No: .....

EXPORT OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS TO MOROCCO – 3665EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

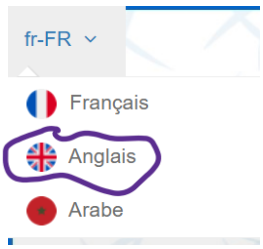
Associated Documents: 3665EHC

IMPORTANT

A. **These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 3665EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 3665EHC. 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.**

B. **FBO PRE-APPROVAL/REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT**
Prior to exporting dairy to Morocco, the exporter must self-register on Morocco's online ATLAS database and be approved/listed by ONSSA, the Moroccan competent authority.

- **TIPS**
  Although information comes up in French, as the default language, there is a drop-down menu in the lefthand corner that allows you to change it to English.



- **ONSSA** has provided a User Manual within the ATLAS platform in the main menu under "***Instructions for use***".

- As **part of the registration,** modification and/or cancellation p**roces**s **in ATLAS,** establishments must download the attestation document,
  Declaration of conformity of establishment (Annex I),
  from the system.

  They must print, sign and stamp/seal the attestation prior to scanning it and uploading it to ATLAS.

- Applicants are advised not to complete or attach the document entitled:
  Certificate of conformity by the competent authority (Annex II),
  also available in the system, as this is to be completed by the appropriate UK competent authority (in this case, the FBO's Local Authority.

- **COMPLETION OF ANNEX II BY THE LA OFFICIAL**
  The required text can be downloaded from within the ONSSA ATLAS online database, **or** the interactive template below may be customized.

  ANNEXE II ATTESTATION CONFORMITE AC EN (1).docx

  It is advised that the text be copied and pasted on to the Local Authority's letterhead and filled in as required prior to being uploaded to the ATLAS database.

  Annex II should not be issued to any FBO as a standalone document to accompany a consignment.

  It must only be provided as part of an FBO's registration process.

  Basis for Endorsing Annex II by Local Authority Official
  The local authority official may sign this Annex, which requires attestation to the statement that:

  > ***"the said establishment abides by the general principles based on the HACCP system for the production, processing and storage of its products as well as the regulatory requirements of the Kingdom of Morocco in terms of food safety."***

  The EHO may assume compliance with the regulatory requirements of Morocco on the basis of the declaration below, received from ONSSA:

  > ***"With regard to the CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY by the CA contained in ANNEX II***
  > ***… relating to the registration of establishments exporting food products to Morocco,***
  > ***please note the following points:***
  > ***i. The final adoption of Annex II in Order No. 466-23 as such, and as a Moroccan text that must refer to Moroccan regulations (question of national legal consistency);***
  >
  > ***ii. Based on the process of approximation of***
  > - ***Moroccan legislation relating to Food Safety with that of the EU***
  > - ***and by transitivity with that of the UK,***
  >
  > ***these laws do not demonstrate major divergences in general and sectoral legislative and regulatory principles in terms of Food Safety."***

  On the basis of this assessment of equivalence by ONSSA, provided that the FBO is LA-approved, in compliance with UK food safety legislation and is not under any restrictions, then they may be deemed to meet Morocco's requirements.

  The LA official endorsing this Annex must satisfy themselves that the FBO is in full compliance with all domestic food safety legislation.

- It is not clear, at this time, whether Morocco will allow consignments from UK dairy FBOs that are not yet registered and listed on ATLAS.
  However, APHA/Defra advice is that you register and are

listed on the website before exporting.

- If you choose to export without being duly registered with ONSSA and being listed as approved on ATLAS, you are taking an informed risk and may have no recourse to Defra assistance should your consignment be detained at the Moroccan port of entry.

- You may check the status of your application by logging into your account on ATLAS.

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 3665EHC may be used for the export of dairy products from the United Kingdom to Morocco.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

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

Certifiers are only required to return a certified copy of EHCs for the following EHC types:

- if the commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
- EHCs where the certifier cannot submit certifier feedback

If you are required to return a certified copy to CITC, email a scanned copy to certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

Retain a copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified for two years.

Certifiers 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.

3. Labelling

Exporters should note that from January 2005, all food products imported into Morocco must be labelled in Arabic. The Arabic label may accompany a label in another language such as English, French or Spanish.

4. **HEALTH ATTESTATION**

Paragraph II. 1) may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004. In the UK, the EU Regulation is implemented by the Food Hygiene Regulation 2006. The Regulation requires that **raw** milk must come from animals:

(a) that do not show any symptoms of infectious diseases communicable to humans through milk;

(b) that are in a good general state of health, present no sign of disease that might result in the contamination of milk and, in particular, are not suffering from any infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, or a recognisable inflammation of the udder (mastitis);

All cattle are subject to the requirements in Council Directive 64/432/EEC, which require active monitoring/ surveillance for TB/Brucellosis if the region *is not* officially free, and passive surveillance if the region *is* free.
Active monitoring requires regular testing to detect infection (i.e. reactors to the tests employed). Under the Food Hygiene legislation, milk from tuberculin and brucellosis reactors cannot be used for human consumption, and must be disposed of.
If the certifying OV has any doubts or concerns about compliance with this requirement, then the certificate must not be signed and CIT, Carlisle consulted.

Paragraph II. 2) may be signed on the basis of the EU FMD Directive and import legislation which prohibits milk from such animals from being placed on the market/imported.

Paragraph II. 3), 5), 6), 8), 9) and 11) may be certified on the basis of the Official Veterinarian's knowledge of processing and handling at the production premises and on the basis of the EU oval mark.

Paragraph II. 4) may be certified on the basis of HACCP or direct knowledge of the process at the production premises and regular checks which demonstrate that the milk has been subjected to the appropriate treatment under the options provided.

Paragraph II. 7 a) and b) may be certified on the basis of statutory monitoring for antibacterial residues in milk and the requirements of the Food Safety Act and the Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations which prohibit the collection of raw milk for treatment or processing with any residues of substances having a pharmacological or hormonal action, or pesticides or other substances which are harmful to health in so far as these residues exceed permitted tolerance limits and, where available,

supplementary supporting evidence provided by the responsible Environmental Health Officer, in accordance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004.

Paragraph II. 7 c) may be signed by an Official Veterinarian on the basis of the following:

The Food Standards Agency, in association with the UK environmental agencies, monitors food and the environment in the UK. They publish an annual report – Radioactivity in food and the Environment – which summarises the results of monitoring. The results of these monitoring supports the conclusion set out in the paragraph.

5. **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