

IMPORTANT

Exporters and Official Veterinarians (OVs) are advised that the conditions for export of pig meat to the People's Republic of China (PRC) are complex and demanding. Clearances for certain non-notifiable diseases such as Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) on premises of origin are not straightforward and special procedures have been introduced to facilitate these declarations.

Well in advance of exports taking place, exporters and certifying OVs must become familiar with these notes for guidance and all associated documents. In the event of any questions, they are advised to contact the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) by email at product.exports@apha.gov.uk or by phone at 03000 200 301 or DAERA in Northern Ireland at VS.Implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk.

In an attempt to simplify the procedures, these notes 7006NFG have been split into five separate parts as follows:

- 7006NFG - Part 1: Introduction and General Principles (read first)
- 7006NFG - Part 2: Farm Assurances (this document)
- 7006NFG - Part 3: Slaughterhouses and cutting plants
- 7006NFG - Part 4: Standalone cutting plants
- 7006NFG - Part 5: Final certification at exporting cold stores
- 7006NFG - Flow diagram of export chain

Associated Documents

- The Protocol for veterinary and health requirements for export of pig meat to the People's Republic of China, the UK-China Trotters Protocol and Standard Operational Procedures for Trotters (included in 7006NFG - Part 1);
- 7006ANNA - PAS quarterly veterinary food chain information (FCI) and health declaration for herds of origin;
- 7006ANNB - Owner/manager FCI declaration to slaughterhouse operator;
- 7006ANNC - Owner manager support declaration for PAS/farm veterinarians completing 7006ANNA;
- 7006IMC - Internal movement certificate;
- 7006EXA - Guidance on completion of the interactive pre-certificate (for export from Northern Ireland only).

These five parts and all other associated documents may be downloaded from the website of the United Kingdom Export Certification Partnership (UKECP) via the following link: www.ukecp.com/export-health-certificates. The documents can be found using the search parameters 'China', 'meat' and 'porcine'.

Alternatively, these can be obtained from APHA CIT or DAERA upon request.

7006NFG - PART 2: FARM ASSURANCES

1. SCOPE

Part 2 of 7006NFG provides guidance for farmers, Pig Assurance Scheme (PAS)/farm veterinarians, OVs and exporters to ensure that the animals from which the exported meat is to be derived comply with the requirements of Article 4 of The Protocol, namely:

The slaughtered swine for pork exported to the PRC shall:

- (a) be born, raised and slaughtered in the UK;*
- (b) come from farms on which there has been no occurrence of anthrax, atrophic rhinitis of swine, Aujeszky's disease, swine brucellosis, tuberculosis and trichinellosis for the last 6 months;*
- (c) originate from farms on which there has been no clinical occurrence of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) for the last 6 months;*
- (d) originate from farms where no restriction or surveillance zone has been established due to notifiable diseases of swine which should be reported in accordance with the relevant European animal health regulations. (This assurance pertains only to swine epizootic diseases for which area restrictions are envisaged in legislation; official area restrictions because of notifiable diseases in other species, e.g. avian influenza can be disregarded)*

NB: timings refer to time prior to slaughter and not prior to export.

In addition, pigs/pig herds must not be subject to official restrictions due to notifiable diseases of pigs (including TB) at the time of their dispatch to slaughter for the pig meat to be eligible for export to China.

Important: These guidance notes are not intended to explain the details of official disease controls by the UK competent authorities justifying the imposition of official restrictions. Such matters are outside the remit of these notes for guidance and that information is provided elsewhere in line with the policies in place and their implementation by the relevant UK Administration.

2. 7006ANNA, 7006ANNB AND 7006ANNC

In order to comply with the above conditions, a system of support certification has been developed for use by on-farm veterinarians and owners/managers of pig herds supplying animals to PRC-approved slaughterhouses. The declarations are as follows:

- **7006ANNA** - QUARTERLY VETERINARY FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION HEALTH DECLARATION FOR HERDS OF ORIGIN
- **7006ANNB** - OWNER/MANAGER DECLARATION FOR SLAUGHTERHOUSE FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION FORM FOR HERDS OF ORIGIN
- **7006ANNC** - OWNER/MANAGER DECLARATION FOR VETERINARIANS FOR HERDS OF ORIGIN

3. **QUARTERLY VETERINARY FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION (FCI) DECLARATION - 7006ANNA**

Veterinary certification that pig herds of origin meet the conditions specified in Article 4 of the Protocol (see paragraph 1 above) is required approximately every three months. Farm inspections under the Pig Assurance Scheme can be used for this purpose. Intervals between visits should not normally exceed three months and, in any case, they should not take place more than four months apart. Veterinarians providing supporting FCI certification for the pig herds of origin do not need to be Official Veterinarians (OVs).

Certification for this purpose may be provided electronically in the Quarterly Veterinary Report (QVR) form, which is sent to Assurance Scheme administrators. Alternatively, certification can be provided using the certificate **7006ANNA**.

7006ANNA is on the gov.uk "Find an Export Health Certificate" website along with being available on the United Kingdom Export Certification Partnership (UKECP) website- www.ukecp.com . This form should be sent to the operator of the approved slaughterhouse. The owner and the veterinarian should keep a copy for their records.

Veterinarians should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin, supported by the owner or manager declaration (**7006ANNC**) confirming freedom from these diseases and that the pig herd is not subject to official restrictions. All pigs on the herd should be inspected but examination of individual animals on the herds is not required to provide this certification. If necessary, certifying Veterinarians should also carry out appropriate checks of the herd records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records as appropriate.

Veterinarians should note that authority to sign clearance from notifiable/reportable diseases of pigs using 618NDC procedures from APHA or DAERA is not required. If necessary, the veterinarian in Great Britain should contact the APHA CIT in Carlisle for advice. In Northern Ireland the Veterinarian should contact DAERA.

For the purposes of this certification, the presence of the diseases mentioned below does not have to be recorded as present unless this has been confirmed - i.e. the presence of certain clinical signs alone should not necessarily be taken to be proof of the presence of disease. However, if official suspicion has been recorded, disease cannot be recorded as absent until any investigations have been completed and the presence of disease has been excluded.

4. **OWNER/MANAGER DECLARATION FOR VETERINARIANS - 7006ANNC**

7006ANNC is a support document intended for use by the owner or manager of the herd of origin to confirm to the veterinarian signing the Quarterly Veterinary FCI Declaration (QVR Return or 7006ANNA). Its purpose is to confirm that, to the best of the knowledge of the owner or manager, that the conditions specified in Article 4 of The Protocol are being met on the herd of origin and that the pig herd is not under official restrictions. This document is for the perusal of the PAS/farm veterinarian only and does not need to accompany the pigs to the slaughterhouse or be provided to FBOs.

5. **OWNER/MANAGER FCI DECLARATION FOR SLAUGHTERHOUSE OPERATOR – 7006ANNB (OR EQUIVALENT)**

A signed hard copy of 7006ANNB, or wording exactly equivalent, is required from the owner or manager of the herd of origin to accompany each consignment of pigs sent to a PRC-approved slaughterhouse slaughtering pigs for export to the PRC. The wording of 7006ANNB is to confirm to the slaughterhouse operator that, to the best of the knowledge of the owner or manager that the conditions specified in Article 4 of The Protocol are being met on the farm of origin and that the pig herd is not under official restrictions.

Alternatively, notification of compliance of the pig herd of origin can be made by completing a box/section on the electronic FCI form. If the declaration is provided after the pigs are sent to the slaughterhouse, this may mean that the necessary separation of the slaughter batch from other pigs not complying with the PRC conditions has not been assured and so the meat may not be eligible for export to the PRC.

In addition to providing the information required above, pig producers must also ensure that their Assurance Scheme Veterinarian has completed the relevant sections of QVR electronic form. Alternatively, and in cases where the QVR electronic system is down, certification can be provided using 7006ANNA.

Copies of the QVR or 7006ANNA must be sent to the Assurance Scheme administrator and slaughterhouse operator. Producers should keep a copy of 7006ANNA in case this is needed for other slaughterhouses.

6. **NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE BREAKDOWN**

If any of the diseases specified in Article 4 occurs at the herd of origin or official restrictions are imposed on the pig herd, the owner or manager must notify the slaughterhouse involved so that (providing slaughter for human consumption is still possible) the pigs from the affected herd can be slaughtered separately from pigs from unaffected farms.

Once the declaration of the presence of disease or the notification that the pig herd has been placed under official restrictions has been made, no further declarations are required until the specified diseases have not occurred for the period required (6 months) or until the pig herd regains its eligibility for slaughter for export to China (e.g. until official restrictions on the pig herd are lifted) whichever is later. From that time the veterinarian and the owner can complete forms again to enable the meat to be exported.

7. **FARM HEALTH ATTESTATIONS – GUIDANCE ON SPECIFIED DISEASES**

Anthrax: refers to *Bacillus anthracis* infection.

Brucellosis: the declaration relates to *B.suis* infection. Brucellosis in pigs can be caused by infection with *B.suis* and other strains of *Brucella* such as *B.abortus*. Currently the UK is free of *B.suis* together with *B.abortus*, *B.melitensis*, *B.ovis* and *B.canis*).

Trichinella: Lack of occurrence of trichinellosis (*Trichinella spiralis* infection) can be based on the lack of condemnations for trichinellosis at the slaughterhouse. If trichinellosis was detected at the slaughterhouse in pigs from the farm in question, the farmer

would be informed of this and an investigation would be carried out by APHA/DAERA. Trichinellosis in pigs was last recorded in the UK in 1975.

Progressive Atrophic Rhinitis: Lack of occurrence of progressive atrophic rhinitis (PAR) of swine can be based on clinical inspection / examination alone and does not require examination of snouts at slaughter or testing for evidence of toxigenic *Pasteurella multocida*.

PRRS: Lack of clinical occurrence of PRRS can be based on clinical inspection / examination alone and does not require laboratory examination to prove lack of infection with PRRS virus. Lack of clinical occurrence of PRRS can be certified for a herd which contains pigs which are known to be infected with PRRS virus and also herds which are vaccinated against PRRS using inactivated or live vaccines providing in the Veterinarian's judgement clinical occurrence of PRRS is absent.

8. TUBERCULOSIS (M. BOVIS)

The following guidance regarding tuberculosis caused by *M.bovis* has been agreed between officials of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in Great Britain and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and in consultation with industry bodies and exporting Food Business Operators.

Article 4 of The Protocol requires certification that the slaughter pigs originate from farms with no occurrence of TB for six months prior to slaughter. This needs to be addressed in a practical and trade-friendly manner but without compromising the integrity of veterinary certification.

In addition, pig herds must not be under official restrictions due to notifiable diseases (including TB) at the time of dispatch of the pigs for slaughter in order for their meat to be eligible for export to China.

Pig Units - single species

For the purpose of certification, the term 'farm' where only pigs are resident should be understood as the CPH number in GB or the APHIS pig herd number in Northern Ireland.

If the pig herd is placed under TB restrictions due to suspected or confirmed TB in such a holding, the pigs from that farm would not be eligible for slaughter for export of pork to the PRC for a period of at least 6 months following confirmation of *M. bovis* or until TB/official restrictions are lifted, whichever is later.

Pig Units - Co-located with other TB susceptible species

Farms may accommodate pigs, cattle and other TB susceptible species under the same CPH or at the same location in Northern Ireland. If TB is suspected or confirmed in cattle or other TB susceptible species then, in order for the pigs to continue to be eligible for slaughter for export of their meat to China, the pig herd must have been excluded from the scope of the TB restrictions (irrespective of CPH number, or location in the case of Northern Ireland).

The decision on this matter rests with TB disease control policies.

In summary, pig meat would be eligible for export to China if produced from pigs compliant with the following conditions with regard to TB:

1. No confirmation of TB in the farm of origin (CPH in GB; APHIS pig herd number or location in Northern Ireland) of the pigs in the six (6) months prior to slaughter and pig herd not under TB/official restrictions.
2. TB confirmed in pigs: no further confirmation of TB in the six (6) months prior to slaughter and pig herd not under TB/official restrictions, whichever is later.
3. TB confirmed in species other than pigs (co-located herds): pig herd not under TB/official restrictions (irrespective of CPH number or location in Northern Ireland)

9. **DISCLAIMER**

These notes are provided on the basis of information available at the time. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the information against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.

For further advice exporters should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) Carlisle at product.exports@apha.gov.uk or DAERA in Northern Ireland at VS.Implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk.