

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE/EXPORT DECLARATION FOR THE EXPORT OF
PORK/BEEF/MUTTON (MEAT/OFFAL) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO HONG KONG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and refer to the relevant UK-Hong Kong bilateral health certificate/export declaration.

These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with the 8000EHC health certificate/export declaration.

A *health certificate* must be applied for if the meat is from animals born and raised in the UK and / or the Republic of Ireland (RoI) and slaughtered in the UK.

An *export declaration* if the animals were born and raised in the UK and / or the RoI and slaughtered in the RoI (and their meat moved to the UK for cutting/packing and onward shipment to Hong Kong).

Please see further details below.

Importers are required to apply for an import license if an *export declaration* is required. Meat needing a health certificate cannot be mixed with meat needing an export declaration i.e. the meat must be consigned separately, in separate means of transport (e.g. separate reefer containers).

Although the certificate/declaration also refers to 'Meat Products', the Hong Kong authorities (FEHD) have confirmed that there is no need for any official documentation to accompany meat products or indeed meat preparations (as defined under EU/UK legislation) exported to Hong Kong. Exporters of meat products and meat preparations are advised to consult importers to establish what commercial paperwork and/or other certification are required for these. See below section 2: Scope for more details.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. **BACKGROUND**

Following the departure of the UK from the European Union, the UK and Hong Kong authorities have reached agreement for existing trade of Pork/Beef/Mutton (Meat/Offal) from animals of UK and / or RoI origin to continue. This agreement is subject to continuity of alignment of the food safety standards and controls for meat production between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

This agreement applies only to exports from the UK. An equivalent agreement for exports from RoI of meat from animals slaughtered in the UK or from animals of UK origin slaughtered and packed in RoI is NOT in place.

Important: any meat exported from UK to Hong Kong under the EHC and Declaration under this bilateral agreement must bear a UK health/identification mark.

2. **SCOPE OF HEALTH CERTIFICATION/EXPORT DECLARATION TO HONG KONG**

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The scope of UK exports to Hong Kong covers exports of fresh meat and offal **bearing an UK health/identification mark** and derived from pigs, cattle and sheep that:

- were born and raised in the UK and / or the RoI and slaughtered in UK (export certificate applies);
- OR
- derived from animals born and raised in the UK and / or the RoI, slaughtered in the RoI and their meat cut/packed in the UK for export to Hong Kong (export declaration applies).

Exporters and OV's should note that for the purposes of this certificate / declaration the term 'mutton' means meat derived from the ovine species of all ages.

The certificate/declaration should **not** be used for:

- Meat preparations: food products containing raw meat, but other ingredients have been added e.g. cereal rusk, spices, herbs etc.
- Meat products: food products which contain meat, but the meat has been processed or treated in some way so that it is no longer raw meat, and the cut surface shows that the product no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.

If a certificate is required for products or preparations, certificate 5604EHC may be used (or can be adapted) if necessary.

3. HEALTH CERTIFICATES/EXPORT DECLARATIONS TO HONG KONG

Two types of export documentation to Hong Kong are available, as follows:

- **UK-HK Health Certificate:** meat derived from animals born and raised in the UK and / or the RoI and **slaughtered in the UK**.
- **UK-HK Export Declaration:** meat derived from animals born and raised in the UK and / or the RoI and **slaughtered in RoI**.

In both cases the fresh meat and offal must be cut/packed in the UK and bear an UK health/identification mark (oval mark).

Additionally, where the UK-HK Export Declaration is issued, the importer in Hong Kong must additionally obtain **permission in writing (Import License)** from the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Area.

Table of Correct Export Documentation to Hong Kong

Animal born and/or raised	UK and / or RoI	UK and / or RoI
Animal slaughtered	UK	RoI
Meat packed, processed, stored and shipped	UK	UK
Documentation required for Hong Kong Import	UK-HK Health Certificate	UK-HK Export Declaration plus Permission in writing from CFS (Import License)

OV's and exporters should contact the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA)
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Customer Service Centre (CSC) in Carlisle or DAERA if they have further queries regarding the scope of the new export documentation.

HK Export Declaration - Application for Import License by the Importer

Importers in Hong Kong wishing to import meat under the conditions laid down by the HK Export Declaration must first apply to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Further details regarding the application process may be found on the CFS website using the following link:

https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/Guide_to_import_of_beef_pork&mutton_derived_from_animals_born&raised_in_RoI_or_UK.html

OVs and exporters in the UK may wish to have sight of the permission letter/import license issued by FEHD to the importer to confirm that the export health certificates / declarations being used are appropriate for the product being exported.

4. ESTABLISHMENT APPROVAL LISTING WITH HONG KONG AUTHORITIES

A new Hong Kong enforced premises-based approval system came into force on 1st January 2024.

Any establishments involved in the export of beef, lamb, pork and poultry meat, and their products, **must** be specifically listed, for the applicable commodities and functions, by the authorities in Hong Kong in advance of the arrival of consignments.

Prior to exporting, certifiers and exporters must ensure that all slaughter, cutting, processing and storage premises are included on the list, for the applicable commodities and functions, at

https://www.ftp.cfs.gov.hk//web/establishment/apprEstablishmentEnquiry?lang=en_GB
.

If any establishments are not listed, exporters can contact APHA Centre for International Trade at exports@apha.gov.uk to be given details on how to be added to the list.

Certification should not be made if any of the premises are not listed for the appropriate commodity and function. Any consignments arriving into Hong Kong without being listed correctly may have the goods confiscated and fines applied.

5. COMPLETION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate/declaration may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate/declaration may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate/declaration with the OV stamp in ink of any colour other than black.

In GB, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing.

The OV should keep a copy for their own records.

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6. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DISPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

1.3 - Central Competent Authority

Defra.

1.4 - Local Competent Authority

APHA or DAERA, based on the entry in I.11 Place of Origin.

1.5 - Trader Registration Number

The exporter must obtain this number from the importer in Hong Kong and include it in this section alongside with the other details required in this section

1.6 - No of related original certificates

Intentionally blank.

1.7 and 1.9 - Country of origin/destination and ISO Codes

The country of origin is the United Kingdom from where export is taking place.

ISO 3166 is the International Standard for country codes and codes for their subdivisions. The ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is 'GB' and for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is 'HK'.

1.8 - Region of Origin

This paragraph is usually to be left blank.

However, if the UK and the product fall within the scope of emergency disease control legislation laid down by the importing authorities then this paragraph should be completed with the appropriate region names and ISO codes, if these are specified under such emergency legislation. In these cases, the APHA Customer Service Centre in Carlisle or DAERA in Northern Ireland should be consulted for further specific guidance.

1.10 - Region of Destination

Intentionally blank.

1.11 - Place of Origin

Enter the name and address of the dispatch establishment in the exporting country (i.e. the United Kingdom) in this box.

1.12 - Place of Destination

Enter the name and address of the destination establishment in Hong Kong in this box.

1.13 - Place of loading

Intentionally blank.

1.14 - Date and time of departure

Enter the date of departure in format dd/mm/yyyy. If the approximate/anticipated time of departure is known this can be entered in format hh:mm, if not known this can be left blank.

1.15 - Means of transport.

Enter the means of transport from the point of exit from the UK to the point of entry into Hong Kong (i.e. aircraft or ship) in this box. Transport within either country (e.g. movement from cold store to port) should not be included. The option 'Other' is not applicable to the movement of products and should not be selected.

The flight number or name of the vessel is entered as the means of identification. A document reference (e.g. waybill) can be entered if required.

1.16 - Entry point

The point of entry into Hong Kong must be entered.

1.17 - CITES

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Intentionally blank.

I.18 - Temperature of product

Indicate whether the transport/storage temperature is ambient, chilled or frozen.

I.19 - Format of gross weight

The following formatting of numbering should be used: a full stop "." As the thousand separator and a comma "," to indicate a decimal point. Weights must be entered in kilograms in the format, e.g. **1.500,5** meaning one thousand five hundred point five kilograms. If this number were to be entered in the UK convention as 1,500.5 it would display as one point five kilograms.

It is displayed in the certificate as 'Gross weight'. The gross weight should be populated as the sum of the individual gross weights.

I.20 - Total number of packages

I.21 - Seal/container no.

The seal or container number of consignment are entered here (if appropriate).

I.22 - Commodities certified for

This certificate is specifically for human consumption, so this option should be checked. If the product is not for human consumption an alternative model certificate should be used.

I.23 - Transit through 3rd Country

Intentionally blank.

I.25 - Identification of the Commodities

HS Code: Part I of the Notes section of the certificate refers to the Harmonised System (HS) Codes for the various commodities eligible for export to Hong Kong.

The HS is a commodity classification system in which articles are grouped into various categories. It is used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

A description of products to which the HS Codes referred to in Part I of the Notes section of the certificate is as follows:

HS Code	Description
02.01	Meat of bovine animals; fresh or chilled
02.02	Meat of bovine animals; frozen
02.03	Meat of swine; fresh, chilled or frozen
02.04	Meat of sheep; fresh, chilled or frozen
02.06	Edible offal of bovine animals, swine, sheep; fresh, chilled or frozen
02.09	Pig fat, free of lean meat, not rendered or otherwise extracted, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
05.04	Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals (other than fish), whole and pieces thereof, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
15.01	Pig fat (including lard), other than that of heading 02.09
15.02	Fats of bovine animals, sheep or goats (other than lard stearin, lard oil, oleostearin, oleo-oil and tallow oil, not emulsified or mixed or otherwise prepared)

The HS codes are then further classified into specific products or cuts, giving a 6- or 8-digit code. Further advice on use of HS Codes can be found from the website: <https://www.trade-tariff.service.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections> or by contacting the APHA CSC at Carlisle.

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Multiple commodity codes can be selected where various products are part of the same consignment. For each commodity code that is selected, a separate section under I.25 is shown.

Date(s) of, freezing: Dates must be entered in format 'dd/mm/yyyy'. A range of dates is acceptable if applicable, these must be entered in format 'dd/mm/yyyy - dd/mm/yyyy'. It is not sufficient to enter month and year only.

Slaughterhouse, packing plant, cutting plant, cold store: Indicate the name, address and establishment approval number.

USE OF SCHEDULE:

The new agreed EHC/Declaration do not contain all the information that was included in point I.25 in the previous EU harmonised EHC/Declaration issued in TRACES (e.g. identification marks, number of packages, product description, date of slaughter/production, net weight, batch number...).

If you want to provide this additional information, you would need to do so in a schedule attached to the certificate or declaration (in the format mentioned above in the notes for Part I.19).

Identification mark: Any marking on the outside of the packaging can be indicated, this is used to correlate the product with the certificate, in conjunction with the other information in the certificate.

Product description: Indicate the nature of cuts.

The use of schedules may be especially advisable if details of a consignment are made complex by multiple products, commodity codes or establishments (e.g. slaughterhouses), a schedule may be used in place of the full information being entered in I.25.

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

In this case, one of the commodity codes should be selected/shown on the certificate, and the following entries should populate the following sections in I.25 with "See attached schedule":

Identification mark, Number of packages, Date of production, Slaughterhouse, Cutting plant, Cold store, Batch number.

Type of package must be selected from the following list, as appropriate:

Bag; Box; Can; Carton; Case; Cask; Coffin; Container (not otherwise specified); Crate; Drum; Jar; Package; Pail; Pallet; Polystyrene Box; Tank; Tote; Tray; Tube; Vial.

Net weight must show the net weight for the full consignment, in the weight formatting mentioned above in notes for part I.19. Any other sections not mentioned can be left blank.

The schedule should be titled "Schedule for Export Health Certificate" and indicate the Certificate reference number generated by the APHA/DAERA issuing office. The body of the schedule must show the same information as each heading that would be entered into I.25, with a section for each commodity.

Below this data should be a section for certification, where the OV would enter their Name, Qualification and title, Date of certification, Stamp, and Signature.

The schedule may be included as part of the application or may be created once the certificate has been sent to the OV for certification.

On certification, the original schedule should be 'fan stamped' with the certificate.

7. COMPLETION OF PART II - CERTIFICATION / DECLARATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION

Clauses at Paragraphs II (6) & (7) only apply in the case of exports of beef. Therefore, for exports of pork, lamb and their products, the two manual options for beef in paragraphs II (6) & (7) must be left (blank) in their entirety and not deleted or crossed out.

Origin of animals from which the exported meat is derived

Paragraph II(1) and Paragraph II (5) refer.

UK-HK Health Certificate (animals slaughtered in UK): animals from which the meat is derived can be born and/or raised in either the UK or RoI. Delete UK or RoI if not applicable.

UK-HK Export Declaration (animals slaughtered in RoI): animals from which the meat is derived can be born and/or raised in either the UK or RoI. Delete UK or RoI if not applicable.; Animals slaughtered in RoI and their meat sent for final cutting/packing in the UK and shipment for export from UK to Hong Kong. The OV must obtain the relevant documentary evidence from the Food Business Operator or the exporter to confirm that product is derived from animals with origin, as permitted and described above.

Compliance with UK Hygiene Regulations/fitness for human consumption

Paragraphs II(2), II(3) and II(4) may be certified on the basis of the UK oval mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with Retained Law (Regulations (EC) Nos.852/2004, 853/2004 and (EU) Nos. 2017/625, 2019/627 and 2019/624 and, in the case of microbiological criteria, Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005). Equivalent EU law applies in RoI.

These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland. The FSA/FSS Manual for Official Controls provides further detail.

Residues and other Unauthorised Substances

Paragraph II(3) may also be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues, to which all UK approved meat establishments are subjected under national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland. Equivalent EU rules apply for establishments in the Republic of Ireland.

8. Additional Health Attestations for beef

BSE Risk Status - leave these blank for export of pork and mutton

Paragraph II(6) refers. The UK comprises three separate zones in respect of BSE status in accordance with the WOA (formerly OIE) Terrestrial Code these are England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. All zones in the UK are currently recognised as having **negligible** BSE risk with effect from June 2025 by the WOA.

All meat from the UK can be certified with an overall negligible risk status for BSE,.

The link to the WOAH website to obtain this information is as follows:

<https://www.woah.org/en/disease/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy/#ui-id-2>

Trade in Beef products

Paragraph II(7) may be certified on the basis of compliance with TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation- Retained Law).

For UK animals, the UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation and this paragraph may be certified on the basis of the UK oval mark.

9. DISCLAIMER

This health certificate/export declaration is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate/export declaration against any relevant import license or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.

If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA CSC at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.