Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for transit through the European Union or Northern Ireland to a third country either by immediate transit or after storage in the Union of non-shelf-stable composite products intended for human consumption and shelf-stable composite products intended for human consumption and containing any quantity of meat products except gelatine, collagen and highly refined products, and any quantity of colostrum-based products

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No: 8351

EHC FOR TRANSIT THROUGH OR STORAGE IN THE EU OR NI OR A THIRD COUNTRY OF NOT SHELF STABLE AND SHELF STABLE COMPOSITE PRODUCTS CONTAINING ANY QUANTITY OF MEAT PRODUCTS AND INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICER (CO) AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Official Control Regulations (EU) 2017/625

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625 – requirements for the entry into the Union including requirements for consignments of composite products.

Animal Health Regulations (EU) 2016/429

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 – rules for entry into the Union including animal health requirements for processed products of animal origin contained in composite products.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 – model official certificates.

Commission Implementing Regulation EU 2023/2744

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 - lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 - lists of third countries or regions thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of certain animals and goods intended for human consumption.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1874

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. This document contains links to the EU law valid at the time of writing but this is subject to change. You should ensure you use the latest version:

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

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the European Union'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs (OVs or OIs as per section 7 below) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

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

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This EHC maybe used for the transit through or storage in the EU or NI of composite products intended for human consumption in a third country which are either:

a) 'not shelf-stable' composite products (i.e. chilled or frozen); or
b) 'shelf-stable' composite products (i.e. ambient) containing any quantity of meat products (except gelatine, collagen and highly refined products)

This certificate is for transits of composites through the EU (where the products are destined for a 'third country' not in the EU). A different certificate is available for direct export of products for the EU market.

https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-for-transit-through-or-storage-in-the-european-union-certificate-8282

Note: the scope of this certificate is different from the EU's previous composite product transit certificate (used before 21 April 2021). In particular, the "50% rule" no longer applies, meaning that chilled or frozen composite products containing processed dairy, egg or fishery products require an EHC regardless of the percentage content. Ambient stable composite products that don't contain meat do not require an EHC.

For more information see:

GOV.UK guidance: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-or-move-composite-food-products

Defra decision tree available here

EU guidance: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/special-eu-import-conditions-composite-products_en

3. DEFINITION OF A COMPOSITE PRODUCT

'Composite product' means food containing both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin (as defined in Article 2 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625).

Composite products must be for human consumption and must not contain unprocessed products of animal origin (e.g. raw meat).

You are allowed to start the manufacture of a composite product from an unprocessed product of animal origin as long as the processing of the product of animal origin is part of the manufacture of the final product.

Where the EHC lists specific treatment requirements (e.g. pasteurisation of dairy, heat treatment of egg products) then these requirements can be met either by processing the relevant ingredient before it is included in the composite product and/or by applying the required treatment to the product itself to ensure that the POAO is sufficiently treated (e.g. the core temperature of the product obtained during processing meets at least the required time and temperature combination).

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 Article 2 contains the following definitions:

'processing' means as any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes.

'Unprocessed products' means foodstuffs that have not undergone processing, and includes products that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed.

'Processed products' means foodstuffs resulting from the processing of unprocessed products. These products may contain ingredients that are necessary for their manufacture or to give them specific characteristics.

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (Annex I) contains the following definitions:

'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.

'Dairy products' means processed products resulting from the processing of raw milk or from the further processing of such processed products.

'Egg products' means processed products resulting from the processing of eggs, or of various components or mixtures of eggs, or from the further processing of such processed products.

'Processed fishery products' means processed products resulting from the processing of fishery products or from the further processing of such processed products.

If all the products contained in the final processed product are all POAO and it does not contain plant products, that is not classified as a composite product, and it may be a '**compound**' product requiring different certificates for different components (e.g. salmon with butter will need a fishery product EHC and a dairy EHC). EU Commission has confirmed that as the mixed/assembled product is still a single product which cannot be divided, each certificate must indicate **the net weight of the single mixed/assembled product".**

The EU Commission has clarified that if honey is subject to filtration and/or centrifugation and is mixed with ingredients of plant origin that do not alter the characteristics of the honey, the result is not to be considered as a composite product. In this case, the certificate required should be the model HON in Chapter 45 of Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2020/2235. Honey and other apiculture products intended for human consumption to the European Union and Northern Ireland: certificate 8391 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

4. COMPOSITE PRODUCTS REQUIRING AN EHC

Composite products do not always require an EHC (see 'scope' and further links above)

The requirement for a certificate will vary depending on whether the product(s) is/are shelf stable and on the specific animal product content.

If in doubt, it is advisable to check with the BCP of entry whether a certificate is required for the product(s) in question.

5. APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU or NI

For the majority of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) exports to the EU the exporting establishment must be listed as an EU approved establishment. However, for composite products this is not necessary in all cases.

All the establishments in the supply chain (after primary production) must be approved UK establishments that are also listed by the EU. The final establishment that manufactures/assembles the composite product does not need to be approved if it is just handling pre-processed products of animal origin brought in from other establishments (which must be approved/listed). This derogation will require the tracing of POAO used in the relevant product. For example, an establishment assembling sandwiches using pre-processed meat originating in another establishment would not need to be listed in the EU's approved premises list however the establishment(s) producing the pre-processed meat would need to be.

If the establishment manufacturing the composite product is processing a fresh/raw product of animal origin as part of the manufacture (e.g. cooking raw meat or heat treating a raw milk dairy product) then this premises needs to be EU approved.

Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on the European Commission's website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

UK approved establishments are uploaded to the Europa website. A list of UK approved establishments is in the link below:

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

For approved establishments in NI the "EC" suffix which is present in the health/ID mark, and appears on the label, is not part of the approval number should not be included when referring to establishment approval numbers in the certificate.

6. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

Where possible, information should be provided within the main body of the certificate but if there is insufficient space to enter the required information in Part I or Part II of the certificate a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

The Republic of Ireland Competent Authorities have confirmed their expectations on the use of schedules as follows:

- *Part I Details of dispatched consignment* of the certificate should be completed in the certificate itself to the extent possible, unless there is insufficient space to complete full details in which case a schedule may be used. This may arise for example in providing details on the description of the commodity, including commodity (HS) code, and identification of commodities.
- *Part II Health Information* should also be completed to the extent possible in the certificate itself, unless there is insufficient space to complete full details in which case a schedule may also be used. This may arise in completing open fields in Part II of the certificate, for example, Species (A), Treatment (B), Origin (C) and Approved Establishments (D) for meat products, or country and establishment for processed dairy products.
- All attestations in *Part II Health Information* which are not applicable to the consignment in question must be deleted. This means that where there are multiple treatments applicable the ones not used for this specific consignment must be deleted. Where there are multiple products and attestations certified, additional details should be provided in the schedule on the specific treatments applied in the case of each product.

7. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV OR A FOOD COMPETENT CERTIFYING OFFICER (FCCO)

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

FCCOs can only certify this certificate when a consignment of composite products contains only processed fish and/or egg products as the product of animal origin component.

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

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

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

The EHC should be in English and the foreign language/s of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

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

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialed in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialed) and stamped by the OV (or FCCO). The foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

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

Additional information can be found in APHA : Official Veterinarian Training

Signing, stamping and pagination

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

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

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

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

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

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Vet Gateway, any hand-written corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part 1. The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in part I of the EHC needs to be amended (e.g. if box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended to a third country). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below.

Official Veterinarian Training

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part 1 is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However, we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of manually crossed out blank boxes in Part 1 of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on EHC Online

Guidance for Certifiers is in the link below.

Using export health certificate (EHC) online: certifier guidance - GOV.UK

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

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

For guidance on completion see "notes" section at the end of the certificate and the general EU guidance available in Chapter 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU)

2020/2235. Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744. Commission Implementing Regulation - EU - 2023/2744

I.8 Region of Origin

If applicable, for animals or products affected by the regionalisation measures in accordance with EU legislation. The code of approved regions, zones or compartments must be stated as defined in the relevant EU legislation.

I.11 Place of Dispatch

The EU have confirmed that the footnote for Box Reference I.11 is incorrect and should refer to the establishment of dispatch of the product, not the establishment of manufacture. This should be the establishment shipping the product (i.e. the last food establishment of the export chain) and can be any unit of a company in the food sector. The establishment does not have to be an EU approved/listed establishment (unless this is otherwise required by EU legislation). Providing "registration/approval No." is optional. An updated certificate will be made available in due course. In the meantime, the establishment of dispatch of the product should be certified, regardless of the wording of the certificate.

I.27 Description of consignment

The manufacturing plant of the final composite product must be included and, if applicable, the cold store.

It is not necessary to include "Slaughterhouse" or "treatment type". These fields can be certified as "not applicable" as the relevant information is provided in Part II of this certificate.

Batch number： This can be any number that identifies the product being certified for export that is normally used to provide traceability information. Defra understands that "production", "use-by" or "best before" dates can be used for this purpose.

PART II: HEALTH INFORMATION

Refer to the footnotes marked (1), (2), (3) etc. in the 'notes' section at the end of the certificate for guidance on completing this section.

An exporter/manufacturer declaration could form part of the evidence used to support certification of this section but should not be the only evidence used. Additional relevant evidence of compliance must be obtained as set out below.

II.1.A Meat products

The 'origin' of the meat product being referred to in the EHC is the country of manufacture of the meat product, as opposed to the country of origin of the animal, the country of slaughter or the country of manufacture of composite product.

II.1.A.1
Treatment and origin: the list of territories eligible to export meat products to the EU and the

required treatment types are listed in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists in this regulation.

II.1.A.2

Most meat products that originate from third countries (non-EU countries other than the UK) can only be used in composite products where they originate from countries/territories which are eligible import these meat products into the EU subject to “treatment A”. Some meat products listed in footnote (7) cannot be used if they originate from a third country.

The UK is listed to use the non-specific treatment A for meat products from all species of animal except for meat products from poultry, farmed feathered game, wild game birds and farmed ratites where the UK is regionalised. If these products are obtained from the “GB-1” region then treatment A can be applied but if “GB-2” region as defined in Annex XV of Implementing Regulation 2021/404 (as amended) then they must be heat treated to meet “Treatment D”.

An explanation of the various treatment requirements (as extracted from the legislation) is provided below:

RISK MITIGATING TREATMENTS FOR MEAT PRODUCTS

1. RISK MITIGATING TREATMENTS FOR MEAT PRODUCTS LISTED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF SEVERITY

B	=	Treatment in a hermetically sealed container to a F_o value of three or more.
C	=	A minimum temperature of 80 °C, which must be reached throughout the meat product during its processing.
D	=	A minimum temperature of 70 °C, which must be reached throughout the meat or stomachs, bladders and intestines during the processing of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, or for raw ham, a treatment consisting of natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months and resulting in the following characteristics: — Aw value of not more than 0,93, — pH value of not more than 6,0.
D1	=	Thorough the cooking of meat, previously de-boned and defatted, subjected to heating so that an internal temperature of 70 °C or greater is maintained for a minimum period of 30 minutes.
E	=	In the case of ‘biltong’-type products, a treatment to achieve: — Aw value of not more than 0,93, — pH value of not more than 6,0.
F	=	A heat treatment ensuring that a core temperature of at least 65 °C is reached for a period of time as necessary to achieve a pasteurisation value (Pv) equal to or above 40.

Extract from Annex XXVI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, correct in March 2021. ("Treatment A" refers to non-specific treatments where none of the risk mitigatingtreatments (e.g. B, C, D) are required)

Where a GB composite product contains meat from NI origin, OV should certify the country of origin of the meat as from “a Member State”.

If you are certifying a composite product containing POAO that originate in different countries, you may need to retain multiple statements.

II.1.B Dairy products or colostrum-based product

(a) The list of third countries/parts of countries eligible to export dairy products to the EU are listed in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists in this regulation.

Please select the “either”/ “and/or” / “and/or” option/s in (a) that apply and strike the other(s) through.

For dairy products produced in the UK, the first (“either”) option can be certified on the basis of the UK’s listing to export dairy products to the EU (as above), UK freedom from foot and mouth disease and rinderpest (see Notifiable Disease Clearance paragraph 8 below) and on the basis that vaccination against these diseases is not permitted in the UK. Check footnote 9 which refers that this certification option is only allowed for dairy products originating and produced in the zone(s) as listed in Part 1 of Annex XVII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 and which are contained in the composite products dispatched to the Union from the zone(s) referred to in Box. I.7 and listed in Part 1 of Annex XVII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

If certifying the second (“and/or”) option a copy of the current table of minimum treatments required is included below.

If the dairy product was produced in the EU, please select the third option *and/or*. Check footnote 9 which refers that this certification option is only allowed for dairy products originating and produced in a Member State and which are contained in the composite products dispatched to the Union from the zone(s) referred to in Box. I.7 and listed in Part 1 of Annex XVII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

It is no longer a requirement to indicate the approval number of the establishment of origin of dairy products contained in composite products transiting through the Union, as the Union is not a final destination of those composite products.

RISK MITIGATING TREATMENTS FOR MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

	A	B
Species of origin of the milk and the dairy products	***Bos Taurus, Ovis aries, Capra hircus, Bubalus bubalis* and *Camelus dromedarius***	**Other than *Bos Taurus, Ovis aries, Capra hircus, Bubalus bubalis* and *Camelus dromedarius***
Animal health status of the third country	**1. Third countries not officially free of foot and mouth (FMD) for the preceding 12 months** **2. Third countries where vaccination against FMD is practised**	**Any**
Sterilisation process, to achieve an F_0 value equal to or greater than 3	Yes	Yes
Ultra-high temperature (UHT) treatment at not less than 135 °C in combination with a suitable holding time	Yes	Yes
High temperature short time pasteurisation treatment (HTST) at 72 °C for 15 seconds applied twice to milk with a pH equal to or greater than 7,0 achieving, where applicable, a negative reaction to a alkaline phosphatase test, applied immediately after the heat treatment	Yes	No
HTST treatment of milk with a pH below 7,0	Yes	No
HTST treatment combined with another physical treatment by either: (i)lowering the pH below 6 for one hour; or (ii)additional heating equal to or greater than 72 °C, combined with desiccation	Yes	No
No : treatment not permitted Yes : acceptable treatment		

Copy of Annex XXVII to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, correct in February 2023

(b) Keep the relevant attestation depending on the country/zone of origin of the dairy product.

Where a GB composite product contains dairy from NI origin, OV should certify the country of origin of the dairy as from “a Member State”. If you are certifying a composite product containing POAO that originate in different countries, you may need to retain multiple statements. Check footnote 9 that refer that this certification option is only allowed for dairy products originating and produced in the zone(s) as listed in Part 1 of Annex XVII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 and/or in a Member State and which are contained in the composite products dispatched to the Union from the zone(s) referred to in Box. I.7 and listed in Part 1 of Annex XVII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

(c) Dairy products produced from raw milk and/or from other dairy products which are made from raw milk- obtained from:

From the list of species within the square brackets under the first main "*either"* delete any non-relevant species.

Declare the heat treatment(s) used. Delete any statements that do not apply.

The European Commission have confirmed that this section can be deleted for unpasteurised products provided that the country of origin of the dairy product is listed for import of raw milk/dairy products in Annex XVII of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 and the milk used to produce the product originated in that third country, another third country listed in that Annex or a Member State

The first "*either*" option in this section (refer to footnote 9) is only allowed for dairy products originating and produced in the zone(s) as listed in Annex XVII, Part 1, to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 *and/or* in a Member State and which are contained in the composite products dispatched to the Union from the zone(s) referred in Box 1.7 and listed in Part 1 of Annex XVII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.
For the other treatment options, see footnote (10) – not applicable for dairy products contained in composite products manufactured/produced in GB.

(d) Only applicable for colostrum-based products. Otherwise delete.

II.1.C Egg products

II.1.C.1. Originate from:

For egg products from GB or an authorised third county please select the first "*either*". State the zone of origin, which must be authorised for export of egg products to the EU.

Third countries/parts of countries eligible to export egg products to the EU are listed in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. Great Britain and the Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists in this regulation.

For egg products from EU/NI origin, please select the second option "or" Member State.

If you are certifying a composite product containing POAO that originate in different countries, you may need to retain multiple statements.

II.1.C.2. Coming from an establishment:

The establishment processing the eggs must be approved (in accordance with the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004).

The establishment (farm) that the eggs came from must have been free of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease (ND) virus for at least 30 days before the eggs were collected. For eggs produced in Great Britain, this can be certified on the basis that all eggs from infected premise (IP) are only licenced for disposal or destruction. As such, any eggs from an infected premise will not move into the food chain. APHA conduct backwards tracing, ensuring that all materials that have come from an infected premise in the 30-day period are identified and disposed of.

There is the option to certify *either* the notifiable disease freedom attestation in II.1.C.2 *or* to certify that the eggs have been heat treated to meet one of the options under options **a)** and **b)**.

If certifying II.1.C.2 first option "***either*" a)** "*within a 10 km radius there has been no outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza…..".*

or first option **"either" b)** *"within a 10 km radius there has been no outbreak of infection with Newcastle disease virus…",* for eggs originate in Great Britain, refer to guidance below on notifiable disease clearance and to APHA Vet Gateway "guidance for COs obtaining clearance for avian influenza" available at:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

If the treatment option for a) or b) is certified, please select the relevant treatment.

8. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For guidance on certifying paragraphs relating to Avian Influenza see APHA guidance for "Certifying Officers Obtaining Clearance for Avian Influenza" available here:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

Further up to date information on Avian Influenza can be found on Briefing Note 5521.

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

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

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

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

- For any postcodes in Northern Ireland, COs can obtain clearance using the interactive map provided by DAERA that can be found here: AI Trade Map

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last

occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

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

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

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

9. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)

For groupage exports from Great Britain, where certain types of products are produced from a stable supply chain and are fully packaged for the final consumer, exporters who are GEFS

members may use 30-day support attestations to provide information to OVs to facilitate completion of this certificate.

For further information including the definition of groupage exports, the template 30-day support attestation which must be used and requirements for exporters, suppliers and vets to use the scheme see: Export groups of products using the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS) - GOV.UK

You can check that exporters are GEFS members by consulting the GEFS membership list or emailing the exporter's name, GEFS membership number and the address of the exporting premises to GEFS@defra.gov.uk

10. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THE THIRD COUNTRY (TRIANGUALR TRADE)

If there are no animal health requirements in the certificate, then the product can be re-exported without "further processing". Transit goods only need to meet transit requirements as per the official health certificate.

NI origin:

Consignments could contain animals or animal products which have originated in NI. For raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, this can be certified under the terms of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the Windsor Framework. The Windsor Framework applies EU SPS legislation in NI.

Approved premises in NI continue to implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004 and 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in the Windsor Framework. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/205 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Regulation (EU) 2017/625) Directive (EC) Nos 96/22 and 470/2009 can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and

maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accord with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By Products are handled in accordance with EU Control Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the GB exporter/CO must request this information from the NI exporter . The NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

EU origin:

Imported composite products from the EU can be re-exported in certain circumstances:

- Composite products imported from the EU into GB and re-exported back to the EU after storage in GB without removing their original packaging. Re-export of Products of Animal Origin of EU or NI origin back to the EU or NI after storage in Great Britain: certificate 8461 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Composite products imported from the EU into GB that undergo further processing and are exported to the EU as a new product. Processing means any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes. POAO that have been divided, parted,

severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed, are not considered to have undergone further processing.

- Composite products which are manufactured/assembled in GB using processed POAO imported from the EU into GB.

For imported goods that need to be certified for export from GB, these are normally subject to import certification, or the availability of a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) issued by the BCP of entry to verify that they are compliant with GB import requirements and for placing on the GB market. COs including OVs may use these official documents to provide supporting evidence of compliance with relevant requirements for the re-export of products. In this context OVs may rely on the CHED issued by an Official Fish Inspector (a non-veterinarian) for Fishery Products and live bivalve molluscs, live echinoderms, live tunicates or live marine gastropods for human consumption, cleared via a GB BCP.

Where the CHED or accompanying import certificate are not available or do not provide sufficient supporting information, the CO should seek a supporting attestation from an 'authorised veterinarian' who has personal knowledge of the matters in question. This may be further supported by relevant commercial information or records. It is the responsibility of the GB exporter to obtain the necessary supporting information to enable the CO to verify compliance with export requirements.

For goods sourced in the EU and EFTA countries, especially those that are not accompanied by a veterinary certificate or CHED issued by a BCP - COs may rely on the oval ID mark applied at approved food establishments in the EU as evidence that the goods were produced compliant with EU food production requirements for placing on the EU market - but care must be taken not to extrapolate this to animal health requirements not covered by the obligations of a food approved establishment, i.e. matters that extend beyond the scope of Regulations 852/2004 and 853/2004.

Third country origin:

Composite products must be manufactured/assembled or re-processed in Great Britain (as per footnote to box I.11 of the relevant certificate) to be exported to the EU but can contain processed POAO that originates from non-GB non-EU countries which have not been further processed in GB provided that the relevant non-EU country is suitably listed. Meat products must originate from a country listed by the EU for imports of meat products without specific risk-mitigating treatment (i.e. treatment A) and dairy products must originate from countries listed by the EU for import of raw milk products.

Processing is defined above.

It is also possible that some composite products may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country).

COs may obtain the necessary supporting information from a copy of the original EHC used for import of these products into the UK.

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

11. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, COs (OVs and FCCOs) must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify.

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

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

12. LEGAL STATEMENT

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

13. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG 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 APHA in Carlisle, via the link below:

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

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

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

8351NFG

Version History

EHC

Published XX November 2025

Notes:

The manufacturing plant guidance is removed,

Published 31 May 2024:

Part I: I.27 - Quantity is added.

Part II:

II.1.B: option (a) first '*either* and third *and/or* option now has a footnote 9. Option (b) both *and/or* options now have a footnote 9. Point (c), under main *either* option in sub-option *or,* footnote 10 is added, which is related to sterilisation process.

II.1.B: option (c) further option of dairy products to be produced from dairy products is added. First either and or option under point (c) is amended with "and/or dairy products therefrom".

II.1.C: Second option II.1.C 1 related to establishment is now numbered as II.1.C 2 – this corrects an error in the original EU version of this EHC.

Notes - Part II:

Footnote 4 is amended: EQU and RM are removed.

Footnote 7 is amended: sub-species information for EQU, EQW, RM and WM is included.

Footnote 9 is amended: "and which are contained in the composite products dispatched to the Union from the zone(s) referred to in Box. I.7 and listed in Part 1 of Annex XVII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404." is added.

Footnote 10 is added: "This certification option is only allowed for dairy products produced in the zone(s) listed in Part 1 of Annex XVIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, which are contained in the composite products dispatched to the Union from the zone(s) referred to in Box. I.7 and listed in Part 1 of Annex XVIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, and the treatment was applied in the zone referred to in Box. I.7 and listed in Part 1 of Annex XVIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404."

Footnote 10 is now footnote 11.

NFG

Version 25: Published xx November 2025:

Section 10: is updated replacing reference to Northern Ireland protocol with Windsor framework.
Links to APHA Gateway are replaced with APHA Official Veterinarian Training
Legal statement is updated.

Version 15: Published 28 October 2024

Applicable Legislation: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1874 added

Version 14: Published May 2024

Section 1: Applicable Legislation is amended with addition of Regulation (EU) 2023/2744.

Part I: Detail of the Consignment: Link to Amended Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 is added for completing Part I of the EHC.

Part II:

II.1. B: In point (a) and (b) further information is added where footnote 9 is added on the EHC. In point (c) dairy products made from dairy products is added.

II.1.C: second option related to establishment II.1.C 1 is now numbered as II.1.C.2. Under II.1.C.2 further amendments are done for sub-options, to refer to II.1.C.2 rather than II.1.C.1.

Version 13 published 16 January 2024

Section 10 Consignments or parts of the consignment originating from NI, EU member state or from the third country (Triangular Trade) [When applicable]:

After 15 January 2024, POAO consignments moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland that require an Export Health Certificate will have to follow the rules on triangular trade. Separate rules apply to products that are eligible to move to Northern Ireland via the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme.

Version 12: Published 01 September 2023

Section 10 amended to Provide further clarity on the triangular trade requirements for transiting goods.

Version 11: Published 28 March 2023

II.1.B: Point (a) is updated with current information and obsolete information is deleted. Point (e) is removed as per new Model EHC

Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

Amended to standardise the advice we provide on documentary evidence across POAO NFGs.

Version 16: Published 16 June 2025

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE – Section amended to include reference to AI map for NI.