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 of poultry other than ratites, excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat 8371

August 2024

Contents

No: 8371 NFG

Export health certificate for entry into the EU or NI of fresh meat of poultry other than ratites, excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OV, CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to the Certifying Officers (COs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch to the EU or NI of meat of poultry for human consumption 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

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 - general principles and requirements of food law

Regulation (EC) 852/2004 and Regulation (EC) 853/2004- hygiene/public health requirements for foodstuffs (852) and for food of animal origin (853)

Animal Health Regulations (EU) 2016/429

Official Control Regulations (EU) 2017/625

Regulation (EU) 2022/2292

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 – including for the performance of official controls on the production of meat

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 – performance of official controls on products of animal origin for human consumption

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 - rules for entry into the Union including animal health requirements for products of animal origin

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 - model official certificates and general guidance for completion

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 – laying down lists of third countries from which entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 – laying lists of third countries authorised for entry into the Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905

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/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

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'.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate may be used for entry into or transit through the EU or NI of fresh meat of poultry intended for human consumption.

Minced meat and mechanically separated meat **cannot** be certified using this certificate.

'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.

'Poultry' means farmed birds, including birds that are not considered as domestic but which are farmed as domestic animals, with the exception of ratites.

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 Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

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

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

EHC should be in English and the foreign language 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 translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

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

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

Additional information can be found in APHA Vet Gateway:

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

SIGNING AND STAMPING

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

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.

- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.

- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

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

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**

- **COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.**

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

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

You can also contact 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.

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.

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

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 delete when the EU is not the final destination of the fresh meat]*

This can be certified on the basis of the OV's own knowledge of the listed legislation and:

II.1 –
(a) For meat derived from poultry slaughtered in the UK, this may be certified on the basis of the product(s) being produced in (an) establishment(s) that is 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. The food business operator can provide the required documentation to attest to the HACCP principles which are implemented and maintained in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 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

Where the meat is not of UK origin, the attestation 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.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) 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 Regulations Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004, 2017/625, 2019/624 and 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.

(f) For meat from UK animals this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Directive No 96/23/EC provisions, which 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.

Annex I to Commission Implementation Regulation 2021/405 can be found at:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02021R0405-20230329

Where the meat is not of GB origin, the attestation 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.

(g) This attestation can be deleted if the consignment is not destined for Finland/Sweden. If the consignment is intended for Finland / Sweden see the relevant paragraph in Animal Health Schemes below.

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 UK is listed for export of poultry meat under Annex XIV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (as amended).

The UK is currently regionalised by the EU due to cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). This means that fresh poultry meat cannot be exported to the EU or moved to NI if obtained from farms or slaughterhouses located in restricted zones (GB-2) between the "closing" and "opening" dates listed against those zones.

Fresh poultry meat must be obtained from HPAI free zones (GB-1).

Further details can be found in the notifiable disease clearance paragraph below and APHA guidance for "COs Obtaining Clearance for Avian Influenza" available here:

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

II.2.1 -

(a) Enter the code e.g. "GB-1" for the zone as listed in Annex XIV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (as amended).

The OV can enter "GB-1" as the zone of origin if the product is entirely produced and packaged in GB-1 zone and is solely stored in a GB-2 zone cold store as a fully packaged product.

(b) For GB origin meat, this may be certified on the basis that the UK's disease surveillance programme for highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to be carried out in a way that meets or exceeds EU requirements.

(c) The minimum duration that the GB-2 restricted area (also known as an enhanced surveillance zone) applies for exports to the EU now aligns with the minimum duration of the 10km surveillance zones that apply in domestically in Great Britain. See section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

(d) See Section 4 Notifiable Disease Clearance.

II.2.2 -

(a) Vaccination of poultry against avian influenza is not permitted within the GB except in special circumstances in the face of an unusually high perceived risk of disease. In this case, a special Decision will be issued specifying the conditions under which it is permitted. There is no current vaccination plan against AI in the UK and therefore, for UK origin products, the OV should retain "either [have not been vaccinated]" and strike through the inapplicable "or" statement.

(b) For GB origin meat, the “either” statement can be certified on the basis that the UK regulation on Newcastle disease vaccination in poultry implement rules that are equivalent to Annex XV to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. The “or” statement can then be struck through.

II.2.3 -
(a) For GB origin meat, this can be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered (e.g. have a CPH number) and are under the control of APHA. Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 requires farmers to keep up-to date records of the number of animals in the establishment (including species and, where relevant, identification), movements of animals into and out of the establishment and mortality in the establishment. These records must be kept for at least 3 years. Supporting evidence (e.g. a declaration from the farmer) may be used to support certification.

(b) This may be certified on the basis of establishments receiving regular animal health visits from a veterinarian. If the farm of origin is a member of the government Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or an approved farm assurance scheme Farm assurance schemes: evidence of vet visits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), which requires regular veterinary visit then this statement may be certified based on the relevant PHS or relevant farm assurance scheme membership.

The frequency of veterinary visits should be at least annual and must be a visit of the establishment at flock level for the purpose of detection of, or information on, occurrence of animal disease, or a statutory visit for flock health reasons.

If farms are not part of PHS or a recognized farm assurance scheme that mandate regular veterinary inspections, then a declaration from a private veterinarian confirming veterinary visitations to the farm is 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) for GB origin meat, this can be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 4 of this guidance.

(d) This may be certified based on the FCI (Food Chain Information). If the flock of origin is under any animal health restrictions, an APHA licence for movement to slaughter will be received by the OV at the abattoir. The ‘relevant listed diseases’ referred to are highly pathogenic avian influenza and infection with Newcastle disease virus.

II.2.4 -(a) Requires that poultry from which the meat originates have remained in GB-1 zone since hatching. This may be certified based on evidence provided by the producers and/or slaughterhouse Support Health Attestation issued by a veterinarian at the abattoir. Meat from poultry that originated from chicks hatched in a hatchery situated in a GB-2 restricted zone and moved to a farm in a GB-1 unrestricted zone cannot be exported to the EU. The OV must ensure that this information is correct using the premises post code via the

interactive map: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm (see details under point 4 of this NFG) The same requirements apply where meat originates from farms that are part of the Poultry Health Scheme. If poultry from which the meat originates has been imported, this may be certified after the OV has checked the movement records of the establishment. Where meat originates from farms that are part of the Poultry Health Scheme no additional evidence will be required, as record keeping and retention in line with the relevant EU requirements are pre-requisite to PHS membership. If the animals were introduced in GB from NI, the option of a Member State applies. If animals have been imported from third countries, then the OV must have sight of the import permits to be satisfied that the health status of the imported flock meets those standards of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulation (EU) 2020/692, and that the country / zone of origin is listed in the regulations. The relevant regulations are Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404 and 2021/405. These regulations have been amended by Implementing Regulations 2021/634 and 2021/606. The OV would be advised to keep copies of the import permits for their records.

Meat from poultry that originated from chicks that were hatched in a hatchery in a restricted zone GB-2 and moved to a farm in an unrestricted zone GB-1 cannot be exported to the EU.

(b) and (c) For GB origin poultry, this may be certified based on a declaration from the exporter or farmer as to the vaccination status of the poultry from the meat has been sourced. Vaccination of poultry against avian influenza is not permitted within the UK, except in special circumstances in the face of an unusually high perceived risk of disease.

(d) This may be certified based on the requirement for approved abattoirs to perform ante-mortem inspections. A slaughterhouse support health attestation from a vet at the abattoir may be used to provide further evidence of compliance.

(e) and (f) may be certified based on a commercial declaration from transporter stating that birds have been transported directly from the farm of origin to abattoir and did not have contact with animals of a lower health status. Live poultry may be transported through a zone not listed for entry into the EU of fresh meat of poultry, including “GB-2” zones, during their transport to the slaughterhouse, providing that they comply with the conditions in point (e), Article 124 of Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692.‘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 poultry species, or animals from zones listed differently to the zone of origin of the animal in Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (as amended).

(g) For animals transported in the UK (i), (ii) and (iii), stating that animals cannot escape / fall, can be visually inspected and that escape of animal excrement/ litter/ feed/ feathers is prevented or minimised can be certified on the basis of compliance with the legal requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007, The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (NI) 2006. Statement (iv) on cleansing and disinfection of means of transport may be certified on the basis of 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, Wales and N. Ireland and / or additional supporting evidence from farm assurance schemes and / or relevant declarations provided by the transporter or via Food Chain Information at the slaughterhouse.

II.2.5 - Dates of slaughter or range of slaughter dates need to be entered here. This may be obtained from commercial documentation, Support Health Attestations or other supporting evidence.

II.2.6 - May be certified on the basis of oval health mark which cannot be applied to meat from birds slaughtered for the control or eradication of disease.

II 2.7 - (a) and (b) May be certified on the basis of a Support Health Attestation issued by a veterinarian at the abattoir and/or by following the notifiable disease clearance process set out in Section 4 below.

II.2.8 - May be certified based on the OV's personal knowledge of the procedures in place at the meat establishment(s) where the product has been obtained and/or other supporting evidence (e.g. Support Health Attestations) issued at relevant points in the supply chain.

II.2.9 - May be certified on the basis of OV knowledge at the time of loading / dispatch.

II.2.10 - A list of the Member States which have been granted the relevant disease free status is available in "Annex X" of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620. If the consignment is not intended for these member states (e.g. Finland and Sweden) then the statement should be struck through. If the consignment is intended for these member states then the statement must be certified. This may be certified based on production records and/or a supporting attestation from a veterinarian with relevant knowledge of the flocks of origin.

II.3 Animal welfare attestation [to delete when the Union is not the final destination]

The OV must certify that the meat has been derived from animals which have been handled in a slaughterhouse before and at the time of slaughter or killing in accordance with the relevant provisions of EU legislation and have met the requirements at least equivalent to those laid down in Chapters II and III of Regulation (EC) no 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.

This can be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian's own knowledge or by reliance on supporting documentation e.g. support health attestation(s) from the OV at the slaughterhouse(s).

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Commodities of poultry or poultry meat can be exported into the EU from the territory code listed in column 2 of Part I of Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 2021/404. Ensure you are looking at the most up to date version of the Regulation. If the latest consolidated version does not include the latest amendment, this amendment needs to be looked at separately. 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.
Where it is possible for the CO (OV or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

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.

Avian Influenza and territory codes:

If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-0, it can be exported to the EU from the whole territory of the UK. You will have to insert “GB-0” into the “territory code” box on the EHC.

If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-1, it means that the UK is being regionalised because of a disease outbreak. All premises of origin of fresh meat (e.g. hatchery, farm of origin, slaughterhouse/cutting/packaging/storage premises as applicable) have to be located in GB-1 zone. If a fully packaged product is solely stored in a GB-2 zone cold store, but otherwise entirely produced and packaged in GB-1 zone then it is eligible for export as a GB-1 origin product.

Live poultry may be transported through a zone not listed for entry into the EU of fresh meat of poultry, including “GB-2” zones, during their transport to the slaughterhouse, providing that they comply with the conditions in point (e), Article 124 of Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692. These changes can be applied retrospectively from 06 February 2023.

Areas listed under GB-2 (and detailed as GB-2.1, GB-2.2 etc.) are restricted from exports between the “closing" and “opening” dates listed against those areas.

For more information on obtaining disease clearance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and to access an Interactive Map visit: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm
The Interactive Map differentiates between GB AI zones that have formally been reopened by having opening dates published in the Official Journal and those which are provisionally open. As the EU publishes info notes notifying EU Members States of the lifting of restrictions in areas, these will be highlighted in orange. BCPs might not be aware of this note immediately after publication so it is the responsibility of the exporter to contact the country of destination before the export takes place to ensure that the consignments will not be detained or rejected at the BCP.

Further information on Avian Influenza can be found on the Briefing Notes 5521

- **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 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-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. 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 GB 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) Nos 96/22 and 470/2009 can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

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

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using 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.
  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 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.

7. 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.

8. OVAL MARK ON 'PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN – POAOs'

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries and 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.

9. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Salmonella Control in Poultry

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of Salmonella in poultry is currently implemented through the UK Salmonella National Control Programme that is enforced by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order Regulation 2007 (England), the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Wales) Order 2008, the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Breeding, Laying and Broiler Flocks) (Scotland) Order 2009, the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009, and the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order.

Poultry Health Scheme

Directive 2009/158 (EC) is currently being committed to through the equivalent Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) in Great Britain. A list of approved Poultry Health Scheme members can be found on the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-health-scheme-list-of-members

Relevant text can be certified based on the establishment committing to the Poultry health scheme for the control and surveillance of specified non-zoonotic mycoplasma and salmonella bacterial species.

SALMONELLA GUARANTEES FOR MEAT TO BE EXPORTED TO FINLAND AND SWEDEN

There are special requirements of salmonella testing for poultry 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 intended for pasteurisation, sterilisation or treatment having similar effect. Testing is also not required if the establishment conforms to a control program recognised as equivalent to that approved for Sweden and Finland. Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1688/2005 sets out the sampling method and number of samples to be taken.

The OV must check the flock records to confirm that the appropriate tests have been carried out at the correct frequency with negative results of zoonotic salmonella species. This can be supported by adding the relevant attestation to a Support Health Attestation. Evidence must be collected and attached to EHC as supporting documentation.

10. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES:

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

Further guidance is available here: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

11. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

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 .

12. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as "retained EU law" under the 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.

13. DISCLAIMER

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

This publication is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at: product.exports@apha.gov.uk

Version History

EHC

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:

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

Notes - Footnote 10 is added.

Published 05 January 2023

I.27 'Identification mark' deleted; 'final consumer' added. 'Approval or registration number of plant/establishment/centre' replaced with 'Manufacturing plant'.
II.1 (f) : Updated references to EU legislation Council Directive 96/23/EC replaced with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 and Commission Decision 2011/163/EU has been replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405.
II.1 (g) : Has been deleted completely.
II.2.4 Third option added allowing poultry to pass through zones not listed for entry into the EU providing the conditions laid down in Article 124 Point (e) in Commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 are met.
Throughout the certificate there are a number of wording changes to make the certificate more specific i.e 'it' replaced by 'the meat', 'categories of poultry' replacing 'commodities and 'birds' replacing 'animals'.

NFG

Version 23: 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 22: Published 31 May 2024

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

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

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 UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.”

Version 21: Published 25 January 2024

Part II: Certification amendments:

II.1 (f): Amended this paragraph as references to EU legislation Council Directive 96/23/EC have been replaced with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292, and Commission Decision 2011/163/EU has been replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405.
II.1 (g): This point was previously (h) and now changed to (g) as per the EHC.
II.2.4 (e) and (f): Removed the option to strike through this attestation as the option to travel through a GB-2 zone has now been included in the certificate. Paragraph is amended to align it with the language of the EHC.

Section 2 scope of this certificate and **Section 6** 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 Export Health Certificate 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 20 published 02 August 2023

Section 4: Notifiable disease clearance:

Amended date for retrospective application of the derogation for transit of live poultry through a GB-2 zone. Date changed from 28 January to 6 February.

Version 19 published 27 July 2023

Section 4: Notifiable disease clearance:

Amended to reflect that the derogation allowing transit of live poultry through GB-2 zones can be applied retrospectively.

Version 18 published 11 July 2023

Section 4: Notifiable disease clearance:

Avian Influenza and territory code section is amended with further update on reformatting of interactive map.

Version 17 published 30 May 2023

- II.2.4 (e) and (f): amended to reflect Article 124(e) of Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692 which permits the transit of live poultry through GB-2 zones en-route to a slaughterhouse providing certain conditions are complied with.

- Point 4 “avian influenza and territory codes”: amended as above.

Version 16 published 28 March 2023

- Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

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

Version 15 published 17 February 2023

- II.2.1 Point c is amended.

  The minimum duration for the GB-2 restricted area for EU export now aligns with the minimum duration that apply in domestically in Great Britain

- Section 4 National Disease Control:

  Avian Influenza and Territory code subtitle is added and reformatted.