finland, with reference to Chapter III, Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (EU). However, testing is not required for meat preparations and mechanically separated meat or if meat is intended for pasteurization, sterilization or treatment having a similar effect. Testing is also not required if the establishment conforms to a control program recognized as equivalent to that approved for Sweden and Finland. Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 sets out the sampling method and number of samples to be taken. Evidence must be collected and attached to EHC as supporting documentation.

11. 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

12. 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-professional-conduct-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.

13. 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.

14. 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 APHA in Carlisle.

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PB 8368NFG

Version History

EHC

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:

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

Notes - Footnote 16 is added.

Published 31 May 2024

Part I:

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

Part II:

II.1.3 is now **II.1.9**: Related to mincemeat to be frozen and to internal temperature of not more than -18 C.

II.1.4 is now **II.1.3, II.1.5** is now **II.1.4** and **II.1.6** is now **II.1.5**.

II.1.7 is now **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.1.8 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.1.10 is now **II.1.8**: First *either* option (negligible BSE risk) now has a further *and/or* option added. This is correcting an error in the previous EU version of this EHC.

Second *or* option (controlled BSE risk) point (c) now has an *and/or* option which was only *or* as option.

II.1.11 is replaced with **II.1.10** with specifying the commodity.

II.2.3 (g): is amended and clarity is added that no animal is introduced during the last three months “before the date of dispatch to the slaughterhouse”.

Notes:

Box reference I.27: Nature of commodity “offal” is added with end note 15.

Endnote 15 is added: Excluding fresh blood to enter the Union.

NFG

Version 18: 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 17: 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: further clarity is added that Fresh blood is excluded from the scope of this certificate in line with the endnote 12 of the EHC. 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.1.3 is now **II.1.9:** Guidance is amended.

II.1.4 is now **II.1.3**, **II.1.5** is now **II.1.4** and **II.1.6** is now as **II.1.5**.

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.1.8 BSE Attestations: Guidance is amended for second *or* option (controlled BSE risk) for point (c) as it now has an *and/or* option, which previously was only *or*. Guidance is added for last main option *or* (undetermined BSE risk).

II.2.3 (b): Paragraph related to Farm assurance scheme is amended to provide up to date information.

Section 5: Residue check guarantees: Further information is added: “In practice, monitoring conducted in the 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 16: Published 25 January 2024

Section 2 Scope of The Certificate, Part II: Certification II.2.1 (BSE Attestation) and Section 7 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 15: Published 28 March 2023

Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

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