

EXPORT TO JAPAN OF FRESH MEAT FROM SHEEP, INCLUDING OFFAL - 8122EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8122EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8122EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 8122EHC may be used for export to Japan of sheep meat, including offal, but excluding minced meat, products using minced meat and cooked products.

The certificate permits export of sheep meat derived from sheep imported into the UK from certain eligible countries and/or zones approved by the Japanese authorities for export to Japan and then raised in the UK until slaughter or for direct slaughter. Please refer to paragraph 4 below for further details of these establishments and countries.

The scope excludes sheep meat that has been imported into the UK.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Prior to making arrangements to export sheep meat to Japan, exporters are advised to contact the Japanese Ministry for Forestry and Fisheries (JMAFF) or their representatives in the United Kingdom for up to date information on requirements for any import permits or other documentation.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

4. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE CERTIFICATE

Designated Facilities

The term Designated Facilities means slaughterhouses, cutting facilities, processing facilities and storage facilities which are designated by the competent authority of the United Kingdom (or the government authority of the third free countries listed below) as fulfilling the requirements for slaughter, cutting, processing and storage of sheep meat intended for export to Japan.

Third Free Countries

The Japanese authorities have drawn up a list of countries, regions or zones approved by JMAFF as free from rinderpest, FMD and BSE and from which JMAFF authorises the import of cloven-hoofed animals and meat. Such countries are referred to in the certificate as 'third free countries'. This term should not be confused with the term 'third country' (a country which is not a member of the EU)

The current list (as of 27 Jun 2018) of third free countries approved for import into Japan of cloven-hoofed animals and meat (other than cervid animals, pigs, deer meat and pig meat) is as follows:

Iceland
Croatia
San Marino
Hungary

Lithuania
Argentina (Province of Santa Cruz, Chubut, Tierra Del Fuego, Neuquen,
Buenos Aires (District of Patagones only) and Rio Negro only)
El Salvador
Guatemala
Costa Rica
Chile
Dominican Republic
Nicaragua
Panama
Belize
Honduras
Mexico
Australia
Northern-Mariana Islands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Vanuatu

The up to date list of third free countries can be found on the JMAFF website via this link:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

Specified Countries

Specified countries are countries approved by JMAFF for the export of sheep and goat meat to Japan **other than** the third free countries listed above. The current list of specified countries (as of 29 September 2017) is as follows:

**USA (continental part of America
the Hawaiian Islands and Guam only)**

**Canada
France
The Netherlands
Ireland
Poland
Norway
Denmark
Sweden
Italy (excluding Sardinia)
Switzerland
Liechtenstein
Austria.**

The up to date list of specified countries can be found on the JMAFF website via this link:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/eligible-bse-country.html>

NOTE: Exporters and OVs are advised that the lists of third free countries and specified countries may be updated without prior notice according to the changing health situation in the relevant countries. They should therefore be referred to as a matter of course prior to completing the certificate.

The exported meat to Japan

This term means the sheep meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the United Kingdom.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

OVs may certify paragraphs IV(a) and IV(b) of the certificate on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the issuing office of DAERA.

Where it is possible for the Official Veterinarian (OV) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade - Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

OVs 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.

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

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: OVs 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 an OV being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify OVs 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, OVs 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 OV disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when OV disease clearance can be reinstated.

6. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) AND SCRAPIE STATEMENTS

Paragraphs IV(c) and IV(d) may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of the TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No 999/2001), which is enforced in the UK through The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation.

7. APPROVAL OF PREMISES FOR EXPORT TO JAPAN

Section II, paragraphs IV(e), IV(g), IV (k) and IV (n) refer. All EU-approved UK slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants and

cold stores must have received prior approval from JMAFF as designated facilities before exports can take place.

Establishments wishing to become approved for export to Japan must first be audited by the FSA for compliance with the agreed export conditions and then recommended to JMAFF for approval. Exports from the establishment may commence only after JMAFF has confirmed that it appears on the list of designated facilities.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure prior to export that **all** establishments included in Section II of the certificate are listed as designated facilities.

Further advice regarding approval of existing premises and new approvals may be obtained from the APHA CIT at Carlisle via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk.

8. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

Paragraphs IV(f) refers. The certifying OV must carry out the necessary checks to verify these statements. This may be on the basis of their knowledge of the operational conditions at the slaughterhouse as regards the UK farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived and the checking and verification of documentation accompanying the sheep to the slaughterhouse.

OVs must be completely satisfied that sheep originating from outside the United Kingdom were directly and legally imported into the UK, accompanied by the appropriate import documentation and originate only from those specified countries or third free countries referred to in paragraph 4 above. More than 1 option may apply.

Further advice may be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade (CIT) at Carlisle via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk.

9. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND FREEDOM FROM DISEASES

Paragraphs IV(g), IV(h), IV(i) and IV (j) may be certified on the basis of the EU oval mark confirming compliance with the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 together with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 and 2073/2005 (The EU Hygiene Regulations), as transposed into UK law.

The primary food legislation providing the framework for all food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended). Similar legislation applies in Northern Ireland.

Enforcement of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the EU Hygiene Regulations is 8122NFG (Cleared 24/12/2019) (Revised 05/03/2024)

provided through secondary legislation in England by The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland it is provided by The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

10. SEALING OF CONTAINERS - APPROVED SEALS

Paragraph IV(m) refers. All containers must be officially sealed. It needs to be clear that it was sealed by a UK authority. The OVs must check the seal number and write it down on the corresponded EHC. Physical verification checks of some boxes will have to be carried out by the certifying OV at cold store before the container is sealed. The percentage of boxes to be open will be dependent on the OV criteria.

11. ** IMPORTANT **** REFERENCES TO APPROVAL NUMBERS FROM 31/08/2019**

The UK has reached an agreement with Japan to update the details of the approval numbers of all UK establishments requiring listing with Japan. **With effect from 31/08/2019** the approval/registration numbers for establishments listed to export fresh meat from sheep, including offal to Japan will cease to have references to "UK" or "EC". From that time, approval/registration numbers will include the central unique identifier code ONLY [four numerical digits for abattoirs (under FSA/FSS/DAERA control) - or - five/six alpha-numerical digits for cold stores, dairy and fish establishments (where under local authority approval)].

The format of the approval/registration number including the "UK" prefix and the "EC" suffix shall continue to be used and entered in Sections II(a), II(b), II(c) and II(d) of 8122EHC export health certificates signed before and up to 31/08/2019.

The format of the approval/registration number without the "UK" prefix and the "EC" suffix shall be used and entered in Sections II(a), II(b), II(c) and II(d) of 8122EHC export health certificates signed after 31/08/2019.

Illustrative examples

Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED BEFORE 31/08/2019	Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED AFTER 31/08/2019
UK 2090 EC	2090
UK AB123 EC	AB123

Consignments certified before 31/08/2019 (which must contain UK and EC references in the approval/registration number) will be accepted for export to Japan upon arrival within a transitional period of 6 months after 31/08/2019.

THE NEW FORMAT APPLICABLE FROM 31/08/2019 MUST BE USED IN ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORTS OF FRESH MEAT FROM SHEEP, INCLUDING OFFAL TO JAPAN, INCLUDING INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES OR SUPPORT HEALTH ATTESTATIONS SIGNED FROM THAT DATE.

The authorities of Japan will expect that the details of the establishments entered onto the certificate are both correct, consistent and in accordance with their own records of approved establishments. Approval codes, and other details, should exactly match the details as listed on the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries website seijo-building-405.pdf (maff.go.jp)

The new listing by Japan replaces the previous listings by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Health/ID marking of products: Japan will accept consignments of product bearing either the current format of oval health/ID marks (with "UK" and "EC") or any other acceptable format prescribed by the UK authorities following the UK's exit from the EU. Some consignments might contain a mix of products which each might bear different health/ID marks. Products will be identified as originating from the final establishment of production by cross-reference with the central unique identifier number of the establishment in the oval mark/stamp of the product.

12. DISCLAIMER

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time, and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk