

**EXPORT TO AUSTRALIA OF PORCINE DERIVED CASINGS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION  
ORIGINATING FROM APPROVED COUNTRIES - 8879EHC**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER**

---

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the accompanying export certificate 8879EHC. 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.

---

**1. SCOPE**

Export health certificate 8879EHC may be used to accompany exports to Australia of porcine derived casings intended for human consumption that have been sourced from and manufactured in an approved country.

This certificate is required for exporting natural casings derived from porcine animals into Australia. For exporting collagen porcine casings, export health certificate 4558EHC must be used.

**2. IMPORT PERMIT**

An Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) import permit is not required provided that the goods are porcine derived casings manufactured in approved countries. The casings must be sourced from animals born, raised, and slaughtered in an approved country.

Exporters should note the DAFF specification that imported porcine casings are not eligible for release from Australian Biosecurity Control until at least 30 days after the date of slaughter.

**3. APPROVED COUNTRY**

An Approved Country is a country that is included on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's 'List of Countries for Natural Casings Derived from Bovine, Caprine, Ovine or Porcine Animals'.

The following countries are approved by the Department for the importation of natural porcine casings: Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Prior to completing the certificate, OVs may wish to consult the up to date list of approved countries, which is available via the following link:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/list-of-countries-for-natural-casings.pdf>

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

This certificate may be signed in Great Britain by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation. Northern Irish OVs who are authorised to certify certain animal products by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland.

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**

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](mailto: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**

An official copy of the EHC, produced from DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) and certified by an authorised Official Veterinarian employed by DAERA will be stored on CM, DAERA's official repository of records.

## **5. NOTIFIABLE/REPORTABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

For casings bearing a UK/GB health or identification mark and derived from animals resident in the UK at the time of slaughter, OVs may certify paragraph IV(b) 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:

<https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions->

[file.php?unique\\_id=6724f0d9f0067&file\\_type=Form&action=view](file.php?unique_id=6724f0d9f0067&file_type=Form&action=view)

For casings bearing a health or identification mark derived from animals legally imported into the UK, or for re-export of imported casings, OV's must make appropriate checks of import documents to ensure that the animals/goods were legally imported, from which country they originated and that the country of origin is included in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's list of approved countries.

In addition, OV's must also verify that the conditions laid down in paragraph IV(b) are fully met by the country of origin.

**NOTE:** OV's 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 OV's 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 OV's own records.

**6. FREEDOM FROM FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)**

Sub paragraph IV(b) (i) refers. When certifying this sub-paragraph, OV's should note that the country/countries of origin must be separately recognised by the Australian Director of Biosecurity as being free from FMD. This is in addition to the standard notifiable disease clearance procedure at paragraph 4 above.

The up to date list of countries so recognised as FMD free can be found via this link:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/10.FMD-Free%20country%20list-List%20FINAL.pdf>

OV's should however note that all of the Approved Countries referred to in paragraph 3 of these notes are also included on the above list. This may be subject to change, so OV's may wish to carry out final verification prior to certification.

**7. 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 GB 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). NI remains aligned with EU law.

**8. INSPECTION UNDER OFFICIAL VETERINARY SUPERVISION**

Paragraph IV(c) may be certified on the basis of the health mark or identification mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse(s) referred

to in Part II of the certificate is/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 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 (as amended).

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

**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 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 the permit or advice do not match the assurances provided on 4302EHC, in the case of export from Great Britain, the exporter should contact the CITC at [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk) or by phone at 03000 200 301.

For export from Northern Ireland, exporters should contact in the first instance their local DAERA Direct Regional office.