

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8055EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8055EHC.

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 8055EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to the Philippines of chilled/frozen beef derived from cattle of any age **which were born and raised in the United Kingdom only.**

Important Note: Pending further confirmation from authorities in the Philippines, only product from animals slaughtered after 11 October 2024 should be exported. We advise exporters 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 Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA Trade Exports in Northern Ireland.

Exporters should note that the Philippines import conditions specify that the exported beef must be 'as part of carcass'. Accordingly, bovine offal is excluded from the scope of the certificate, as are processed fats or oils.

Export of Beef Fat

The Philippine authorities have now agreed that export of beef fat from the UK is permitted provided that the exported beef fat is sourced solely from prime cuts.

Whereas fat sourced from prime cut carcass trim is now considered as eligible for export to the Philippines, exporters and OVs must note that fat taken from around the kidneys is classified as offal and therefore not eligible for export.

The box label must specify that the material is fat trimmings sourced from prime cuts and this information must also be entered in Section I(a) of certificate 8055EHC.

Please refer to Paragraph 6 of these notes for further details on labelling requirements for export to the Philippines.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Prior to making arrangements to export beef to the Philippines exporters should contact the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines for up to date information on requirements for import permits, SPS import clearance and 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 ink of any 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

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

The OV may also wish to obtain written declarations from the food business operator as additional support documents confirming that the cattle from which the meat intended for export is derived were born and raised solely in the United Kingdom.

5. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND HEALTH MARKING

The UK has been inspected/audited by the Philippines Department of Agriculture Inspection Mission and found to comply with Philippine quarantine and meat inspection standards.

Accordingly, paragraphs IV(b) - IV(e) of the certificate may be signed by the certifying OV on the basis that the meat intended for export to the Philippines bears the EU oval mark on the packaging.

6. LABELLING OF MEAT FOR EXPORT TO THE PHILIPPINES

The requirements for the labelling of meat for export to the Philippines are many and detailed. The following information is taken from the official Philippines Department of Agriculture Administrative Circular confirming that the UK meets the requirements for export of beef to the Philippines and laying down import conditions.

The meat for export shall bear the official inspection mark on the primary, secondary, and/or shipper packaging showing proof that the meat has been certified inspected and passed by the Competent Authority in compliance to the national food regulation of the exporting country. The meat shall be packed in plastic packs and cartons printed with the date of slaughter, batch number and other information as prescribed below:

The Label

The label shall meet the minimum requirements - as follows:

- shall be in the form of stamp or stick-on the immediate container (if it is plastic lined) and also on the outer portion of the box;

- shall be rectangular in shape with the dimension of 3 inches width by 5 inches length (3"x 5");
- shall be printed in **BOLD** letters and with a font size of **#18**;
- shall not be easily defaceable by any solution;
- shall be written in English or Filipino.

The Packaging

The packaging shall meet the minimum labelling requirements - as follows:

- Cartons or the outermost shipper's package shall be stamped with '**FOR EXPORT TO THE PHILIPPINES**' and the following information:
- Registered trade name of the exporter or brand name of the product;
- Business name and address of exporter;
- Meat establishment/slaughtering facility name, number and address;
- Country of origin;
- Lot identification;
- Product description and list of ingredients;
- Net quantity of contents, in terms of weight, measure or numerical count
 - rounded to the nearest tenths (expressed in metric system);
- Date of manufacture and date of packaging;
- Date of minimum durability ('best before') or expiration date;
- Handling and storage instructions.

7. AGE OF PRODUCT ON ARRIVAL

The meat to be exported shall arrive in the Philippine port not later than six months from the production date as shown in the label (for fresh meat, this can be considered the slaughter date), Bill of Lading/Air Waybill and International Veterinary Certificate (in this case the Export Health Certificate).

8. CONSOLIDATION OF EXPORTED CONSIGNMENTS

On the basis that the UK has undergone a satisfactory National system approval as opposed to individual establishment approval, it is acceptable for consignments exported to the Philippines to be made up of product originating from more than one approved UK establishment and therefore bearing different health marks.

On arrival of the shipment, the foreign meat establishment (FME) approval numbers in the SPS Import Clearance must be the same FME numbers as appear in 8055EHC.

Exporters are urged to advise the APHA CSC immediately via the following link (or contact DAERA in N. Ireland) if it appears that this guidance appears to be contrary to information received during the application process to the BAI for import clearance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

9. 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