Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the EU or NI of fresh meat of ratites intended for human consumption, excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat 8377

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No: 8377NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of ratites intended for human consumption, excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat.

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

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002 as amended

Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004

Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005

Regulation (EU) 2015/1375

Regulation (EU) No 2017/625

Regulation (EU) 2022/2292

Regulation (EU) 2017/2470

Regulation (EU) No 2019/624

Regulation (EU) 2019/627

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

Commission Implementation Regulation (EU) 2023/2744

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Please note that Official Control Regulation (EU) 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.

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 applicable for dispatch to the EU or NI of meat of farmed ratites 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]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This EHC may be used for the entry into the EU or NI of fresh meat of ratites intended for human consumption.

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

The title expressly excludes minced meat and mechanically separated meat of ratites. This certificate may only be used to export fresh meat of ratites to the EU.

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

For the re-export of EU origin Products of Animal Origin from the EU please use 8461 EHC. Find an 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 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 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link: (Amended by Implementation Regulation (EU) 2023/2744. Implementing regulation - EU - 2023/2744 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R2235

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

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

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

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and

http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public health attestation [To delete when the EU is not the final destination of the fresh meat]

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

The OV should not only be aware of requirements as presented (Regulations (EC) No. 178/2002 as amended, Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004, Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004, Regulation (EU) No 2017/625) but certify that meat described in the certificate has been obtained according to those requirements.

II.1.(a) - For meat derived from animals killed 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. A list of EU approved establishments in Great Britain can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

II.1.(b), (c), (d) - 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.

These Regulations have been retained in UK Law and enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

II.1(e) - For fresh meat, animals sourced from the UK this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, 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.

See section 5 for further advise 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.

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

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 health attestation set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

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.

II.2.1 (b) and (c) – DEFRA and APHA carry out a disease surveillance programme for Avian Influenza in the UK. The disease status can be certified by the 618NDC which is issued for notifiable diseases.

II.2.2 and II.2.3. - Delete those paragraphs not applicable. May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 4 of this guidance. The diseases of relevance for meat is Newcastle Disease and highly pathogenic avian influenza as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. The OV should check/verify disease freedom for these diseases and other Category A listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882 (listed above). Vaccination against Avian influenza is prohibited in the UK.http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/Products_Exports.html

II.2.4 **(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 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 PHS or recognized farm assurance schemes that mandate regular 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 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.'

II.2.4 (c) and (d) - May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 4 of this guidance. The diseases of relevance for meat is highly pathogenic Avian Influenza and infection with New Castle Disease as listed in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692. The OV should check/verify disease freedom for these diseases and other Category A listed diseases in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882 (listed above too).

II.2.5 - Delete those options not applicable.

II.2.5(a) - May be signed based on a written declaration from the owner / exporter, records of transport of the animals, as well as the OVs knowledge of the operation. If the animals were introduced in GB from NI, the option of a Member State should be certified.

II.2.5(b) - The first option can be certified as the UK does not vaccinate for Avian Influenza

II.2.5(c) - Based on Farm records/ owner/ private veterinarian declarations the vaccination status of the animals for Newcastle disease can be certified.

II.2.5(d) - Can be certified from declarations and flock records provided by the veterinary practitioner responsible for the specified animals health. Certified by clinical examination of the animals at the slaughterhouse by the OV prior to slaughter confirming absence of symptoms of transmissible disease at the time of slaughter.

II.2.5(e) - May be signed based on a written declaration from the owner / exporter and following the examination of movement records and the holding registers to check the veracity of the declarations.

II.2.5(f) - 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. 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. Declaration from the owner must be sought to confirm to the best of their knowledge that the animals will not be in contact with animals of a lower health status. For example, the journey log can be provided as evidence.

II.2.5(g) - The certifying OV must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Retained EU Regulation No 1/2005. The OV must ensure the animals cannot escape from the means of transport, the animals can be visually inspected in part of the means of the transport they are being kept in and that the escape of excrements/litter/feed/feathers is prevented or at least minimised as much as possible. See section 7 on Animal Transport Attestation and gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. The certifiying OV will require a declaration of compliance from the FBO and an SHA from the OV at the slaughterhouse.

II.2.6 - Insert the dates during which the ratites were killed, this can be done based on a written declaration from the exporter and/or from records obtained from the slaughterhouse.

II.2.7 - This may be certified on the basis of the OVs own knowledge and that the listed diseases and emerging diseases referred to in Annex 1 to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 are all notifiable diseases in the UK. The OV can check that there is no disease reported in the area of the origin or a declaration can be made as additional certification that the establishment was not under disease restriction.

II.2.8(a) and (b) - May be certified on the basis of the notifiable disease clearance certificate. See section 4, Notifiable disease clearance.

II.2.9 - Delete the option not applicable. This can be certified by the OVs knowledge of the operations. Further declarations may be required from the FBO or other OVs having direct knowledge of the operations.

II.2.10(a) - 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. Alternatively, a declaration from another OV with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed. This could be part of the standard Support Health Attestation.

II.2.10(b) - Certified by the OVs own knowledge of the operation as well as declarations from the owner/exporter.

II.2.11 - Only applicable if going to a member state granted the status of free from infection with Newcastle disease virus without vaccination in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

II.3 Animal welfare attestation

The OV must ensure Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of No 1099/2009 (EC).

Delete if the EU is not the final destination and the consignment is only transiting the EU to another Third Country.

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 any postcodes in Northern Ireland, COs can obtain clearance using the interactive map provided by DAERA that can be found here: AI Trade Map

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. 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. 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.

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 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 pancaking.
  Re-export of Products of Animal Origin of EU or NI origin back to the EU or NI after storage in Great Britain: certificate 8461 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- POAO imported into GB from the EU that undergoes further processing and is exported to the EU as a new product. Processing means any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes. POAO that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed, are not considered to have undergone further processing and cannot currently be re-exported to the EU.
- POAO imported into GB from the EU which is used to made/assemble a composite product.

For imported goods that need to be certified for export from GB, these are normally subject to import certification, or the availability of a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) issued by the BCP 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 TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

- they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted.
- they present a severe open wound or prolapse.

- they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week.
- they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed.

If the place of loading and holding of origin is different, then the OV must obtain a written declaration from the owner/transporter/exporter that the animals were transported from the holding in vehicles previously cleansed and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and "in such a way as to provide effective protection of the animals' health status". This means transport without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status. In this case, where a consignment is grouped in an assembly centre and comprises animals that were loaded on different dates, the date at which the journey commenced for the whole consignment is considered to be the earliest date when any part of the consignment left the holding of origin. OVs should also receive a declaration from the exporter/transporter that the animals will be transported to the place of destination in vehicles which have first been cleaned and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status.

11. 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.

12. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the CO in a colour other than 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

13. 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.

14. LEGAL STATEMENT

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

15. DISCLAIMER

This certificate 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 Search - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at product.exports@apha.gov.uk

PB 8377 NFG

Version History:

EHC

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:

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

Notes - Footnote 10 is added.

Published 31 May 2024

Part I:

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

Part II:

II.1 (e): 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.2.1 (a): Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 replaced the Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

II.2.5. *"or"* option under point (a), sub option "*either*": Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 has replaced the Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

II.3: "[Delete when the Union is not the final destination]" is added.

NFG

Version 12: Published 16 June 2025

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE – Section amended to include reference to AI map for NI.

Version 11: 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 10 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.1.(e): Further clarity is added that the national surveillance scheme and mentioned provisions, fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292.

II.2.4. (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 9: Published 16 January 2024

Section 7 Consignment or Part of the Consignment Originating from the NI, EU Member States or from Third Country (Triangular Trade). And section 2 scope of the certificate amended:

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 8: Published 28 March 2023

Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

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