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EXPORT OF MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS TO GEORGIA - 7345EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued together with export certificate 7345EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7345EHC.

OVs AND EXPORTERS ARE ADVISED THAT CERTIFICATE 7345EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore 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. They should attempt to obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match or no import permit is available, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 8869EHC, however this decision and any consequences thereof are taken strictly at the exporter's own risk.

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1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7345EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to GEORGIA of fresh meat and meat products that meet the following requirements:

- they are derived from animals of the porcine, ovine, caprine and/or bovine species;
- they are derived from animals/meat of United Kingdom origin or animals/meat legally imported into the UK;
- they must bear an official health mark or identification mark indicating that they have been obtained, processed, packaged, labelled and stored in officially approved establishments and are fit for human consumption.

Fresh meat means all animal parts (including offal) fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

Meat products means processed products resulting from the processing of meat or from the further processing of such processed products, so that the cut surface shows that the product no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.

With the agreement of the importing country, meat products may also include the following commodities:

- Offal: fresh meat other than that of the carcase, including viscera and blood;
- Meat preparations: fresh meat, including meat that has been reduced to fragments, which has had foodstuffs, seasonings or additives added to it, e.g. sausages, burgers;
- Minced meat: boned meat that has been minced into fragments and contains less than 1% salt.

Exporters and certifying OVs must take particular note of the disclaimer at paragraph 10.

2. SCHEDULES

Section I refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. In this case, Section I must be annotated 'See attached schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled to the health certificate and the OV should 'fan' and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

3. 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 ink of a different colour to that of the printing.

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. NOTIFIABLE/REPORTABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For meat bearing a UK/GB health or identification mark and derived from animals resident in the UK at the time of slaughter, OVs may certify sub-paragraphs IV(a)(i) and/or IV(a)(ii) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

The Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain and Northern Ireland can be consulted at: http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET171.pdf

For meat bearing a health or identification mark derived from animals legally imported into the UK, or for re-export of imported meat/meat products, OVs must make appropriate checks of import documents to ensure that the animals/goods were legally imported and from which country they originated. In addition, OVs must also verify the territory of origin of the animals from which the products were derived.

NOTE: OVs must exercise the utmost caution in verifying details of traceability and animal origin for imported meat and meat products. Paragraph IV(a) of the certificate may be certified **only** if OVs have all the required information and are fully confident to do so. Any supporting documentary evidence should be retained with the certified copy of the certificate in the OVs own records.

5. SLAUGHTER FOR DISEASE ERADICATION PURPOSES

Paragraph IV(c) may be certified on the basis of a health mark or an identification mark confirming that the animals from which the meat is derived were healthy and did not originate from area or zone subject to disease control measures due to an outbreak of epizootic notifiable disease to which the species is susceptible.

Meat from establishments where a disease outbreak is suspected or confirmed may not enter the human food chain but must be disposed of by slaughterhouses as a Category 2 animal by-product, i.e. high-risk material containing potential contamination.

6. LEGAL STATEMENT – ASSIMILATED EU LAW

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 'assimilated EU law' under the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023.

References in guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this assimilated 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).

7. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(d), IV(e) and IV(g) may be certified on the basis of the health mark or identification mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with assimilated Regulations Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 2017/625 (The EU Hygiene Regulations).

In the UK, 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 assimilated General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the assimilated EU Hygiene Regulations is provided though 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 (as amended).

These Regulations are enforced in the UK by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

8. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

With regard to veterinary residues, paragraph IV(f) may be certified on the basis of the results of the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS) for residues, to which all UK approved meat establishments are subject.

The NSS implements assimilated Council Directive 96/22/EC and assimilated Regulation (EU) 2017/625, 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 other devolved administrations.

With regard to compliance with microbiological criteria, paragraph IV(f) may be certified on the basis of the microbiological monitoring required by assimilated Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 which forms part of the assimilated EU Hygiene Regulations.

9. EXPORT OF BEEF PRODUCTS - BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

Provided that the exported beef products meet the requirements of traceability and origin as detailed above, paragraph IV(i) may be

certified on the basis of compliance with assimilated Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 (as amended). The Regulation sets out UK-wide the requirements for TSE monitoring, animal feeding and the removal of specified risk material.

In the UK, enforcement of the above Regulation takes place through the following national legislation:

- **England:** The TSEs (England) Regulations 2018;
- **Wales:** The TSEs (Wales) Regulations 2018;
- **Scotland:** The TSEs Regulations (Scotland) 2010;
- **Northern Ireland:** The TSEs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.

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

10. DISCLAIMER

Whereas 7345EHC takes into account certain recommendations by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) for trade in this commodity, exporters and certifying OVs are advised that the certificate has not been drafted in accordance with any specific import requirements of the importing country and has not been officially agreed with the authorities of GEORGIA.

Accordingly, use of 7345EHC for export of fresh/frozen meat or meat products to GEORGIA is at the exporter's risk.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country, if these are available. If the permit or advice do not match the assurances provided on 8869EHC, in the case of export from Great Britain, the exporter should contact the CITC via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha#animal-exports

or by phone - 03000 200 301

For export from Northern Ireland, exporters should contact the DAERA trade administration team: e-mail - tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk or by phone - 0289 0520989