

No:

**EXPORT OF HIDES AND SKINS OF UK ORIGIN ONLY TO THAILAND NOTES FOR
GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

Associated Documents: 6941EHC, 618NDC.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6941EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6941EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing Thailand's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the Thailand concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope

Export health certificate 6941EHC may be used for the export of hides and skins of **UK origin only** to Thailand.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

In May 2025, Defra was made aware that some consignments were not being permitted entry if one of the options at paragraph IV e) had been struck through. Please see the guidance at **paragraph 8** below for more information.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OV's are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. **Paragraph I a)** refers. The consignment description should include reference to the species of origin of the product.
4. **Paragraph IV a)** refers.
This may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.
5. **Paragraph IV b)** refers.
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that, at the time of writing, the United Kingdom is a country with negligible BSE risk in accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health, which presents a lesser BSE risk than controlled BSE risk status.
6. **Paragraph IV c)** refers.
This paragraph may be certified on the basis of:
 - (a) the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018 (as amended) and equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down in the assimilated Regulation (EC) 999/2001.

Under this legislation, BSE is a notifiable disease, and cattle suspected of being affected with BSE must be slaughtered and disposed to prevent their use in human food or animal feed.

And
 - (b) the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, which enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down in the assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 and the assimilated Regulation (EC) 142/2011.

Under this legislation, any material obtained from cattle suspected of being infected by BSE or in which the presence of a BSE has been officially confirmed is classed as Category 1 material and therefore cannot be fed to farmed animals.

7. **Paragraph IV d)** refers.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the hides and skins are Category 3 material, as defined under Article 10(b) of the assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, which is enforced and implemented by the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and by equivalent legislation in force in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

This may be supported by the certifying OV's familiarity with the sourcing arrangements at the production establishment and by reference to relevant documentation or production records from the slaughterhouses of origin.

8. **Paragraph IV e)** refers.

This paragraph should be completed to reflect the origin or processing of the hides and skins.

Paragraph IV e) (i) may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

Paragraph IV e) (ii) requires compliance with either the salting procedure or the tanning procedure. However, there is no provision to delete the procedure(s) which does/do not apply, therefore **the inapplicable procedure(s) should not be deleted.**

This may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the processes in place at the production establishment, supported as necessary by relevant documentation or production records.

The option which does not apply should be struck through in its entirety, and the deletions signed and stamped in the usual manner.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

In May 2025, Defra was made aware that some consignments were not being permitted entry if one of the options at paragraph IV e) had been struck through.

If the exporter has been advised by either their Thai importer or by a Thai official that **both options at paragraph IV e) must be certified**, the certifying OV may do so provided that:

- the hides and skins can comply with both options;
- and**
- no text is struck through, and no text is added to, this paragraph. In particular the "either" and the "or" text remain intact, and the word "and" is NOT added to this paragraph.

9. **Paragraph IV f)** refers.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the processes in place at the production establishment, supported as necessary by relevant documentation or production records.

10. **Supporting Declarations**

Where declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process and/or declared intended use. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence and that he/she accepts full responsibility if any problems arise with the export should there be any dispute relating to the matters being declared.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

11. **Disclaimer**

This certificate and these notes are provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country.

It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.

If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) – Carlisle, via the link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#customer-service-centres-csc>

In Northern Ireland, please contact the DAERA trade administration team:

- e-mail - tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk
- Phone - 02877442146