Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)

Guidance for the use of the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme to facilitate groupage exports from Great Britain to the EU and EEA/EFTA countries (transit or direct export) and movement of products to or through Northern Ireland

May 2025

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

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at gefs@defra.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/defra

Contents

Notes on using this guidance

This guidance document is intended to be used by exporters, manufacturers, Official Veterinarians (OVs) and Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) issuing Support Attestations and Certifying Officers (COs).

It should be read as a whole. All sections apply to the implementation and operation of the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS). It must be read alongside the other legislation and guidance (EU and GB) related to Export Health Certification, including (but not restricted to) the notes for guidance for the relevant Export Health Certificates (EHCs).

This guidance does not specify or set out any financial charges that arise from the operation of the scheme.

Exporters, manufacturers, OVs, FCCOs and COs using this scheme must ensure that they apply the rules set out in the latest published version of this guidance.

Terms used in this guidance

ABP	Animal by-product as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.
Batch Declaration	A schedule containing batch-specific information that must be completed by an authorised representative of the manufacturer and accompany the products of that batch to the exporting premises.
CO	Certifying Officer, who is issuing the EHC. There may be more than one, but this guidance will refer to the singular throughout.
Competent authority	A government agency or other organisation legally authorised to make decisions, regulate, or exercise powers in the area of food and feed law and animal health and welfare animal or public health, e.g., Defra, APHA, FSA, FSS or a local authority.
Compliance visit	A physical or virtual audit conducted by an OV (or in some instances, a FCCO) to assess the manufacturer's compliance with the requirements of the GEFS, Support Attestation and relevant EHCs.
Consignment	Goods being exported that are covered by the same EHC, conveyed by the same means of transport and come from the same territory (i.e., Great Britain) being of the same type, class or description.
EHCs	Export Health Certificates
EHCO	Export Health Certificates Online, the system through which EHCs are issued.
Exporter	The company or trader listed as the exporter on the EHC.
Exporting premises	The location at which the products are certified for export. This could be a part of the manufacturing establishment or a separate location (e.g., an export depot or consolidation hub.)
FCCO	Food Competent Certifying Officer
Final consumer	A customer in a retail or food service environment.
Great Britain	England, Wales and Scotland only. The GEFS does not apply to exports from the Crown Dependencies.
Manufacturer	The manufacturer of the products for export, at the point at which they are packaged for the final consumer, including manufacturing establishments owned and operated by the exporter.

Manufacturer Declaration	The first part of the Support Attestation, completed by an authorised representative of the manufacturer, detailing the products covered and relevant health information.
OV	Official Veterinarian
OV [or FCCO] Declaration	The second part of the Support Attestation, completed by an OV (or in some instances, a FCCO), validating the information contained in the Manufacturer Declaration based on the findings of their compliance visit.
POAO	Products of animal origin, as defined in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.
Product identifier	A point of data that can be used to identify a specific product, such as the universal product code/bar code.
Production	For the purposes of GEFS, the product is “produced” when it is fully prepared and packaged for sale to the final consumer.
Signature	A wet signature on the physical document or a digital signature on an electronic document.
Supplier	An establishment that supplies POAO or ABP ingredients to the manufacturer.
Supply chain	The network of establishments from which the manufacturer sources the POAO or ABP ingredients needed to produce their end product.
Support Attestation (SA)	A two-part document that must be completed by an authorised representative of the manufacturer and the OV (or in some instances, a FCCO) conducting the compliance visit in order for the scheme to be used for the following 30 days. All references to “Support Attestations” in this guidance refer specifically to GEFS Support Attestations.
Transit	Movement from one country to a second country, passing through the territory of a third country.
Unique reference number (URN)	An alphanumerical code assigned to a Support Attestation, used to refer to that specific Support Attestation and included in all subsequent documentation relevant to that Support Attestation, e.g., Batch Declarations. Each Support Attestation must have its own URN and each URN must only be used once.

What is the GEFS?

1. The Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS) facilitates the health certification of products intended for groupage export to, or transit through, the European Union (EU) or movement to Northern Ireland by using time-limited Support Attestations.

2. The scheme does not remove or change the requirement for each consignment of products exported to be accompanied by its own EHC but is designed to facilitate the process for COs to obtain some of the relevant information needed to complete the EHC.

3. A diagram illustrating an example of the scheme's operation is provided in Annex I.

4. The GEFS is intended to provide COs and competent authorities with a sufficient level of confidence in the accuracy of the Support Attestations used within this guidance and their operation under this guidance.

5. The scheme only covers exports or movements from Great Britain using relevant Support Attestations from manufacturers in the UK.

6. The scheme is administered by Defra in Great Britain.

7. The scheme will be reviewed regularly. In the event of closure of the GEFS, six months' notice will be given to members.

What does the scheme cover?

8. The scheme applies to groupage exports of specific categories of products to, or for transit through, the EU and Northern Ireland, produced using animal content only from a stable and traceable network of known GB manufacturers and packaged for sale to the final consumer.

9. Annex II contains a decision tree to help exporters assess if their products are in scope of the scheme. Further guidance is also provided below.

Groupage

10. The GEFS facilitates groupage export, which is an export where:

    - multiple products of the same commodity type (e.g., composite products) are grouped under a single EHC to export as a single consignment.

    - multiple quantities of the same commodity type (e.g., fish products), potentially from several sources, are grouped into the same container. It may be possible

to export these as a single consignment covered by a single EHC or as a mixed load (containing several consignments covered by several EHCs).

- multiple different commodity types (e.g., dairy products and meat products) are grouped in a single container but covered by different EHCs.

Categories of products

11. The GEFS only covers specific categories of products of animal origin (POAO) for human consumption, as detailed below:

- composite products[1]
- meat products[2]
- meat preparations[3]
- dairy products
- fish/fishery products
- eggs/egg products
- honey
- frogs' legs[4]
- snails[4]
- highly refined products[4]
- live bivalve molluscs (considered POAO, not live animals)

[1] See GOV.UK guidance: Export or move composite food products. Note that not all composite products require Export Health Certification.

[2] "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. This definition also includes products such as gelatine and collagen which are meat products but require a different EU export certificate to the "meat product" certificate.

[3] "Meat preparations" means fresh meat (including meat that has been reduced to fragments) which has had foodstuffs, seasonings or additives added to it or which has undergone processes insufficient to modify the internal muscle fibre structure of the meat and thus to eliminate the characteristics of fresh meat.

[4] While the GEFS may be used to export these products, no members are currently using the scheme to do so. If an exporter joins the scheme, intending to export these products, they will be added to the Support Attestation that must be used.

12. The scheme also covers specific categories of animal by-products (ABP), as detailed below:

    - processed pet food

13. The specific model EHCs that can be used to export goods under the GEFS are listed in Annex III.

14. The GEFS **cannot** be used to export any other product. That means the following products are excluded:

    - live animals
    - germinal products
    - fresh meat
    - raw milk
    - animal by-products (including raw pet food but excluding processed pet food)

15. Some of these excluded products may be exported as part of a mixed load, but they must have been separately certified without the use of a Support Attestation.

Destination

16. The GEFS may only be used where products are being directly exported to, or transiting through, the EU and EEA/EFTA countries, including moving products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland where EHCs are required under the Windsor Framework.

17. A direct export occurs where the products enter the EU and are received by the EU for entry onto the EU market.

18. A transit occurs where the products enter and exit the EU, without the products being received by the EU for entry onto the EU market. The GEFS may only be used for the transit of products through the EU where the final destination is an overseas British territory that does not require additional certification.

19. The GEFS can be used for movements to Northern Ireland where exporters are using the red lane. For products exported using the green lane, exporters should use the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS)[5].

[5] See GOV.UK guidance: Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme: how to register and seal consignments.

20. The GEFS **cannot** be used for the export of products to, or for transit through, non-EU and non-EEA/EFTA countries, nor for transit through the EU where the final destination is not an overseas British territory.

Stable supply chain

21. At the initial compliance visit, manufacturers will be required to provide evidence documenting a stable supply chain for the preceding six months.

22. At the initial compliance visit, the manufacturer must be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the OV issuing the Support Attestation that:

    - Standard Operating Procedures are in place to define processes and responsibilities required for stable production of the products and verification of these processes;
    - the relevant health, traceability and processing records for the products included are correct;
    - there have been no relevant changes (with the exception of changes made specifically to meet new EU requirements) within the preceding 30 calendar days; and
    - there have been no such changes in at least four of the preceding six months.

23. A “relevant change” is a change that impacts information to be certified in the EHC, addition of a new supplier, or change to the processing/heat treatment of product.

24. The GEFS **cannot** be used to certify products from manufacturers outside of the UK. However, the POAO or ABP ingredients used to produce the products may be sourced from outside the UK where they are legally imported.

Packaged for the final consumer

25. Products exported using the GEFS must be fully packaged for sale to the final consumer. This includes products that are subsequently unpackaged or repackaged at the point of sale to the final consumer (e.g., a pork pie exported whole that is sliced and re-packaged at a deli counter for sale to the final consumer).

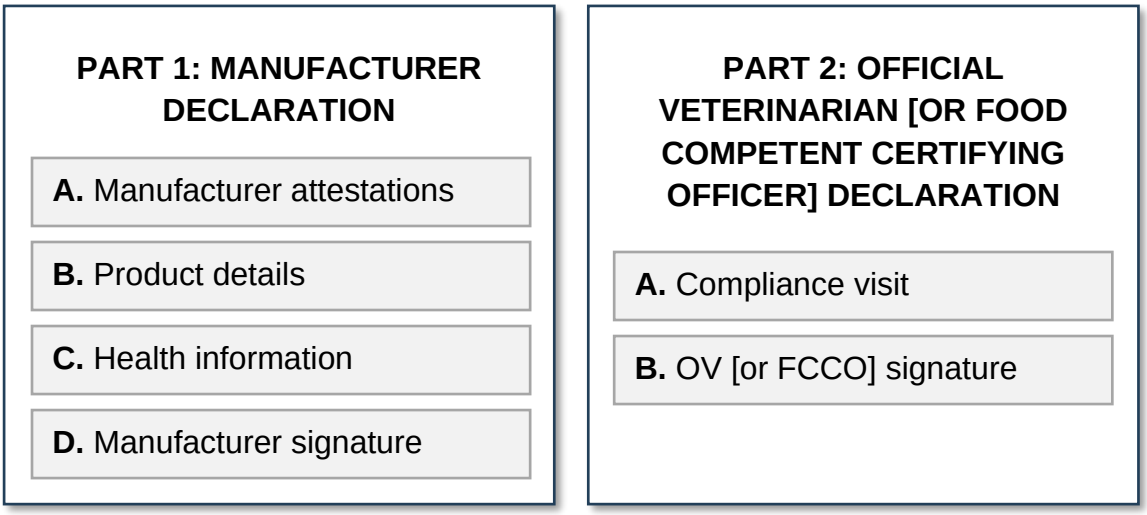
26. For products undergoing further processing (e.g., cheese undergoing maturation), the Support Attestation should be issued at the point at which they are packaged for sale to the final consumer, provided that the relevant health and traceability details (as required by the EHC) for any products supplied to the exporter in the six month period are suitably stable.

27. Where products are (re-)wrapped and/or (re-)packed and prepared for the final consumer in a different establishment to that in which they were manufactured, the Support Attestation should be issued at the wrapping/packing plant, provided that the relevant health and traceability details (as required by the EHC) for any products supplied to the exporter in the six month period are suitably stable.

28. The GEFS **cannot** be used for the export of bulk products for further processing.

How to use the GEFS

29. GEFS members may use time-limited Support Attestations to provide information from manufacturers, who are currently approved under GB legislation[6], to COs at the exporting premises. The structure of a Support Attestation is as follows:



30. Manufacturers must undergo an initial veterinary audit, followed by regular audits each time a new Support Attestation is required, known as compliance visits.

31. The Support Attestation can only be used to provide health and traceability information which is stable and known/verifiable by the OV conducting the compliance visit and issuing the Support Attestation.

32. The Support Attestation templates provided by Defra must be used and are based on the commodities covered and the Support Attestation's issuer as follows:

- SA1: Support Attestation for OVs, covering POAO goods support-attestation-gefs-sa1
- SA2: Support Attestation for OVs, covering ABP goods support-attestation-gefs-sa2
- SA3: Support Attestation for FCCOs, covering specific POAO goods support-attestation-gefs-sa3

33. A copy of the Support Attestations templates that must be used are contained in Annexes IV, V and VI.

[6] Regulation (EU) 853/2004; in the case of composites, registered in line with Regulation EC 852/2004; and in the case of pet food, registered in line with Regulation EC 1069/2009 (assimilated EU law as defined in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018).

34. The Support Attestation templates will be updated by Defra as and when needed to meet changes in the requirements of EHCs. Defra will communicate these changes to GEFS members, OVs and FCCOs.

35. For manufacturers with multiple production sites, it may be possible for one Support Attestation to be issued to cover all sites where the CO is satisfied that:

    - all production sites are operated by the same manufacturer;
    - the OV conducting the compliance visits is able to inspect and gather the required information for all sites; and
    - which product was produced at which site is clearly identified on the Batch Declaration.

36. A FCCO may conduct compliance visits and issue Support Attestations where the scheme is used to facilitate the export of products that can be certified by a FCCO[7]. The information in this section will still apply, and any instruction relating to the OV will apply to the FCCO.

37. Any products manufactured on the dates covered by the Support Attestation must be accompanied to the exporting premises by a Batch Declaration to confirm the batch-specific information required for certification.

Preparing the Support Attestation

38. The Support Attestation is prepared by the manufacturer and completed in reference to the products they intend to cover using the scheme.

39. A unique reference number (URN) must be assigned to each Support Attestation used. The URN must be assigned to the Support Attestation before it is issued by the OV. The format of the URN should be defined by the exporter.

> **Suggested format**:
> unique supplier number / sequential number / unique number for OV or FCCO signing / year (e.g., 15435/0000001/m159607/2019)

40. Where a manufacturer provides products to multiple exporters using the GEFS, they may either:

    - prepare separate Support Attestations specific to each exporter; or

[7] Fishery products (EHC8362), honey and other apiculture products (EHC8391), and in some situations, live fish, live crustaceans, products of animal origin from those animals and certain fishery products (EHC8361), live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates, marine gastropods and products from these animals (EHC8364) and composites (EHC8350).

- where the exporters agree to do so, use one Support Attestation for multiple exporters. The exporters may add an additional reference number to the document to align to their own internal information management systems, but they must keep a record of the URN issued at the manufacturing site.

41. Part 1 of the Support Attestation is known as the Manufacturer Declaration. It comprises of four sections, as follows:

A. Manufacturer attestations

42. The manufacturer's representative completing the Manufacturer Declaration must confirm their understanding of the scheme's requirements in relation to the use of Support Attestations.

B. Product details

43. All relevant establishments, including the manufacturer, exporting premises, cold stores and slaughterhouses, must be listed with their addresses and/or approval or registration numbers as directed by the Support Attestation template.

44. The products to be covered by the Support Attestation must be sufficiently identified using a product identifier such as a universal product code/bar code.

C. Health information

45. The Support Attestation can only be used to attest to the requirements of EHCs that can be verified at the time of the compliance visit.

46. Requirements that cannot be verified, that do not apply to the products (e.g., in the case of an either/or requirement) or that are not relevant to that commodity should be deleted by striking through the text where indicated.

47. The Support Attestation **cannot** be used to declare notifiable disease freedom statements in advance but can be used to provide relevant traceability information when the supply chain is known and stable. Identifying establishments or geographic regions from which products originate will assist the CO in obtaining the necessary disease clearance at the time of export.

48. The Support Attestation **cannot** include future batch-specific information which is not known or cannot be verified by the OV when the Support Attestation is issued. This information must instead be provided on the Batch Declaration that accompanies the products to the exporting premises for certification. See paras. 75-81 for further details.

D. Manufacturer signature

49. Part 1 must be fully completed and signed by an individual who has both sufficient knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production, transport, and storage processes and who has been authorised in writing by the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturer to sign on behalf of the manufacturer.

50. A template letter is included in Annex VII for manufacturers to provide this authorisation.

51. The manufacturer must discuss with the OV issuing the Support Attestation the earliest date on which Part 1 may be signed.

Compliance visit

52. The manufacturer must provide the OV with the Support Attestation, with Part 1 completed and signed, prior to or during the compliance visit required for the completion of Part 2.

53. Before signing Part 2 and issuing the Support Attestation, an OV with a Product Exports (PX) qualification must conduct a compliance visit.

54. The initial compliance visit must be conducted in person by the OV signing the Support Attestation.

55. After the initial compliance visit, an OV must conduct in-person visits every three months as a minimum. Intervening visits may be conducted virtually if the OV issuing the Support Attestation is able to satisfy the RCVS Code with regards to remote certification.

56. Compliance visits do not need to be conducted by the same OV each time. However, an OV must have conducted at least one in-person visit before conducting a virtual visit.

57. During the compliance visit, the OV will assess and record any requirements relating to the premises or processing that will be certified in the EHC.

58. Suitable forms of evidence which the OV may check during this assessment may include:

    - contractual agreements
    - invoices
    - HACCP plans/records
    - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- Traceability records

59. During a physical compliance visit, the OV must conduct a physical check of at least a representative sample of the products included to verify that:
    - their description matches that declared by the manufacturer;
    - they are fully packaged for the final consumer; and
    - any available identification marking on such products matches that declared in the Support Attestation.

60. During a virtual compliance visit, the OV may view photographs of or join a video call to view a representative sample of the products to verify the points listed in para. 59.

61. Suitable evidence that demonstrates that the visits took place must be retained by the OV and manufacturer for at least until the product can be reasonably assumed to have been consumed by the final consumer or 12 months, whichever is longer, for auditing purposes (e.g., entry logbook records, diary appointments).

Issuing the Support Attestation

62. To issue the Support Attestation, the OV must complete Part 2, known as the OV [or FCCO] Declaration. It comprises of two sections, as follows:

A. Compliance visit

63. The OV can only sign and issue the Support Attestation once all relevant evidence has been inspected and they are satisfied that the conditions of the scheme and the requirements of the relevant EHC that can be ascertained at the time of the compliance visit have been met.

64. Copies of evidence used to support the issue of the Support Attestation (electronic or hard copies) and, if used, any checklists completed must be kept for auditing purposes by the OV in line with other relevant retention policies and made available on request to COs responsible for certifying export consignments (e.g., through an electronic portal).

65. The date of issue is the date on which the OV is content that the requirements have been fully met.

66. If, in their professional judgment, the OV is not satisfied that the requirements of the scheme and relevant EHC have been met, they **must not** issue the Support Attestation.

B. OV signature

67. The Support Attestation is an official document, and as such the OV must sign Part 2 in their official capacity as an Official Veterinarian, using their stamp.

Duration of the Support Attestation

68. The Support Attestation is time limited to 30 calendar days.

69. The 30-day duration begins on the day the Support Attestation is signed and covers products produced in the period up to and including the expiry date.

70. For continuity of coverage by the scheme, the manufacturer should ensure that another compliance visit takes place immediately and another Support Attestation is issued on the expiration of the previous Support Attestation's 30-day period.

71. For example, if the Support Attestation was signed on 1 April, it would cover all products produced from that date until 30 April, and then another compliance visit and Support Attestation would be required on 1 May to ensure continuity of coverage.

72. Where public holidays or staff absence mean that the next compliance visit and Support Attestation cannot be arranged immediately after 30 days, the manufacturer should:

    - export products without use of the scheme for the duration not covered by a Support Attestation, until the compliance visit and new Support Attestation can be arranged; or

    - schedule the compliance visit and Support Attestation to take place before the expiry of the previous Support Attestation. This would end the previous Support Attestation and begin the new Support Attestation's 30-day period.

73. During the 30-day period covered by a Support Attestation, the manufacturer must immediately inform the exporter, the OV who signed the Support Attestation and, if the product has already been moved to the exporting premises, the veterinary practice, agency or company responsible for certifying the goods of any changes that affect the validity of the Support Attestation. In order for this to happen the manufacturer must have a clear process in place (included within their Standard Operating Procedures) to ensure that such notification takes place without delay.

74. Where a Support Attestation requires amending during the 30-days covered (e.g., to correct an error), the OV who signed the Support Attestation must:

    - strike through the incorrect information;

    - insert the correct information; and

- endorse the correction by adding their initials and stamp as close to the correction as possible without obscuring any text.

Batch Declaration and movement of products

75. Each and every delivery of products moved to the exporting premises during the 30-days covered by the Support Attestation must be accompanied by or electronically linked to:

    - the relevant Support Attestation; and
    - a commercial document known as a Batch Declaration.

76. The Support Attestation must cover the date on which the products were produced but may not necessarily cover the date on which they are moved to the exporting premises or exported.

77. The Batch Declaration must include the following information, specific to that consignment of products:

    - the unique reference number (URN) of the Support Attestation covering the products
    - approval numbers of establishments
    - batch/lot numbers
    - description of the products, including product identifiers
    - gross weight
    - net weight
    - production/pack date

78. The Batch Declaration may include other relevant information as agreed between the exporter, manufacturer and OV issuing the SA.

79. The Batch Declaration must also include the following statement:

    > “The evidence required to facilitate export of the products in this consignment has been provided in Support Attestation *[insert URN of relevant Support Attestation]*. No changes have been made that affect the validity of the information provided in this Support Attestation, and the provisions of Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004 have been applied continuously.”

80. The Batch Declaration must be signed on the day the products are moved from the manufacturer to the exporting premises by an individual who has both

sufficient knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production, transport, and storage processes and who has been authorised in writing by the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturer.

81. A template letter is included in Annex VII for manufacturers to provide this authorisation.

Certification

82. An original version of the Support Attestation must be supplied to the CO at the exporting premises. This must either be supplied:

    - electronically, directly from the OV signing it in such a way that document tampering by a third party is not possible; or
    - as a paper copy, in which case this must be the original signed document (signed in a colour other than black) and must be ‘fan stamped’ by the OV to guard against tampering.

83. Use of the scheme does not remove or change the requirement for each consignment of products exported to be accompanied by its own EHC.

84. In determining whether to issue the EHC, the CO will review a range of evidence as required by the EHC and accompanying notes for guidance, including the Support Attestation and Batch Declaration among others.

85. EHCs are consignment-specific documents, meaning that consignment-specific details must be provided to the CO in addition to the Support Attestation (e.g., via commercial systems which are accessible by the CO).

86. COs should undertake sufficient checks to ensure the accuracy and validity of the Support Attestations provided under the GEFS. These checks may include, but are not limited to:

    - physical checks of the products
    - physical inspection of the manufacturing site/processing
    - random and risk-based spot checks to verify the authenticity of the information provided.

87. Where evidence suggests that a supplier of POAO or ABP to the manufacturer presents an increased risk, inspections of the exported products must be more frequent. Examples of increased risk may include:

    - evidence of minor inaccuracies within the attestations

- supply of products considered to pose an increased risk to public or animal health

88. Where the CO identifies minor irregularities or non-compliance within a Support Attestation, they must report this to the exporter and OV or FCCO who issued the relevant Support Attestation. The inaccurate attestations **must not** be accepted until they have been corrected.

89. An example of a minor irregularity or non-compliance is a minor documentary error, such as a transposition error.

90. Where the CO identifies major irregularities or non-compliance or repeated minor irregularities or non-compliance within a Support Attestation, they must report this to APHA at GEFSteam@apha.gov.uk.

91. Examples of major irregularities or non-compliance may include:

- evidence of deliberate deception or falsification of supporting documentation
- the manufacturer's failure to immediately inform the CO's veterinary practice, agency or company of any changes that affect the validity of a Support Attestation

92. Where there is evidence of major irregularities or repeated minor irregularities within Support Attestations, Support Attestations from that manufacturer **must no longer** be accepted as reliable evidence by the CO for the issuance of EHCs. Future Support Attestations provided by that manufacturer may only be accepted for certification purposes where the CO is fully satisfied that they are accurate. This may involve conducting physical inspection of the manufacturer's premises or obtaining relevant traceability information specific to that consignment by another OV or FCCO.

93. If, in their professional judgment, the CO is not satisfied that the requirements of the scheme and relevant EHC have been met, they **must not** issue the EHC.

94. The Support Attestation does not need to accompany the EHC or consignment when it is exported.

Membership of the GEFS

95. The GEFS is a membership-based scheme and exporters must apply to APHA and receive approval before using it to facilitate their exports.

Who can join the scheme?

96. Membership of the GEFS is open to exporters who meet the following criteria:

- are based in Great Britain
- are listed as the exporter on the EHCs of their products
- keep a documented list of manufacturers from whom they source all products they intended to export under the GEFS

97. Membership covers only the exports of the legal entity listed. Subsidiaries and other affiliated but separate companies must apply for their own GEFS membership.

98. Manufacturers who only supply products to other exporters cannot join the GEFS. If they wish to use Support Attestations, they must advise their exporters to join the scheme.

99. Third-party companies that act on behalf of the exporter to manage the logistics of exporting products (e.g., agents, hauliers) are not eligible to join the GEFS. The exporter as listed on the EHC must be a member of the scheme.

Joining the scheme

100. To join the GEFS, exporters must fully complete the application form available on GOV.UK and email it to GEFSteam@apha.gov.uk.

101. As part of their application, exporters must submit their list of manufacturers on the template provided, which must include:

- the registered address and approval/registration number for each manufacturer
- the address from which the products are procured or delivered (if different from the registered address)
- sufficient detail of the products supplied by each manufacturer
- the date since which each manufacturer has been providing the products to the exporter

- confirmation that products are fully packaged for the final consumer by the manufacturer

102. The exporter must ensure the list of manufacturers as held by APHA is up-to-date at all times and must contact APHA whenever manufacturers need to be added or removed.

103. All approved members are listed on the GEFS members list (ET200).

Ongoing monitoring through the auditing process

104. All members are subject to an audit process, which ensures they are complying with the scheme's terms and conditions as laid out in this guidance. The audit process is a data-driven, intelligence-led process, focused on documentary evidence from members, and may occur at any time without warning.

105. All new members to the scheme will receive an audit within the first 6 months of joining.

106. Routine audits are performed at a rate of one per month per every 24 members (rounded down). Members will be selected for audit at random from the list of eligible members.

107. Members will never go more than two years without an audit.

108. During an audit, up to 10 EHCs requested by the member under the GEFS from the preceding three months as recorded on EHCO will be selected for review. The member will be asked to provide evidence demonstrating that they have met the requirements of the scheme for those EHCs within 10 working days. The evidence required will include, but is not limited to:

- the EHCs
- the Support Attestations used to issue the EHCs
- evidence of the compliance visits conducted before issue of the Support Attestations
- the Batch Declarations for the products exported

109. An audit will also include confirmation that the supplier list held by APHA is still correct.

110. An audit may have one of two outcomes:

- Pass: The evidence provided demonstrates compliance with the scheme and the member is not audited again for at least twelve months (unless suspected non-compliance is reported).

- Further Investigation Needed**:** There is evidence of potential non-compliance and further information or documentation is required. See paras. 121-129 further details.

111. Failure to respond to an audit request or to provide requested information and/or documentation without reasonable cause will result in immediate expulsion from the scheme.

112. Members must share the outcomes of their audits with their COs, manufacturers and OVs issuing Support Attestations.

113. Where appropriate, recommendations will be made from audit findings to improve the scheme and this guidance. A record of audit findings and outcomes will be shared in a yearly summary of the scheme with the Animal Disease Policy Group[8].

114. The issuance of Support Attestations and EHCs by OVs will be audited by the APHA Quality Assurance team as part of their standard quality assurance measures for OV activities.

Removal from the scheme

115. APHA reserves the right to remove an exporter's approval to operate under this scheme on the following grounds:

Lapse of membership

116. An exporter's membership of the GEFS will be deemed to have "lapsed" if they no longer make use of the scheme.

117. If the member does not request any EHCs using the GEFS for five months, they will be contacted via email to confirm whether their membership is still required.

118. If the member confirms their intention to make imminent use of the scheme (i.e., within the following two months), they will retain their membership.

119. Their membership of the GEFS will be removed if the member:

- does not respond and does not request any EHCs using the scheme within the following 30 days;

[8] The Animal Disease Policy Group (ADPG) in the UK provides strategic recommendations and policy advice on animal disease control. This group, which includes representation from Defra, Devolved Governments, Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), plays a crucial role in advising government ministers.

- receives the two-month extension but does not request any EHCs under the scheme in that time; or
- responds to confirm their membership is no longer required.

120. If a lapsed member wishes to rejoin the scheme, they may do so by completing the standard application.

Expulsion for non-compliance

121. A member may be expelled from the scheme where there is evidence of significant and/or repeated breaches of the scheme's requirements. This evidence may be discovered during an audit, ongoing conversations with the exporter, manufacturer, OV or CO, or as a result of whistleblowing.

122. Where non-compliance is suspected, the member will be informed by email and subject to an investigation by APHA. During this time, the member may continue to make use of the scheme.

123. An investigation may include, but is not limited to:

- requests for further information and/or documentation
- interviews with the exporter, manufacturer, certifier and/or other relevant parties
- physical examination of premises

124. Failure to respond to an investigation or to provide requested information and/or documentation without reasonable cause will result in immediate expulsion from the scheme.

125. If non-compliance is discovered, its severity will be assessed by considering:

- the number of times it has occurred
- the extent of non-compliance
- the risk posed, and any potential or actual harm
- any evidence of deliberate action, dishonesty or neglect

126. An investigation may have one of three outcomes:

- Satisfactory: There is no evidence of non-compliance. The member retains their membership of the scheme and is not audited again for at least twelve months (unless suspected non-compliance is reported).

- Improvement required**:** There is evidence of minor non-compliance. The member is issued an improvement notice outlining the necessary improvements required to retain membership of the scheme and must provide evidence of appropriate remedial action; the member is then subject to an audit within 6 months to confirm these improvements have been made.

- Unsatisfactory**:** There is evidence of a severe and/or repeated non-compliance; failure to improve after receiving an improvement notice; or failure to meet investigation requests without reasonable cause, and the member is expelled from the scheme with immediate effect.

127. Members must share the outcome of their investigation with their COs, manufacturers and OVs issuing Support Attestations.

128. Where a member is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation, they may appeal in writing to GEFSteam@apha.gov.uk within 14 days of receiving the investigation outcome. The member must set out the grounds for appeal and whether they are appealing against:

    - procedural errors; and/or

    - the decision, including any new information/evidence that has been raised that may change the outcome of the original decision.

    Appeals are assessed by someone senior to the person who conducted the investigation (the “appeal manager”). The appeal manager may, on consideration of the evidence, uphold the original investigation outcome or issue a different outcome. The appeal manager’s decision is final.

129. An expelled member may apply to rejoin the scheme at APHA’s discretion after three months, on the basis of providing evidence to APHA of remedial action taken to guarantee compliance with the scheme’s conditions. Their application will be subject to enhanced scrutiny and the member will receive more frequent audits in their first 18 months of membership.

Summary of roles and responsibilities

130. The requirements of the GEFS can only be met if all parties understand their role in the process and how they must work together with others involved. The guidance below summarises the responsibilities of each party.

131. Failure to meet responsibilities may be identified during an audit, ongoing conversations with the exporter, manufacturer, OV or CO, or as a result of whistleblowing.

The exporter (GEFS member)

132. The exporter must apply and receive membership of the GEFS from APHA before using its provisions.

133. The exporter must maintain accurate records of their manufacturers using Support Attestations, including:

- the registered address and approval/registration number for each manufacturer
- the address from which the products are procured or delivered (if different from the registered address)
- sufficient details of the products from each manufacturer
- the date since which each manufacturer has been providing the products to the exporter
- confirmation that products are fully packaged for the final consumer by the manufacturer

134. The exporter must inform APHA of any changes to their manufacturer list as soon as possible, including the addition or removal of manufacturers operating under the scheme.

135. The exporter must ensure that their manufacturer list is available on request by the CO and APHA.

136. The exporter must ensure their manufacturers understand the terms of the GEFS and must be satisfied that they have relevant SOPs in place to ensure compliance with the scheme's requirements.

137. Where products have already been moved to the exporting premises for certification, the exporter must contact the veterinary practice, agency or company responsible for certifying the goods immediately if they are notified by a

manufacturer that there is a change affecting the validity of their Support Attestation.

138. The exporter must accurately record on EHCO any EHCs requested using the GEFS by ticking the checkbox in answer to the question “'Will this consignment be part of the Groupage Exports Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)?” in the “Information needed by APHA” section under the heading "Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme". Where a batch of EHCs are requested which will include exports under the GEFS and outside the GEFS, the checkbox should still be ticked.

139. The exporter must respond to all communications by APHA where requested, including audit requests, by the deadline stated.

140. The exporter must share the outcome of any audit or investigation with their COs, manufacturers and OVs issuing Support Attestations.

141. **Failure to meet these responsibilities** may result in expulsion from the scheme. See paras. 121-129 for further details.

The manufacturer

142. Before issuing a Support Attestation, the manufacturer must discuss and agree with the OV what evidence must be provided to satisfy them that the requirements of the Support Attestation and relevant EHCs are met.

143. The manufacturer must arrange and facilitate access by the OV to the manufacturer’s establishments, relevant records, and inspection locations, for the purposes of conducting compliance visits and maintain records of the visits taking place.

144. The manufacturer must ensure that the Manufacturer Declaration of the Support Attestation (Part 1) is signed on their behalf by an individual with sufficient knowledge on the establishments and processes and with the responsibility and authority (obtained in writing from the Managing Director or equivalent) to sign on behalf of the manufacturer.

145. The manufacturer must discuss in advance with the CO what batch-specific information must be captured in the Batch Declaration (with reference to the relevant EHCs).

146. The manufacturer must send a Batch Declaration with each and every delivery of products moved to the exporting premises during the duration of validity of the Support Attestation, signed by an individual who has both sufficient knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production, transport, and storage processes and who has been authorised in writing by the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturer.

147. The manufacturer must immediately inform the exporter, the OV who signed the Support Attestation and, if the product has already been moved to the exporting premises for certification, the veterinary practice, agency or company responsible for certifying the goods of any changes which affect the validity of the declarations provided in the Support Attestation.

148. The manufacturer must allow the CO to enter the manufacturing premises when they deem it necessary to check the accuracy or validity of the Support Attestation before issuing the EHC.

149. **Failure to meet these responsibilities** may result in one or more of the following:

- The CO no longer accepting Support Attestations from the manufacturer for the purposes of certification, and the manufacturer no longer being able to benefit from the GEFS provisions.
- The exporter being expelled from the scheme for non-compliance.
- Prosecution for fraud, where it is appropriate.

The OV issuing the Support Attestation

150. The OV must conduct a compliance visit to the manufacturer before issuing the Support Attestation. This visit must ensure that all requirements outlined in Part 2 of the Support Attestation are met.

151. The OV must conduct a compliance visit in person at least once every three months. Intervening visits may be conducted virtually if the OV issuing the Support Attestation has conducted at least one in-person visit and is able to satisfy the RCVS Code with regards to remote certification.

152. The OV must only issue the Support Attestation if they are satisfied that the conditions of the scheme and the requirements of the relevant EHC that can be ascertained at the time of the compliance visit have been met. Where appropriate, they may alert the relevant competent authority to instances of serious non-compliance with public health requirements.

153. The OV must check the GEFS members list (ET200) to ensure the exporter, as listed on the Support Attestation, is a current member of the scheme before issuing the Support Attestation.

154. If the OV is informed by the manufacturer of any changes affecting the validity of the declarations provided in the Support Attestation and the products have already been moved to the exporting premises for certification, they must immediately inform the veterinary practice, agency or company responsible for certifying the goods of these changes.

155. **Failure to meet these responsibilities** may result in one or more of the following:

    - The member being expelled from the scheme for non-compliance.
    - Investigation by the APHA Quality Assurance team as part of their oversight of OV activities.

The CO issuing the EHC

156. The CO must ensure that the exporter, as listed on the EHC, is listed on the GEFS members list (ET200) before accepting the Support Attestation as evidence for certification.

157. The CO must check that the EHC has been requested using the GEFS on EHCO by the exporter and provide feedback to the exporter as necessary. Accidental errors should not impact on the use of Support Attestations for export, but repeated failures to record the use of the GEFS on EHCO may be viewed as non-compliance with the scheme's requirements and should be reported to APHA at GEFSteam@apha.gov.uk.

158. In all cases, the CO must conduct a documentary check for each consignment covered by the EHC. This includes use of:

    - Support Attestations
    - Batch Declaration
    - personal knowledge of the consignment where appropriate
    - other commercial documents as appropriate

159. The CO must retain evidence for each manufacturer to support the GEFS audit process in line with APHA guidance on the retention of documents used to certify consignments for export.

160. Where the CO identifies minor irregularities or non-compliance within a Support Attestation, they must report this to the exporter and OV who issued the relevant Support Attestation. See paras. 88-89 for further details.

161. Where the CO identifies major irregularities or non-compliance within a Support Attestation, they must report this to APHA at GEFSteam@apha.gov.uk. See paras 90-91 for more details.

162. Where there is evidence of major irregularities or repeated minor irregularities within an attestation, the CO must no longer accept Support Attestations from the manufacturer as reliable evidence for the issuance of an EHC. See para 92 for further details.

163. **Failure to meet these responsibilities** may result in one or more of the following:

- The member being expelled from the scheme for non-compliance.
- Investigation by the APHA Quality Assurance team as part of their oversight of OV activities.

Conflicts of Interest

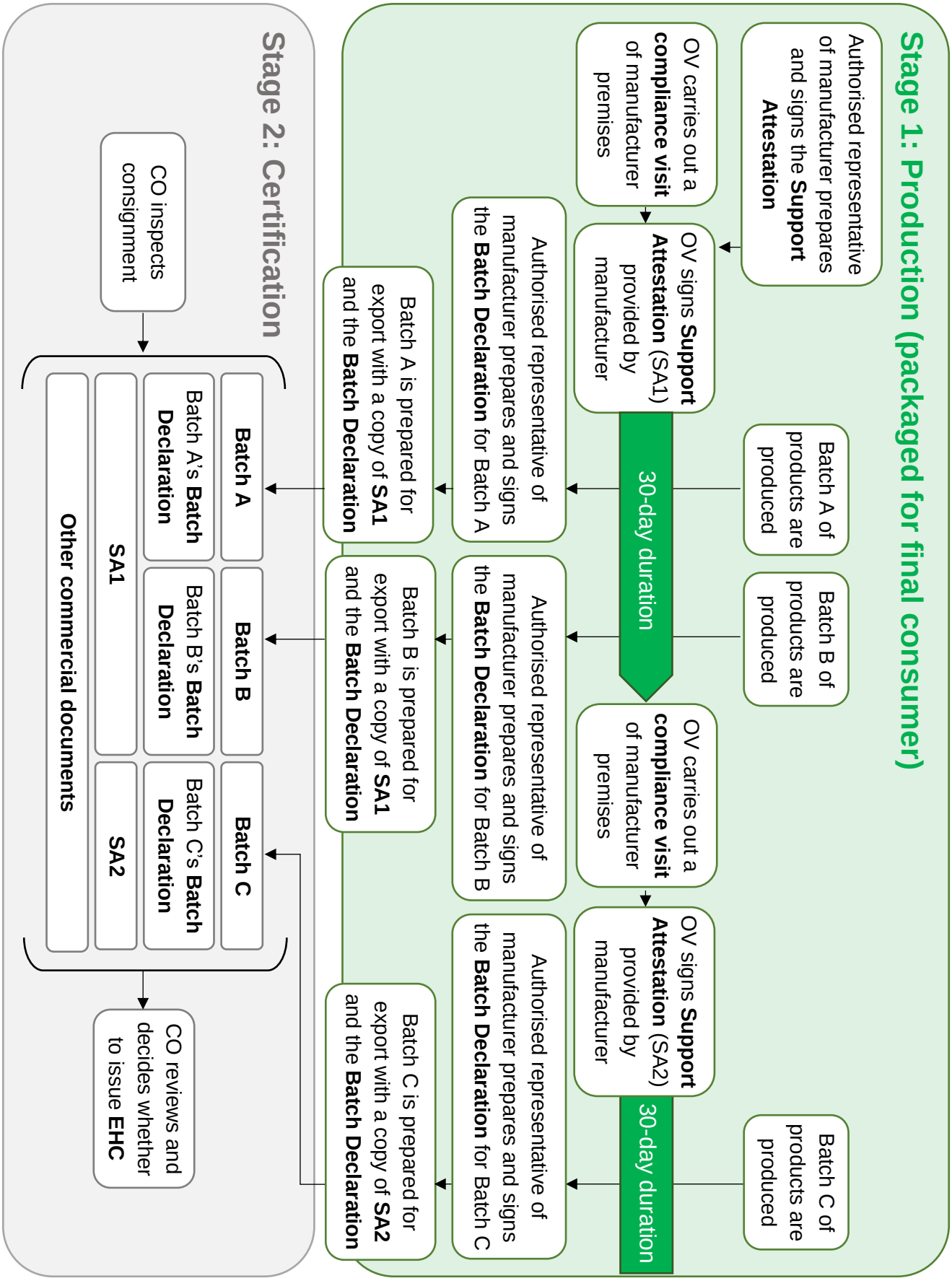
164. This guidance does not define or prescribe any contractual arrangements between OVs, exporters or manufacturers. However, reference should be made to the relevant competent authority guidance and professional codes of conduct that define conflicts of interest, to ensure that attestations remain impartial.

165. OVs must consider and abide by the principles contained in the RCVS principles of certification relating to conflict of interest including that:

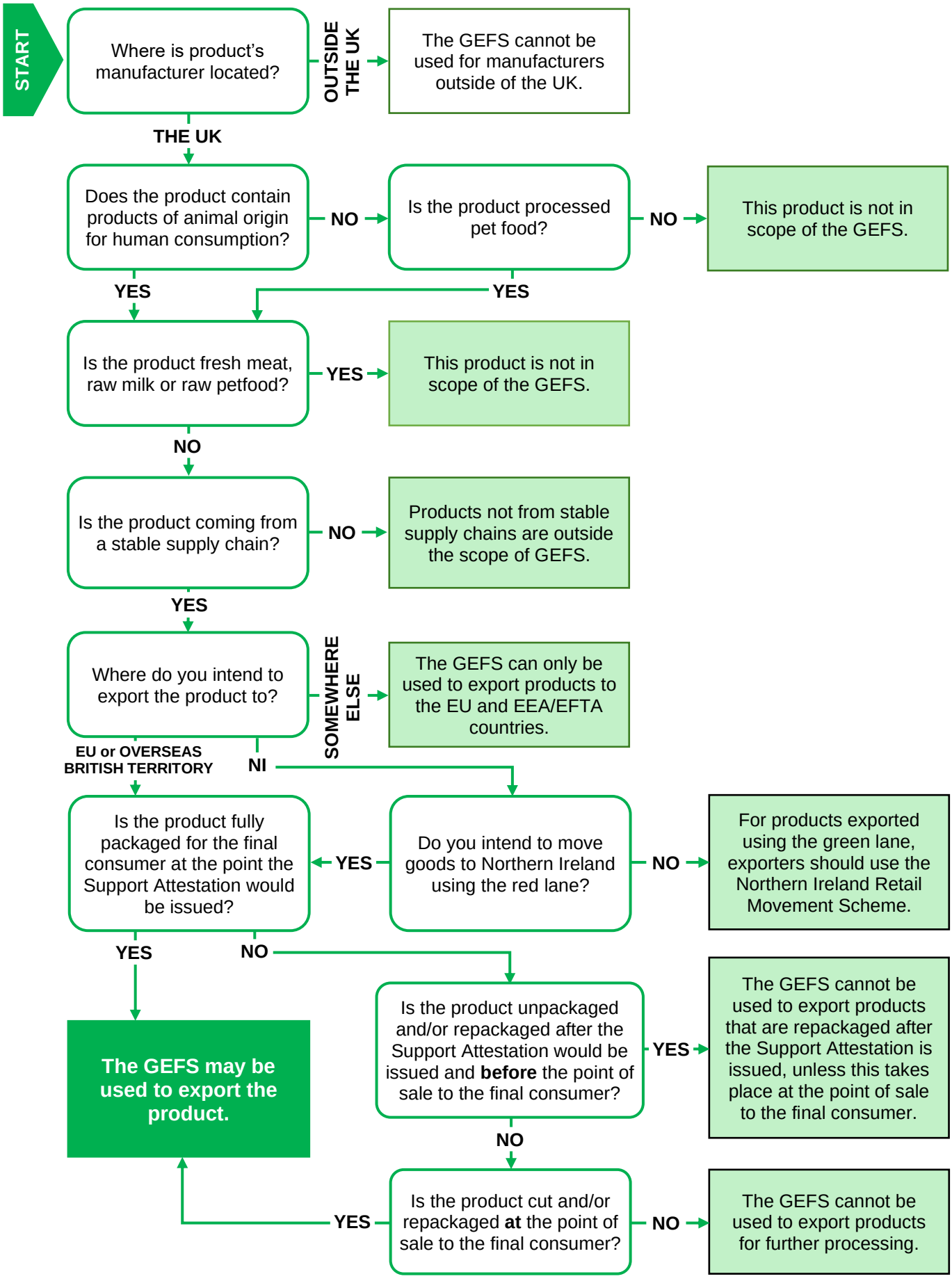
- they must not allow commercial, financial, or other pressures to compromise their impartiality; and
- they must not certify where they own, or part own either a business producing a commodity for export or the commodity to be exported or are a salaried employee of the business.

166. FCCOs should be aware of their obligations under the WOAH relating to conflict of interest.

Annex I: Diagram of example GEFS operation



Annex II: Decision tree for using GEFS



Annex III: EHCs covered by the GEFS

EHC8305 Processed pet food other than canned pet food to, or transit through, the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8324 Canned pet food to, or transit through, the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8325 Dog chews to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8350 Composite food products intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland post 21 April 2021

EHC8358 Colostrum based products of cows, ewes, goats, buffaloes and dromadaries for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8359 Eggs for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8360 Egg products to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8361 Live fish, crustaceans, certain fishery products (i.e. Cephalopods) and products from these animals intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate

EHC8362 Fishery products caught by vessels flying the flag of an EU member state or Northern Ireland and transferred in third countries with or without storage

EHC8364 Live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates, marine gastropods and products from these animals intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate

EHC8382 Mechanically separated porcine meat to the European Union and Northern Ireland post 21 April 2021

EHC8383 Meat preparations intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8384 Meat products intended for human consumption, including rendered animal fats and greaves, meat extracts and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines (other than casings), that are not required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8385 Meat products intended for human consumption, including rendered animal fats and greaves, meat extracts and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines (other than casings), required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8390 Gelatine intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8391 Honey and other apiculture products intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8392 Other products of animal origin derived from domestic ungulates, poultry, rabbits or fishery products intended for human consumption not covered by articles 8 to 26 of commission implementing regulation (EU) 2020/2235 to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8393 Animal casings intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8394 Chilled, frozen or prepared frogs' legs intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8395 Snails intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8399 Highly refined chondroitin sulphate, hyaluronic acid, other hydrolysed cartilage products, chitosan, glucosamine, rennet, isinglass and amino acids intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8400 Insects intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8467 Dairy products intended for human consumption made from raw milk or that are not required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment to the European Union and Northern Ireland

EHC8468 Dairy products intended for human consumption that are required to undergo a pasteurisation treatment to the European Union and Northern Ireland

Annex IV: Support Attestation for POAO (SA1)

GROUPAGE EXPORT FACILITATION SCHEME SUPPORT ATTESTATION (SA1)

IMPORTANT NOTE: This Support Attestation is not an Export Health Certificate. It is to be used solely to support EU export certification of specific product categories in groupage consignments to the EU and EEA/EFTA countries in accordance with GEFS guidance issued by Defra.

Manufacturer:
Support Attestation Unique Reference Number:

PART I: MANUFACTURER DECLARATION

A. Manufacturer's attestations

I …….. *(full name)*, being …….. …….. (*official position in the company*) of …….. …….. (*name and address of manufacturer*), have authority and responsibility to sign this declaration on behalf of this manufacturer and hereby declare that:

1. the details in Parts B and C below include a complete list of the products of animal origin contained within the products to which this Support Attestation relates.

2. the information within this Support Attestation is correct and that no changes will be made to affect its validity prior to its date of expiry.

3. I will ensure that the Official Veterinarian signing this Support Attestation and the exporter(s) listed in Part B are immediately informed if any changes are made that affect the validity of this document and/or if I leave the employment of the manufacturer detailed above. I understand that in such cases this Support Attestation will immediately become null and void.

4. I understand that supplying false or misleading declarations, which the exporter will rely on for the satisfaction of relevant Export Health Certificate requirements, is an offence and may result in rejection of the exported product and immediate removal of the exporter from the GEFS as well as potential liability for costs incurred.

5. I will ensure that each delivery of products sent to the exporting premises under this Support Attestation is accompanied by a Batch Declaration, signed by an authorised representative of the manufacturer.

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

B. Product details

1. Origin(s) of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for the establishment(s) from which the products will be dispatched.

Establishment type (e.g., manufacturer, cold store)	**Address**	**Approval / Registration Number**

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

2. Destination(s) of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for the establishment(s) to which the products will be dispatched.

Exporter:
Exporter's reference number *(optional)*

Establishment type (e.g., consolidation hub, exporting depot)	**Address**	**Approval / Registration Number** (if available)

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.
In the case of multiple exporters, repeat the table above for each exporter

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

3. Other relevant establishments

Please provide the following details for all relevant establishments in the supply chain.

POAO raw ingredient (e.g., dairy, honey)	**Establishment type** (e.g., farm, slaughterhouse)	**Approval / Registration Number** (if available)

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

4. Description of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for each product to be exported using the GEFS.

Name / Description	Unique identifier[1]	Commodity type[2]	Unit weight

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

[1] A point of data that can be used to identify this product, such as the universal product code.

[2] Select from: meat product, meat preparation, dairy product, honey, composite product, fishery product, gelatine, egg product
Where “composite product” is selected, state any of the following ingredients if used: meat, dairy product, honey, fishery product, gelatine, egg product (e.g., “*composite product – meat, honey*”)

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

C. Health information

I, the undersigned, declare that I am aware of the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625, and hereby confirm that products described in Part B were produced in accordance with these requirements, and in particular that:

1. The products comply with the public health legislation applicable to exports of food to the EU or intra-EU trade. They are produced in an establishment implementing a HACCP programme, any non-conformances have been addressed, and the HACCP plan and records of controls are available for inspection.

2. The products comply with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Regulation (EU) No 2019/627, Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and, where relevant, have been caught, harvested, landed, handled, packed, processed, stored and wrapped in accordance with EU law.

3. The products (excluding any composite products) meet the microbiological standards required by Regulation (EC) 2073/2005.

4. All ingredients of animal origin were produced in Great Britain, the EU or a third country approved for export of that product to the EU.

5. There is a system in place to ensure that any ingredients of animal origin imported from the EU or a third country were legally imported through a Border Control Post.

*[**COMPOSITE PRODUCTS**

6. The products listed on this Support Attestation are classified as ‘composite food products’ in EU law according to their ingredients and degree of processing as defined in Article 2 of Commission Delegation Regulation (EU) 2019/625.

7. *[If the composite products contain meat or meat products, the products have been processed and received treatment ‘D’ as defined by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.]

8. *[If the composite products contain meat or meat products, the products have been processed and received nonspecific treatment ‘A’.]

9. *[If the composite products contain beef or lamb meat, any beef or lamb used at the manufacturing site is derived from animals in, and produced in, a region(s) with ‘negligible’ or ‘controlled’ BSE risk and not derived from mechanically separated meat from bones of cattle or sheep, nor does it contain any specified risk materials as defined in Regulation (EC) 999/2001.]

10. *[If the composite products contain dairy, the raw milk used in any of the processed dairy products has at any stage of the production process been subjected to at least a pasteurisation treatment of 72°C for 15 seconds, sufficient to ensure a negative reaction to an alkaline phosphatase test applied immediately after the heat treatment.]

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

11. *[If the composite products contain egg, if relevant, the egg products have been subject to one or more (if multiple products or ingredients) of the risk mitigation treatments for highly pathogenic avian influenza, as specified below:

EITHER *[liquid egg white treated with 55.6°C for 870 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 56.7°C for 232 seconds;]

AND/OR *[10% salted yolk treated with 62.2°C for 138 seconds;]

AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 67°C for 20 hours;]

AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 54.4°C for 50.4 hours;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 60°C for 188 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs completely cooked;]

AND/OR *[whole egg blends treated with 60°C for 188 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole egg blends treated with 61.1°C for 94 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole egg blends completely cooked.]]

12. *[If the composite products contain egg, if relevant, the egg products have been subject to one or more (if multiple products or ingredients) of the risk mitigation treatments for Newcastle disease, as specified below:

EITHER *[liquid egg white treated with 55°C for 2278 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 57°C for 986 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 59°C for 301 seconds;]

AND/OR *[10% salted yolk treated with 55°C for 176 seconds;]

AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 57°C for 50.4 hours;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 55°C for 2521 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 57°C for 1596 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 59°C for 674 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs completely cooked.]]

13. *[If the composite product contains gelatine or collagen, any gelatine or collagen used at the manufacturing site is derived from ruminant bones from an animal in, and produced in, a region(s) with ‘negligible’ or ‘controlled’ BSE risk, and not derived from mechanically separated meat from bones of cattle or sheep, nor does it contain any specified risk materials as defined in Regulation (EC) 999/2001.]]

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

*[**DAIRY PRODUCTS:**

14. The dairy products were subjected to at least a pasteurisation treatment of 72°C for 15 seconds, sufficient to ensure a negative reaction to an alkaline phosphatase test applied immediately after the heat treatment. Pasteurisation records are available for inspection by the OV signing the eventual Export Health Certificate.

15. The milk is regularly tested for somatic cell count, bacterial contamination and antibiotic residues in accordance with EU legislation. Only milk, which passes these tests, is included in the products to be exported.

16. The farms of origin are subject to regular veterinary inspection.

17. The raw milk has been obtained from:

EITHER *[animals have remained in Great Britain, since birth or at least 3 months prior to milking;]

AND/OR *[animals introduced into Great Britain from:

EITHER *[an approved third country as listed in Annex XVII Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404;]

AND/OR *[an EU member state.]]]

***[EGG PRODUCTS**

18. The eggs were produced on holdings which are subject to a Salmonella control programme. In the event of a flock testing positive, then the eggs were excluded from sale.

19. The farms of origin receive regular veterinary inspections and undertake to ensure that only eggs from healthy birds are collected.

20. *[If relevant, the egg products have been subject to one or more (if multiple products or ingredients) of the risk mitigation treatments for highly pathogenic avian influenza specified below:

EITHER *[liquid egg white treated with 55.6°C for 870 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 56.7°C for 232 seconds;]

AND/OR *[10% salted yolk treated with 62.2°C for 138 seconds;]

AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 67°C for 20 hours;]

AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 54.4°C for 50.4 hours;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 60°C for 188 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs completely cooked;]

AND/OR *[whole egg blends treated with 60°C for 188 seconds;]

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

AND/OR *[whole egg blends treated with 61.1°C for 94 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole egg blends completely cooked.]]

21. *[If relevant, the egg products have been subject to one or more (if multiple products or ingredients) of the risk mitigation treatments for Newcastle disease specified below:

EITHER *[liquid egg white treated with 55°C for 2278 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 57°C for 986 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 59°C for 301 seconds;]

AND/OR *[10% salted yolk treated with 55°C for 176 seconds;]

AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 57°C for 50.4 hours;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 55°C for 2521 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 57°C for 1596 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 59°C for 674 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs completely cooked.]]

***[FISHERY PRODUCTS**

22. The fishery products bear an oval identification health mark.

23. Any aquatic animals are not alive.

24. The fishery products are packed for direct human consumption and are not intended for further processing.

25. *[If the fishery products contain crustaceans, the fishery products have not been stored in holds, tanks or containers used for other purposes than the production/storage of fishery products.]

26. *[In the case of scallops or marine gastropods that are not filter feeders and harvested outside classified production areas, the results of 'own checks' compliant with FSA/FSS standards are satisfactory.]

27. *[In the case of shellfish from classified production areas, the production areas were classified under Regulation (EU) 2019/627 as *[A] *[B] and/or *[C] at the moment of harvesting.]]

***[GELATINE**

28. *[In the case of gelatine of ruminant origin, it was derived from hides and/or skins.]

29. *[In the case of gelatine of ruminant origin, it was derived from bones and does not contain any specified risk materials as defined in EU Regulation (EC) 999/2001.]]

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

*****[**HONEY**

30. The honey fulfils the guarantees covering live animals and products thereof provided by the control plan submitted in accordance with Article 6(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 and the third country or region thereof of its/their origin is listed in Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 with an entry 'X' for honey.

31. The honey has undergone *[ultrasonication] *[homogenization] *[ultrafiltration] *[pasteurisation] and/or *[no thermal treatment].]

*[**MEAT PRODUCTS:**

32. ***EITHER*** *[The meat products are derived from a single species only.]

AND/OR *[Products with mixes of meat from different species were processed after the meat was mixed.]

AND/OR *[Products include mixes of meat which were processed before the meat was mixed.]

33. *[If the products contain beef or lamb meat, any beef or lamb was derived from animals in, and produced in, a region(s) with 'negligible' or 'controlled' BSE risk and was not derived from mechanically separated meat from bones of cattle or sheep, nor does it contain any specified risk materials as defined in Regulation (EC) 999/2001.]

34. The meat was obtained and prepared without contact with other meats not eligible for export to the EU.

35. ***EITHER*** *[The meat products have been processed by nonspecific treatment 'A' to the extent that the cut surface no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.]

AND/OR *[The meat products have received a minimum temperature treatment of 'D' which was reached throughout the meat.]]

* delete as necessary and, where multiple options are selected, provide further details in the Batch Declaration

D. Signature

This declaration can only be signed by an individual who has both sufficient knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production, transport, and storage processes and who has been authorised in writing by the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturer to sign on behalf of the manufacturer.

Authorised by

Name:	**Signature:**
Position:	
Date:	

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

PART II: OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN DECLARATION
A. Compliance visit

Date of issue:
Date of expiry (30 days from date above):

I, the undersigned Official Veterinarian, hereby declare that:

1. ***EITHER*** *[I conducted an in-person compliance visit of the manufacturing premise(s) mentioned in I.B.1. above on …….. (*insert date*).]

OR *[I conducted a virtual compliance visit of the manufacturing premise(s) mentioned in I.B.1. above on …….. (*insert date*) and confirm that the most recent in-person compliance visit took place on …… (*insert date)*.]

2. There have been no additions, removals or alterations to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in the preceding 30 calendar days.

3. *[I have conducted an initial compliance visit and:

EITHER *[There have been no changes to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in the preceding 6 months.]

OR *[There have been no changes to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in at least 4 of the preceding 6 months and details, including the date of change(s) are described here: ……..
……..
……..]]

4. The products described in I.B.4. are packaged for the final consumer.

5. I have reviewed the relevant manufacturing and traceability processes, including relevant documentary evidence concerning all products listed in I.B.4, and can confirm that the attestations provided in I.C. are correct at the time of signing this Support Attestation.

6. I have received written confirmation from the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturing company to verify that the signatory of Part I is authorised to sign this document on behalf of the manufacturing company.

7. This Support Attestation is valid only for 30 days from the above date or until I am notified of any changes that affect the validity of declarations provided in this Support Attestation (whichever is the sooner).

8. If I am notified of changes that affect the validity of declarations provided in this Support Attestation, I will notify the veterinary practice, agency, company or Official

GEFS SA1	Manufacturer:	URN:

Veterinarian/FCCO (if known) responsible for certifying exports from the establishment(s) listed in I.B.2.

* delete as necessary

B. Signature

This declaration can only be signed by an OCQ(V) - PX (Product Exports) qualified Official Veterinarian.

Name:	Official stamp:
Signature:	

Annex V: Support Attestation for ABP (SA2)

GROUPAGE EXPORT FACILITATION SCHEME SUPPORT ATTESTATION (SA2)

IMPORTANT NOTE: This Support Attestation is not an Export Health Certificate. It is to be used solely to support EU export certification of specific product categories in groupage consignments to the EU and EEA/EFTA countries in accordance with GEFS guidance issued by Defra.

Manufacturer:
Support Attestation Unique Reference Number:

PART I: MANUFACTURER DECLARATION

A. Manufacturer's attestations

I …….. *(full name)*, being …… …….. (*official position in the company*) of …… …… (*name and address of manufacturer*), have authority and responsibility to sign this declaration on behalf of this manufacturer and hereby declare that:

1. the details in Parts B and C below include a complete list of the products of animal origin contained within the products to which this Support Attestation relates.

2. the information within this Support Attestation is correct and that no changes will be made to affect its validity prior to its date of expiry.

3. I will ensure that the Official Veterinarian signing this Support Attestation and the exporter(s) listed in Part B are immediately informed if any changes are made that affect the validity of this document and/or if I leave the employment of the manufacturer detailed above. I understand that in such cases this Support Attestation will immediately become null and void.

4. I understand that supplying false or misleading declarations, which the exporter will rely on for the satisfaction of relevant Export Health Certificate requirements, is an offence and may result in rejection of the exported product and immediate removal of the exporter from the GEFS as well as potential liability for costs incurred.

5. I will ensure that each delivery of products sent to the exporting premises under this Support Attestation is accompanied by a Batch Declaration, signed by an authorised representative of the manufacturer.

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

B. Product details

1. Origin(s) of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for the establishment(s) from which the products will be dispatched.

Establishment type (e.g., manufacturer, cold store)	**Address**	**Approval / Registration Number**

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

2. Destination(s) of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for the establishment(s) to which the products will be dispatched.

Exporter:
Exporter's reference number *(optional)*

Establishment type (e.g., consolidation hub, exporting depot)	**Address**	**Approval / Registration Number** (if available)

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.
In the case of multiple exporters, repeat the table above for each exporter

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

3. Other relevant establishments

Please provide the following details for all relevant establishments in the supply chain.

ABP material	Establishment type (e.g., farm, slaughterhouse)	Approval Number (if available)

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

4. Description of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for each product to be exported using the GEFS.

Name / Description	Unique identifier(1)	Commodity type(2)	Unit weight	ABP(3)

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

(1) A point of data that can be used to identify this product, such as the universal product code.
(2) Select from: canned pet food, processed pet food other than canned, dog chews
(3) Select any and all of the following animal by-products used in this product:

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

A Carcasses and parts of animals slaughtered or, in the case of game. bodies or parts of animals killed, and which are fit for human consumption in accordance with Union legislation, but are not intended for human consumption for commercial reasons.

B Carcasses and the following parts originating either from animals that have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse and were considered fit for slaughter for human consumption following an ante-mortem inspection or bodies and the following parts of animals from game killed for human consumption in accordance with Union legislation: carcasses or bodies and parts of animals which are rejected as unfit for human consumption in accordance with Union legislation but which did not show any signs of disease communicable to humans or animals; heads of poultry; hides and skins, including trimmings and splitting thereof, horns and feet, including the phalanges and the carpus and metacarpus bones, tarsus and metatarsus bones; pig bristles; or feathers.

C Animal by-products from poultry and lagomorphs slaughtered on the farm as referred to in Article 1(3)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 which did not show any signs of disease communicable to humans or animals. ***Applicable to 'canned pet food' and 'processed pet food other than canned' only.***

D Blood of animals which did not show any signs of disease communicable through blood to humans or animals, obtained from animals that have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse after having been considered fit for slaughter for human consumption following an ante-mortem inspection in accordance with Union legislation.

E Animal by-products arising from the production of products intended for human consumption, including degreased bone, greaves and centrifuge or separator sludge from milk processing.

F Products of animal origin, or foodstuffs containing products of animal origin, which are no longer intended for human consumption for commercial reasons or due to problems of manufacturing or packaging defects or other defects from which no risk to public or animal health arise. ***Applicable to 'canned pet food' and 'processed pet food other than canned' only.***

G Pet food and feedingstuffs of animal origin, or feedingstuffs containing animal by-products or derived products. which are no longer intended for feeding for commercial reasons or due to problems of manufacturing or packaging defects or other defects from which no risk to public or animal health arise. ***Applicable to 'canned pet food' and 'processed pet food other than canned' only.***

H Blood, placenta, wool, feathers, hair, horns, hoof cuts and raw milk originating from live animals that did not show signs of any disease communicable through that product to humans or animals. ***Applicable to 'canned pet food' and 'processed pet food other than canned' only.***

I Aquatic animals, and parts of such animals, except sea mammals, which did not show any signs of diseases communicable to humans or animals.

J Animal by-products from aquatic animals originating from plants or establishments manufacturing products for human consumption.

K The following material originating from animals which did not show any signs of disease communicable through that material to humans or animals: shells from shellfish with soft tissue or flesh; hatchery by-products, egg and egg by-products, including egg shells, originating from terrestrial animals; and day-old chicks killed for commercial reasons. ***Applicable to 'canned pet food' and 'processed pet food other than canned' only.***

L Animal by-products from aquatic or terrestrial invertebrates other than species pathogenic to humans or animals. ***Applicable to 'canned pet food' and 'processed pet food other than canned' only.***

M Animals and parts thereof of the zoological orders of Rodentia and Lagomorpha, except Category 1 material as referred to in Article 8(a)(iii), (iv) and (v) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and Category 2 material as referred to in Article 9(a) to (g) of that Regulation. ***Applicable to 'canned pet food' and 'processed pet food other than canned' only.***

N Material from animals which have been treated with certain substances which are prohibited by Council Directive 96/22/EC (2b), the import of the material being permitted in accordance with Article 35(a)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

C. Health information

I, the undersigned, declare that I am aware of the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, and in particular Articles 8 and (except in the case of dogchews) 10 thereof, and Regulation (EU) No 142/2011, and in particular Chapter II of Annex XIII and Chapter II of Annex XIV thereto, and hereby confirm that products described in Part B were produced in accordance with these requirements, and in particular that:

1. The products have been prepared exclusively with the animal by-products listed in the table in I.B.4. above.

2. *[The products are

EITHER *[derived from other ruminants than bovine, ovine or caprine animals;]

AND/OR *[derived from bovine, ovine or caprine animals and does not contain and is not derived from:

EITHER *[bovine, ovine and caprine materials other than those derived from animals born, continuously reared and slaughtered in a country or region classified as posing a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Decision 2007/453/EC;]]

AND/OR *[specified risk material as defined in point 1 of Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001; mechanically separated meat obtained from bones of bovine, ovine or caprine animals, except from those animals that were born, continuously reared and slaughtered in a country or region classified as posing a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Commission Decision 20071453/EC, in which there has been no indigenous BSE case; or animal by-product or derived product obtained from bovine, ovine or caprine animals which have been killed, after stunning, by laceration of the central nervous tissue by means of an elongated rod-shaped instrument introduced into the cranial cavity, or by means of gas injected into the cranial cavity, except for those animals that were born, continuously reared and slaughtered in a country or region classified as posing a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Decision 20071453/EC.]]]

3. The products have undergone all precautions to avoid contamination with pathogenic agents after treatment.

*[**PROCESSED PET FOOD (CANNED)**

4. The products have been prepared and stored in a plant approved and supervised by the competent authority in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

5. The products have been subjected to heat treatment to a minimum Fc value of 3 in

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

hermetically sealed containers.

6. The products were analysed by a random sampling of at least 5 samples from each processes batch by laboratory diagnostic method to ensure adequate heat treatment of the whole consignment as foreseen under point 5.]

*[**PROCESSED PET FOOD (NOT CANNED)**

7. The products have been prepared and stored in a plant approved and supervised by the competent authority in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

8. ***EITHER*** *[The products have been subjected to a heat treatment of at least 90°C throughout its substance.]

AND/OR *[The products have been produced as regards ingredients of animal origin using exclusively products which had been:

- in the case of animal by-products or derived products from meat or meat products, subjected to a heat treatment of at least 90°C throughout its substance;
- in the case of milk and milk based products:
    - if they are from third countries or parts of third countries listed in column B of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 605/2010, submitted to a pasteurisation treatment sufficient to produce a negative phosphatase test;
    - with a pH reduced to less than 6 from third countries or parts of third countries listed in column C of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 605/2010, first submitted to a pasteurisation treatment sufficient to produce a negative phosphatase test;
    - if they are from third countries or parts of third countries listed in column C of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 605/2010, submitted to a sterilisation process or a double heat treatment where each treatment was sufficient to produce a negative phosphatase test on its own;
    - if they are from third countries or parts of third countries listed in column C of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 605/2010, where there has been an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the preceding 12 months or where vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease has been carried out in the preceding 12 months, submitted to:

        EITHER a sterilisation process whereby an Fc value equal or greater than 3 is achieved;

        AND/OR an initial heat treatment with a heating effect at least equal

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

to that achieved by a pasteurisation process of at least 72°C for at least 15 seconds and sufficient to produce a negative reaction to a phosphatase test, followed by:

EITHER a second heat treatment with a heating effect at least equal to that achieved by the initial heat treatment, and which would be sufficient to produce a negative reaction to a phosphatase test, followed in the case of dried milk or dried milk-based products by a drying process

AND/OR an acidification process such that the pH has been maintained at less than 6 for at least one hour;

- in the case of gelatine, produced using a process that ensures that unprocessed Category 3 material is subjected to a treatment with acid or alkali, followed by one or more rinses with subsequent adjustment of the pH and subsequent, if necessary repeated, extraction by heat, followed by purification by means of filtration and sterilisation;

- in the case of hydrolysed protein produced using a production process involving appropriate measures to minimise contamination of raw Category 3 material, and, in the case of hydrolysed protein entirely or partly derived from ruminant hides and skins produced in a processing plant dedicated only to hydrolysed protein production, using only material with a molecular weight below 10000 Dalton and a process involving the preparation of raw Category 3 material by brining, liming and intensive washing followed by:

  EITHER exposure of the material to a pH of more than 11 for more than three hours at a temperature of more than 80°C and subsequently by heat treatment at more than 140°C for 30 minutes at more than 3.6 bar;

  AND/OR exposure of the material to a pH of 1 to 2, followed by a pH of more than 11, followed by heat treatment at 140°C for 30 minutes at 3 bar;

- in the case of egg products, submitted to any of the processing methods 1 to 5 or 7 as referred to in Chapter Ill of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011, or treated in accordance with Chapter II of Section X of Annex Ill to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004;

- in the case of collagen submitted to a process ensuring that unprocessed Category 3 material is subjected to a treatment involving washing, pH

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

adjustment using acid or alkali followed by one or more rinses, filtration and extrusion, the use of preservatives other than those permitted by Union legislation being prohibited;

- in the case of blood products, produced using any of the processing methods 1 to 5 or 7, as referred to in Chapter 111 of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011;

- in the case of mammalian processed animal protein, submitted to any of the processing methods 1 to 5 or 7 and, in the case of porcine blood, submitted to any of the processing methods 1 to 5 or 7 provided that in the case of method 7 a heat treatment throughout its substance at a minimum temperature of 80°C has been applied;

- in the case of non-mammalian processed protein with the exclusion of fishmeal, submitted to any of the processing methods 1 to 5 or 7 as referred to in Chapter Ill of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011;

- in the case of fishmeal, submitted to any of the processing methods 1 to 7 as referred to in Chapter 111 of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 or to a method and parameters which ensure that the product complies with the microbiological standards for derived products set out in Chapter I of Annex X to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011;

- in the case of rendered fat, including fish oils, submitted to any of the processing methods 1 to 5 or 7 (and method 6 in the case of fish oil) as referred to in Chapter Ill of Annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 or produced in accordance with Chapter II of Section XII of Annex Ill to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004; rendered fats from ruminant animals must be purified in such a way that the maximum level of the remaining total insoluble impurities does not excess 0.15% in weight;

- in the case of dicalcium phosphate, produced by a process that:

    - ensures that all Category 3 bone-material is finely crushed and degreased with hot water and treated with dilute hydrochloric acid (at a minimum concentration of 4% and a pH of less than 1.5) over a period of at least two days;

    - following the procedure referred to above, applies a treatment of the obtained phosphoric liquor with lime, resulting in a precipitate of dicalcium phosphate at pH 4 to 7; and

    - finally, air dries the precipitate of dicalcium phosphate with inlet temperature of 65°C to 325°C and end temperature between 30°C and 65°C;

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

- in the case of tricalcium phosphate, produced by a process that ensures
  - that all Category 3 bone-material is finely crushed and degreased in counter-flow with hot water (bone chips less than 14mm);
  - continuous cooking with steam at 145°C during 30 minutes at 4 bar;
  - separation of the protein broth from the hydroxyapatite (tricalcium phosphate) by centrifugation; and
  - granulation of the tricalcium phosphate after drying in a fluid bed with air at 200°C;
- in the case of flavouring innards, produced according to a treatment method and parameters, which ensure that the product complies with the microbiological standards referred to in point 9;]

AND/OR *[The products have been subject to a treatment such as drying or fermentation, which has been authorised by the competent authority;]

AND/OR *[In the case of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates other than species pathogenic to humans or animals, the products have been subject to a treatment which has been authorised by the competent authority and which ensures that the pet food poses no unacceptable risks to public and animal health.]

9. The products were analysed by a random sampling of at least five samples from each processed batch taken during or after storage at the processing plant and complies with the following standards:

Salmonella: absence in 25g: n = 5. c = 0. m = 0. M = 0.

Enterobacteriaceae n = 5, c = 2, m = 10, M = 300 in 1 gramme.

n = number of samples to be tested

m = threshold value for the number of bacteria; the result is considered satisfactory if the number of bacteria in all samples does not exceed m

M = maximum value for the number of bacteria; the result is considered unsatisfactory if the number of bacteria is one of more samples is M or more

c = number of samples the bacterial count of which may be between m and M; the sample still being considered acceptable if the bacterial count of the other samples is m or less

10. The products were packed in new packaging.]

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

*[**DOG CHEWS**

11. ***EITHER*** *[The dog chews are made from hides and skins of ungulates or from fish, have been subjected to a treatment sufficient to destroy organisms (including *Salmonella*) and are dry.]

AND/OR *[The dog chews are made from animal by-products other than hides and skins of ungulates or from fish and have been subjected to a heat treatment of at least 90°C throughout their substances.]

12. The products were analysed by a random sampling of at least five samples from each processed batch taken during or after storage at the processing plant and complies with the following standards:

Salmonella: absence in 25g: n = 5. c = 0. m = 0. M = 0.

Enterobacteriaceae n = 5, c = 2, m = 10, M = 300 in 1 gramme.

n = number of samples to be tested

m = threshold value for the number of bacteria; the result is considered satisfactory if the number of bacteria in all samples does not exceed m

M = maximum value for the number of bacteria; the result is considered unsatisfactory if the number of bacteria is one of more samples is M or more

c = number of samples the bacterial count of which may be between m and M; the sample still being considered acceptable if the bacterial count of the other samples is m or less

13. The dog chews were packed in new packaging.]

* delete as necessary and, where multiple options are selected, provide further details in the Batch Declaration

D. Signature

This declaration can only be signed by an individual who has both sufficient knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production, transport, and storage processes and who has been authorised in writing by the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturer to sign on behalf of the manufacturer.

Authorised by

Name:	**Signature:**
Position:	
Date:	

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

PART II: OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN DECLARATION

A. Compliance visit

Date of issue:
Date of expiry (30 days from date above):

I, the undersigned Official Veterinarian, hereby declare that:

1. ***EITHER*** *[I conducted an in-person compliance visit of the manufacturing premise(s) mentioned in I.B.1. above on …….. (*insert date*).]

OR *[I conducted a virtual compliance visit of the manufacturing premise(s) mentioned in I.B.1. above on …….. (*insert date*) and confirm that the most recent in-person compliance visit took place on …… (*insert date)*.]

2. There have been no additions, removals or alterations to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in the preceding 30 calendar days.

3. *[I have conducted an initial compliance visit and:

EITHER *[There have been no changes to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in the preceding 6 months.]

OR *[There have been no changes to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in at least 4 of the preceding 6 months and details, including the date of change(s) are described here: ……..
……..
……..]]

4. The products described in I.B.4. are packaged for the final consumer.

5. I have reviewed the relevant manufacturing and traceability processes, including relevant documentary evidence concerning all products listed in I.B.4, and can confirm that the attestations provided in I.C. are correct at the time of signing this Support Attestation.

6. I have received written confirmation from the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturing company to verify that the signatory of Part I is authorised to sign this document on behalf of the manufacturing company.

7. This Support Attestation is valid only for 30 days from the above date or until I am notified of any changes that affect the validity of declarations provided in this Support Attestation (whichever is the sooner).

8. If I am notified of changes that affect the validity of declarations provided in this Support Attestation, I will notify the veterinary practice, agency, company or Official Veterinarian/FCCO (if known) responsible for certifying exports from the establishment(s) listed in I.B.2.

GEFS SA2	Manufacturer:	URN:

* delete as necessary

B. Signature

This declaration can only be signed by an OCQ(V) - PX (Product Exports) qualified Official Veterinarian.

Name:	Official stamp:
Signature:	

Annex VI: Support Attestation for use by FCCOs (SA3)

GROUPAGE EXPORT FACILITATION SCHEME SUPPORT ATTESTATION (SA3)

IMPORTANT NOTE: This Support Attestation is not an Export Health Certificate. It is to be used solely to support EU export certification of specific product categories in groupage consignments to the EU and EEA/EFTA countries in accordance with GEFS guidance issued by Defra.

Manufacturer:
Support Attestation Unique Reference Number:

PART I: MANUFACTURER DECLARATION

A. Manufacturer's attestations

I …….. *(full name)*, being …….. (*official position in the company*) of …….. (*name and address of manufacturer*), have authority and responsibility to sign this declaration on behalf of this manufacturer and hereby declare that:

1. the details in Parts B and C below include a complete list of the products of animal origin contained within the products to which this Support Attestation relates.

2. the information within this Support Attestation is correct and that no changes will be made to affect its validity prior to its date of expiry.

3. I will ensure that the Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO) signing this Support Attestation and the exporter(s) listed in Part B are immediately informed if any changes are made that affect the validity of this document and/or if I leave the employment of the manufacturer detailed above. I understand that in such cases this Support Attestation will immediately become null and void.

4. I understand that supplying false or misleading declarations, which the exporter will rely on for the satisfaction of relevant Export Health Certificate requirements, is an offence and may result in rejection of the exported product and immediate removal of the exporter from the GEFS as well as potential liability for costs incurred.

5. I will ensure that each delivery of products sent to the exporting premises under this Support Attestation is accompanied by a Batch Declaration, signed by an authorised representative of the manufacturer.

GEFS SA3	Manufacturer:	URN:

B. Product details

1. Origin(s) of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for the establishment(s) from which the products will be dispatched.

Establishment type (e.g., manufacturer, cold store)	**Address**	**Approval / Registration Number**

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

2. Destination(s) of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for the establishment(s) to which the products will be dispatched.

Exporter:
Exporter's reference number *(optional)*

Establishment type (e.g., consolidation hub, exporting depot)	**Address**	**Approval / Registration Number** (if available)

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.
In the case of multiple exporters, repeat the table above for each exporter

GEFS SA3	**Manufacturer:**	**URN:**

3. Other relevant establishments

Please provide the following details for all relevant establishments in the supply chain.

POAO raw ingredient (e.g., honey, fishery product)	**Establishment type** (e.g., processing plant)	**Approval / Registration Number** (if available)

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

4. Description of the product(s)

Please provide the following details for each product to be exported using the GEFS.

Name / Description	**Unique identifier[1]**	**Commodity type[2]**	**Unit weight**

Please continue on a separate schedule if needed.

(1) A point of data that can be used to identify this product, such as the universal product code.

(2) Select from: composite product, fishery product, honey
Where “composite product” is selected, state any of the following ingredients if used: fishery product, egg product (e.g., “*composite product – fishery product*”)

GEFS SA3	Manufacturer:	URN:

C. Health information

I, the undersigned, declare that I am aware of the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625, and hereby confirm that products described in Part B were produced in accordance with these requirements, and in particular that:

1. The products comply with the public health legislation applicable to exports of food to the EU or intra-EU trade. They are produced in an establishment implementing a HACCP programme, any non-conformances have been addressed, and the HACCP plan and records of controls are available for inspection.
2. The products comply with Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, Regulation (EU) No 2019/627, Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and, where relevant, have been caught, harvested, landed, handled, packed, processed, stored and wrapped in accordance with EU law.
3. The products (excluding any composite products) meet the microbiological standards required by Regulation (EC) 2073/2005.
4. All ingredients of animal origin were produced in Great Britain, the EU or a third country approved for export of that product to the EU.
5. There is a system in place to ensure that any ingredients of animal origin imported from the EU or a third country were legally imported through a Border Control Post.

*[**COMPOSITE PRODUCTS**

6. The products listed on this Support Attestation are classified as ‘composite food products’ in EU law according to their ingredients and degree of processing as defined in Article 2 of Commission Delegation Regulation (EU) 2019/625.
7. *[If the composite products contain egg, if relevant, the egg products have been subject to one or more (if multiple products or ingredients) of the risk mitigation treatments for highly pathogenic avian influenza, as specified below:

   EITHER *[liquid egg white treated with 55.6°C for 870 seconds;]

   AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 56.7°C for 232 seconds;]

   AND/OR *[10% salted yolk treated with 62.2°C for 138 seconds;]

   AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 67°C for 20 hours;]

   AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 54.4°C for 50.4 hours;]

   AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 60°C for 188 seconds;]

   AND/OR *[whole eggs completely cooked;]

   AND/OR *[whole egg blends treated with 60°C for 188 seconds;]

   AND/OR *[whole egg blends treated with 61.1°C for 94 seconds;]

   AND/OR *[whole egg blends completely cooked.]]

GEFS SA3	Manufacturer:	URN:

8. *[If the composite products contain egg, if relevant, the egg products have been subject to one or more (if multiple products or ingredients) of the risk mitigation treatments for Newcastle disease, as specified below:

EITHER *[liquid egg white treated with 55°C for 2278 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 57°C for 986 seconds;]

AND/OR *[liquid egg white treated with 59°C for 301 seconds;]

AND/OR *[10% salted yolk treated with 55°C for 176 seconds;]

AND/OR *[dried egg white treated with 57°C for 50.4 hours;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 55°C for 2521 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 57°C for 1596 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs treated with 59°C for 674 seconds;]

AND/OR *[whole eggs completely cooked.]]

***[FISHERY PRODUCTS**

9. The fishery products bear an oval identification health mark.

10. Any aquatic animals are not alive.

11. The fishery products are packed for direct human consumption and are not intended for further processing.

12. *[If the fishery products contain crustaceans, the fishery products have not been stored in holds, tanks or containers used for other purposes than the production/storage of fishery products.]

13. *[In the case of scallops or marine gastropods that are not filter feeders and harvested outside classified production areas, the results of 'own checks' compliant with FSA/FSS standards are satisfactory.]

14. *[In the case of shellfish from classified production areas, the production areas were classified under Regulation (EU) 2019/627 as *[A] *[B] and/or *[C] at the moment of harvesting.]]

***[HONEY**

15. The honey fulfils the guarantees covering live animals and products thereof provided by the control plan submitted in accordance with Article 6(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 and the third country or region thereof of its/their origin is listed in Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 with an entry 'X' for honey.

16. The honey has undergone *[ultrasonication] *[homogenization] *[ultrafiltration] *[pasteurisation] and/or *[no thermal treatment].]

* delete as necessary and, where multiple options are selected, provide further details in the Batch Declaration

GEFS SA3	Manufacturer:	URN:

D. Signature

This declaration can only be signed by an individual who has both sufficient knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production, transport, and storage processes and who has been authorised in writing by the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturer to sign on behalf of the manufacturer.

Authorised by

Name:	**Signature:**
Position:	
Date:	

GEFS SA3	Manufacturer:	URN:

PART II: FOOD COMPETENT CERTIFYING OFFICER DECLARATION

A. Compliance visit

Date of issue:
Date of expiry (30 days from date above):

I, the undersigned Food Competent Certifying Officer, hereby declare that:

1. ***EITHER*** *[I conducted an in-person compliance visit of the manufacturing premise(s) mentioned in I.B.1. above on …….. (*insert date*).]

OR *[I conducted a virtual compliance visit of the manufacturing premise(s) mentioned in I.B.1. above on …….. (*insert date*) and confirm that the most recent in-person compliance visit took place on …… (*insert date)*.]

2. There have been no additions, removals or alterations to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in the preceding 30 calendar days.

3. *[I have conducted an initial compliance visit and:

EITHER *[There have been no changes to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in the preceding 6 months.]

OR *[There have been no changes to the product health and traceability details relevant to I.C in at least 4 of the preceding 6 months and details, including the date of change(s) are described here: ……..
……..
……..]]

4. The products described in I.B.4. are packaged for the final consumer.

5. I have reviewed the relevant manufacturing and traceability processes, including relevant documentary evidence concerning all products listed in I.B.4, and can confirm that the attestations provided in I.C. are correct at the time of signing this Support Attestation.

6. I have received written confirmation from the Managing Director (or equivalent) of the manufacturing company to verify that the signatory of Part I is authorised to sign this document on behalf of the manufacturing company.

7. This Support Attestation is valid only for 30 days from the above date or until I am notified of any changes that affect the validity of declarations provided in this Support Attestation (whichever is the sooner).

8. If I am notified of changes that affect the validity of declarations provided in this Support Attestation, I will notify the veterinary practice, agency, company or Official

GEFS SA3	Manufacturer:	URN:

Veterinarian/FCCO (if known) responsible for certifying exports from the establishment(s) listed in I.B.2.

* delete as necessary

B. Signature

This declaration can only be signed by a Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO).

Name:	Official stamp:
Signature:	

Annex VII: Manufacturer authorisation template

[COMPANY HEADED PAPER]

[Name of company]

[Address of company]

Date: *[date]*

To whom it may concern

I, …….. (*full name*), being …….. (*official position in the company*) of …… (*name of manufacturer*) authorise the following people to provide declarations on behalf of the company as required under the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS):

NAME	SIGNATURE	JOB TITLE

I confirm that the people above have the knowledge of and responsibility for the manufacturing processes and as a signatory are aware that making a false declaration is an offence.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)

(Name)

(Official position in the company, i.e., Managing Director or equivalent)