Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Export of fresh or chilled hides and skins of ungulates intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union (EU) or Northern Ireland (NI)

September 2025

Contents

No: 8327 NFG

For export of fresh or chilled hides and skins of ungulates intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union or Northern Ireland.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV), CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and Commission (EU) Regulation 142/2011 (as amended)

Any other EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and can be accessed on the following link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers (CO) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for exports of fresh or chilled hides and skins of ungulates intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union (EU) or Northern Ireland (NI). The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate.

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 GB, in advance of each consignment.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This Model 8327 veterinary certificate maybe used for the export of fresh or chilled hides and skins intended for dispatch to or transit through the EU or NI, in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

Untreated hides and skins is defined in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as meaning all cutaneous and subcutaneous tissues that have not undergone any treatment, other than cutting, chilling or freezing.

Only Category 3 material as referred to in Article 10(a) and (b) (iii) may be used. This certificate does not cover hides for processing into edible products.

If the hides/skins are intended for the production of edible gelatine/collagen, then certificate 8278EHC should be completed.

Important:
The consignment of fresh hides being imported into the EU or NI must be transported in officially sealed containers, road vehicles, railway wagons or bales.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer or by an OV appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the Export Health Certificate (EHC). There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign languages of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign languages of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU, as well as in the language of the EU MS of destination if this a different country from the point of entry to the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates on-line system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the EU Commission. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version are struck through, both versions can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Signing, stamping and pagination

The foreign language version/s and any schedules (if any) may be stapled to the English version but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document according to the EU Commission.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the English, foreign language versions and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

COs will have to make handwritten corrections to page numbering as may be required. E.g. 1/4 to 4/4 (if present) on the foreign language parts in the example given above will need to be crossed out and the 1/11 to 11/11 entered.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the pages of the schedule (if any) at the bottom.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Official Veterinarian Training, any handwritten corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part I. The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in Part I of the EHC needs to be amended. (E.g. if Box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below:

Instruction: Official Veterinarian Training

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part I is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However, we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part I of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online Guidance for Certifiers in the link below:

Using export health certificate (EHC) online: certifier guidance - GOV.UK
UK approved establishments will be uploaded to Europa website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu

Please check the guidance on completion of Part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG. For completion of Box I.8 - Region of Origin Code, if applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC. This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a European Community Decision. The approved regions or zones must be indicated as described in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Part I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate.

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the products being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and
http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: CERTIFICATION

Animal Health Attestation

The OV signing the certificate must have read and understood Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 (in particular Article 10), and Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011, in particular Chapter II of Annex XIV and must ensure that the products meet the requirements of the certificate. The starting material used must be Category 3 as specified in the Scope Section 2.

The following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification may be followed: **The OV must have familiarity with sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, and handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment and ensure that the consignment meets the conditions required in the certificate. Where the OV is required to certify conditions outside of their personal knowledge, they must request and be provided with appropriate supporting documentation from another veterinarian (if appropriate) and/or the exporter.**

II.1 The first option refers to hides derived from animals that have been slaughtered at an approved slaughterhouse (see Section 7 GB approved establishment exporting to EU) and passed both ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection. The second

options refers to hides derived from animals which were slaughtered at an approved slaughterhouse, passed ante-mortem inspection but were rejected as unfit for human consumption at post-mortem but showed no signs of diseases communicable to humans or animals.

The correct option must be selected and the non-applicable option deleted.

OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, and valid declarations.

II.2 This attestation requires that the hides in the consignment have been produced in a country authorised to export all categories of fresh meat to the EU. GB has this authorization. For hides originating in another country, the OV must access full details of the countries so authorised in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 206/2010 to confirm that imports of fresh meat of the corresponding species are authorised from that country or part of that country and must be in possession of a veterinary certificate confirming source and conditions at (a) and (b) are met.

For hides/skins originating in GB only:

(a) This statement can be certified based on GB freedom from these diseases as appropriate to the species and for the time periods specified. This can be established as per the procedure detailed at section 4 - NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE. An option not applicable to the species concerned must be deleted.

(b) This statement can be certified based on GB freedom from FMD for this specific time period and on the prohibition of vaccination against FMD in place in GB. Disease Freedom can be established as per the procedure detailed at section 4 - NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE If FMD is not applicable to the species concerned the statement should be deleted.

The OV must be able to establish the source of the hides in each consignment in relation to this statement through knowledge of the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment and examination of relevant records and documentation.

II.3 For hides originating in another country, authorised as above, the OV must be in possession of a veterinary certificate confirming that these conditions are met in relation to animal residency in and disease freedoms relating to the country of production.

For Hides established as originating in GB:

OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This

should be supported by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, and valid declarations.

The first statement - 3 month GB Residency or since Birth
The OV must establish that the animals from which the hides were derived met this condition through knowledge of the sourcing, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishments and through examination of relevant records and documentation.

The statement requires segregation of hides from animals which have been resident in GB for 3 months or more and also of hides from younger animals which have been born/reared in GB within the past 3 months.

The second statement - Disease Freedoms for bi-ungulates
This can be certified based on GB freedom from FMD for the specific time period and can be established as per the procedure detailed at Section 4 NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE.

The third statement - Disease Freedoms for swine
This can be certified based on GB freedom from SVD, CSF and ASF for the specific time periods and can be established as per the procedure detailed at Section 4 NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE.

In the case where the hides/skins are not derived from swine, then this statement should be deleted in its entirety. NOTE - no delete option listed as a footnote.

The fourth statement - No evidence of specific diseases at ante-mortem
This can be certified based on GB freedom from these diseases- as per procedure detailed at section 4 - NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE. The diseases not applicable to the species concerned should be deleted.

II.4 This can be certified based on the hides/skins being collected from animals slaughtered for human consumption in a slaughterhouse approved in accordance with the EU Hygiene package and that precautions are taken in transit and at any hide store premises.

The OV must be establish that these conditions have been met through knowledge of procedures in place at the establishment supported by visual inspection, inspection of records and valid declarations by the plant operators.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Where it is possible for the CO (OV or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland) available on the Official Veterinarian Training.
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification) available on the Official Veterinarian Training.

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that the GB has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease lists for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Personnel may be authorised to collect evidence which may be used to support veterinary certification. In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA.

CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ (AHP)-CSO) qualification.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) should be obtained. CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement, and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks.

They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.

Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the OV Instructions Export document section of the APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM, NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE)

This section of the guidance applies to exports to the EU and movements from GB to NI but does not apply to movements of retail products to Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS).

An ABP consignment for export from GB can contain animal products that originate from NI, EU and third countries, only if those products have undergone further processing in GB. Processing should be understood in the context of Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 and is different than the definition that applies in the context of products of animal origin for human consumption.

ABP imported into to GB, which is only unloaded, stored, and reloaded, or which is only rewrapped in GB, cannot be re-exported to the EU or moved to NI except under the NIRMS or under the customs transit procedure (see below). Guidance on triangular trade can be found here: Triangular Trade Briefing Note

To avoid the restriction applicable to triangular trade, businesses can make use of the customs transit procedure for goods from third countries landed in GB, to move through GB, directly to NI. Consignments being moved under the customs transit procedure are not subject to triangular trade rules. Guidance on the transit procedure can be found in the triangular trade briefing note above.

7. GB APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be authorised and listed by the GB as a 'GB approved establishment' for animal by- products not for human consumption (ABP). In March 2025, the EU TRACES team confirmed that slaughterhouses and fishery vessels which are already listed as approved for exports of animal products intended for human consumption do not require an additional ABP-specific listing. A list of approved establishments can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU and does not include establishments with pending applications for approval/registration.

If the final product contains animal products from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed on the EU website as GB approved establishments.

For approved establishments in Northern Ireland the "EC" suffix which is present in the health/ID mark of approved food establishments, should not be included when referring to establishment approval numbers in the certificate. This may also be relevant to certain ABP consignments – e.g. where the ABP is generated at an approved slaughterhouse without separate ABP approval.

8. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles:

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the OV Instruction Exports document of the APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

9. LEGAL STATEMENT

References in this guidance to “assimilated EU Regulation” should be interpreted as references to assimilated law, as defined under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

10. 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

This publication is available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to:

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

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Version History:

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Section 6 - CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM, NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE) is amended to align with the Triangular Trade Briefing Note (ABP)

References to Vet Gateway replaced by APHA's Official Veterinarian Training

Legal statement is updated.

Version 6 published 16 May 2025

7. Updated to clarify point regarding ABP specific TRACES listing for slaughterhouses and fishing vessels.