

No:

EXPORT OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO QATAR

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2544EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2544EHC. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 2544EHC may be used for the export of mammalian meat and meat products from the United Kingdom to Qatar.

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 OVs 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

2544NFG (Cleared 23/08/2006) (Rev 09/10/2025)

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. SPECIES OF ORIGIN

Paragraph I (b) refers. The species of origin of the meat must be recorded here. In the case of game meat, the exporter should verify via their importer that the species is eligible for import into Qatar.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraph IV(1) refers: OV's may certify paragraph IV(1) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

Where areas are subject to restriction due to disease outbreaks or endemic disease, the EHC can still be certified and meat exported, so long as there are no prohibitions on the processing and domestic sale of meat from these regions, the importing country has not imposed a disease related prohibition, and meat from these regions is considered a safe commodity over WOH.

5. ANTE- AND POST-MORTEM INSPECTION

Paragraph IV (2) refers: Option A may be certified on the basis that the meat derives from a UK approved slaughterhouse and all animals are subject to the required ante- and post-mortem checks.

Option B may be certified on the basis that the meat derives from a UK approved game handling establishment and all animals are subject to the required post-mortem checks. More information can be found here: [Wild game guidance | Food Standards Agency](#)

6. OVAL MARKING OF FRESH MEAT

Paragraphs IV(2) – IV(5) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of oval marks from approved slaughterhouse/s or meat products establishments which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004.

7. RESIDUES TESTING

Paragraphs IV(6) – IV(8) refer. All member states of the EU are required to operate a monitoring programme for residues in meat in

accordance with Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC. The UK national testing plan covers all licensed slaughterhouses in the UK and implements the Animals & Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997, which implement European Council Regulations 2377/90/EEC and 426/98/EEC, and Council Directives 96/22/EEC and 96/23/EEC in the UK. On the basis of this testing plan, it can be considered that the meat does not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the European Community by Regulation 2377/90 of any veterinary medicinal product, antiparasitic agent, or heavy metal contaminant nor any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally in the meat.

8. DISCLAIMER

This certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time, and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country. If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk