Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding offal and minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of wild animals of the family Bovidae (other than domesticated bovine, ovine and caprine animals), wild camelid animals and wild cervid animals

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Contents

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RUW - Veterinary certificate for entry into the Union of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of wild animals of the Family Bovidae (other than domestic Bovine, Ovine and Caprine animals), wild Camelid and wild Cervid animals.

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

1. **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235,

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

Regulation (EC) Nos 999/2001, 178/2002,

Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004

Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Regulation (EU) 2022/2292

Regulation (EU) Nos 2017/625, 2019/624 and 2019/627.

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the EU Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) Nos 854/2004 and 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

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

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 Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for the entry into the Union (including transits) of fresh meat, excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of wild animals of the Family Bovidae (other than domestic Bovine, Ovine and Caprine animals), wild Camelid and wild Cervid animals in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2020/692. 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 RUW model of veterinary certificate may be used for entry into the Union (including transit through the Union) of fresh meat, excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of **wild animals** of the Family Bovidae (other than domestic Bovine, Ovine and Caprine animals), wild Camelid and wild Cervid animals in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) No 2020/692.

It may not be used for animals killed or hunted prior to the date of authorisation for dispatch into the EU or NI or where restrictive measures have been adopted by the EU against dispatch of this meat.

The **certificate is also not to be used for unskinned carcasses** as it is not possible to export unskinned wild game in accordance with Article 48 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627. The certificate can be used for carcasses without the skin.
Fresh meat that was imported into GB cannot currently be re-exported to the EU as fresh meat using this EHC.

For the re-export of EU origin Products of Animal Origin from the EU please use 8461 EHC. Find an export health certificate - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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

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 Export Health Certificate (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).

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.

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 on-line 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, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version are struck through, both versions can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English.

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, foreign language version/s and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back to back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages 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. 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 the 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 Official Veterinarian Training, any handwritten 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 for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). 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 Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online Guidance for Certifiers in the link below.

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

UK approved establishments will be uploaded to Europa website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below.

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

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use a schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the notes for the completion of certificates provided for in Chapter 4 of Annex I to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link: (Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744. Implementing Regulation - EU - 2023/2744 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/2235/oj

Box I.27- reference to batch number/s.
There is no specific format requirement for batch numbers and slaughter/production/best before date(s) may be used as appropriate.
Batch codes are intended to identify an amount of product that has been produced under the same conditions and so any hazard identified in a part of the batch can be presumed to be present in the whole.
Batch information is likely to be checked by Border Control Posts as part of identity checks.
Batch information in the health certificate should match information available when inspecting the product (e.g. on product labelling).

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public Health Attestation

The public health attestations should be deleted if the whole consignment is intended for transit through the EU territory only.

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The Official Veterinarian needs to be aware of the relevant requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 999/2001, 178/2002, 852/2004, and 853/2004 as well as Regulation (EU) Nos 2017/625, 2019/624 and 2019/627 and certify that the fresh meat included in Part 1 of the certificate was produced in accordance with the relevant regulatory requirements.

The fresh meat also needs to be stored and transported in accordance with the relevant requirements of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.

The Official Veterinarian also needs to ensure the fresh meat, meets the relevant guarantees covering life animals and products thereof provided by the residue plans submitted in accordance with Directive 96/23/EC.

The Official Veterinarian also needs to ensure the fresh meat, meets the relevant guarantees covering life animals and products thereof provided by the residue plans submitted in accordance with Directive 96/23/EC, in particular Article 29, and the UK complies with TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.

If applicable, see section 7 for further guidance where the meat is not of UK origin. The attestations can be certified if it originates from an EU approved establishment in a third country, has been legally imported into the UK and evidence is provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) that demonstrates compliance with the relevant attestations.

II.I This can be certified on the basis of the OV's own knowledge of the listed legislation.

II.1.1 refers -

For meat from wild Bovidae, wild camelids and wild cervid animals killed in the UK, this may be certified on the basis of the product(s) being produced in (an) establishment(s) that is approved since all approved food establishments must also satisfy the requirements of Regulation (EC) 852/2004. A list of EU approved establishments in Great Britain can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

II.1.2, II.1.3, II.1.4 and II.1.5 refer -

These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of application of the oval mark in the format as required by the EU confirming that the game handling establishment, cutting plant and cold store as applicable are officially approved and operating in accordance with assimilated EU Regulations Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004, 2017/625, 2019/624 and 2019/627 and, in the case of microbiological criteria, Regulation No. 2073/2005.

These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

It should be noted that Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 does not require testing of fresh meat from wild animals. II.I.5 can be certified on the basis of general compliance to Regulation 2073/2005 without testing.

II.1.6 refers -

For fresh meat from wild animals of the family Bovidae, Camelidae and wild cervids sourced from the UK this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, which are transposed into 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. .

Said provisions fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products thereof provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Article 6(2) of commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292. The UK is listed in Annex -I to Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/405 for the concerned animals and products covered under this EHC.

See section 5 for further advise on residue check guarantees. The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin.

II.1.7 refers -
This paragraph can be certified based on the certifying veterinarian's own knowledge of the operations at the game handling establishment and/or the conditions of transport. Alternatively, a declaration from another Official Veterinarian with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed. This could be part of the standard Support Health Attestation.

II.1.8 refers –
This paragraph should be deleted unless the wild cervid meat originates from Canada or USA (if so, see section 7). This paragraph is applicable to wild cervid meat obtained from countries referred to in Chapter F of Annex IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. This currently applies to wild cervid meat in Canada and USA.

Please refer to guidance in II.2.4 below in relation to export of exposed and packaged meat in the same consignment regarding separation.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

The Official Veterinarian signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The fresh meat described in the certificate must meet the animal health requirements listed in section 2 of the certificate in accordance with its third country listing in Article 230(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. Regulation 2021/404 contains third country listing requirements. The UK and Crown Dependencies have been added to the lists outlined in 2021/404.

If applicable, see section 7 for further guidance where the meat is not of UK origin. The attestations can be certified if it has been legally imported into the UK and evidence is provided (e.g. a copy of the health certificate used for import) that demonstrates compliance with the relevant attestations.

II.2.1 refers-

For '*either*' option enter territory code. The list of third countries/parts of countries eligible to export meat to the EU is in Part 1 of Annex XIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

The '*or*' option is added, however this option can't be used for transit purpose.

See Section 4 for Notifiable Disease Clearance. Paragraph (a) and the first option (b) may be certified on the basis of UK notifiable disease clearances. Vaccination of animals against Foot and Mouth Disease and Rinderpest is not permitted in the UK. All other option (b) should be deleted if the first option (b) can be certified.

II.2.2 and II.2.3 refers –

See Section 4 below on Notifiable Disease Clearance. Include dates of killing.

II.2.4 refers-

This may be certifiable on the basis of the certifying Official Veterinarian knowledge of the establishment. Alternatively, a declaration from another Official Veterinarian with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed. This could be part of the Support Health Attestation.

There are two options marked as “either” “or”. If you export carcass and packaged meat, you will need two different EHCs. In case you want to use a single EHC for both commodities you need to contact the BCP of entry to make sure they will accept both in a single EHC.

II.2.5 refers –

Supplementary guarantees. Delete if game meat originated from the UK. The UK has not been listed as requiring any specific conditions in Part I of Annex XIII of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

4. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

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

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 the 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 the Official Veterinarian Training.

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

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.

5. **RESIDUE CHECK GUARANTEES**

The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin. Sample collection is conducted at the point of production i.e. at farm and slaughterhouse.
The domestic legislative basis for this monitoring is outlined in The Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations of 2015 and equivalent legislation in Wales (2019) and Northern Ireland (2016). The monitoring conducted in GB is in accordance with the legislative requirements of Directive 96/23 (EC), 96/22 (EC), Decision 97/747 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) concerning residue testing of products of animal origin. The residues tested in the programme are in accordance with Annex I and II of Directive No 96/23 (EC), specifically, and include veterinary medical products, banned substances and environmental contaminants. In practice, monitoring conducted in the UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.

With regards to maximum levels used to determine sample non-compliance, for authorised veterinary medicines GB work to the GB Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) published here; these MRLs are aligned to the EU veterinary MRLs published under Reg (EU) 37/2010. If a pesticidal compound has an MRL for food-producing species then this MRL is used as the respective non-compliance threshold, but if a pesticide does not have a foodstuff MRL then the MRLs as listed in Regulation (EC) 396/2005 are applied. For contaminants, such as heavy metals and mycotoxins, the limits as set out in Reg (EC) 1881/2006 are used to determine sample non-compliance.

The results of the statutory surveillance programme can be accessed on the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/residues-statutory-and-non-statutorysurveillance-results

The EHC residue testing requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance to the national surveillance programme, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

The national monitoring programme for pesticide MRLs in food and feed in place under Regulation 396/2005 is underpinned by national legislation, The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (England and Wales) 2008 (as amended) and devolved administration equivalents. A national monitoring programme for Maximum Residue Levels is managed by the Health and Safety Executive. This involves testing a selection of produce that has already been placed on the market in Great Britain to provide assurance that only authorised pesticides, within permitted levels, are present. The results are published in an annual report. Annual reports can be found on gov.uk.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expert-committee-on-pesticide-residues-in-food-prif-annual-report

Any EHC residue pesticide requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance with the pesticide residue monitoring scheme.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-of-monitoring-programme.

6. **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.

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 Export Health Certificate (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.

7. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES' OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE).

Fresh meat that was imported into GB cannot currently be re-exported to the EU as fresh meat using this EHC.

NI origin:

Consignment could potentially contain animals or animal products which have originated in Northern Ireland. 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.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Directive 96/23/EC, (repealed by OCR Regulation 2017/625) 96/22 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) 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.

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

EU origin:

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

- POAO imported from EU into GB and re-exported back to the EU after storage in GB without removing the POAO from its original pancaking.

- POAO imported into GB from the EU, that undergoes further processing and is 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 and cannot currently be re-exported to the EU.
- POAO imported into GB from the EU which is used to made/assemble a composite product.

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 Border Control Post (BCP) of entry to verify that they are compliant with GB import requirements and for placing on the GB market. Certifying Officers including Official Veterinarians 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 Certifying Officer 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 Certifying Officer 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 - Certifying Officers 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:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin. In order to export to the EU a product which contains POAO imported from a Third Country, the imported POAO must come from an EU listed country and should have undergone further processing in GB.
"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.

"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.

Certifying Officers 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 Border Control Post 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.

8. UK APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be listed as a 'UK approved establishment' and a list of UK approved establishments for import of products of animal origin (POAO) to the EU, can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU, and this does not include establishments with pending applications for approval.

If the final product contains POAO from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed as UK approved establishments.

If the POAO ingredients originated or were processed in a country other than the UK, it may be necessary to obtain an official certificate from the countries of origin for the ingredients in question to enable the certificate to be signed.

For approved establishments in Northern Ireland 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.

9. OVAL MARK ON 'PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN – POAOs'

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries an oval health or identification mark and that official controls are carried out by enforcement authorities to ensure the appropriate marking has been applied. Domestic legislation has been introduced to ensure these requirements continue to apply in the UK as assimilated legislation.

The health marks indicate that meat is fit for human consumption and the identification marks show when foods of animal origin have been produced in officially approved establishments which are compliant with assimilated EU food hygiene Regulations (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EU) No 2017/625, and also The primary food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended).

https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/guidance-on-health-and-identification-marks-that-applies-from-1-january-2021

Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that carcases, half carcases or quarters, or half carcases cuts into three pieces, of domestic ungulates, farmed game mammals (other than lagomorphs) and large wild game bear the official health mark or that the primary, secondary and/or shipping packaging on food products of animal origin show the identification mark.

10. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the certifying officer 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 certifying officer in a colour other than black 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.

Further guidance is available here: Official Veterinarian Training

11. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification CO (OV and Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCO)) 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 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 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (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
PB 8367 NFG

Version History:

EHC

Published xx November 2025

Part II:

II.1.6- Attestation is amended for clarity that country of origin must be listed and marked with an 'X' in Annex -I to Regulation (EU) 2021/405.

II.2.1: An '*or*' option is added for transit from third countries.

Notes section:

Footnote 5 is added for listed country or territory authorized for transit through the Union as per Annex XXII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

Footnote 6 is added for Code of the zone as per Annex XXII to implementing Regulation 2021/404.

Part I:
Identification Mark and Approval or registration number of plant/establishment are removed.

Part II:
II.1.6: Council Directive for residue plan 96/23 EC and Commission Implementing Regulation 2011/163 for listing of concerned animal and products, is replaced by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for control plan and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 for listing.

II.1.7 is now II.1.8.

II.1.8 is now II.1.7.

NFG –

Version 13: Published xx November 2025:

II.2.1: Guidance for option *or* is added.

Section 7: 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 12 published 31 May 2024

Section 1: Applicable Legislation is amended with addition of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292, 2023/2744 and 2020/2235.

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

II.1.6: Further clarity is added that the national surveillance scheme and mentioned provisions, fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292.

Section 5: Residue check guarantees: Further information is added: “In practice, monitoring conducted in the UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.”

Version 11 published 16 January 2024

- Section 2 Scope of The Certificate and Section 7 Consignment or Part of the Consignment Originating from the NI, EU Member States or from Third Country (Triangular Trade):

  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 10 published 14 April 2023

- S**ection II.2.1:**

Amended to remove an error in the NFG referring to a third option which is not present in the EHC.

Version 9 published xx March 2023

- Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

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