

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes For Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of eggs for human consumption 8359 August 2026

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No: 8359 NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of eggs intended for human consumption

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

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Regulation \(EC\) No 178/2002](#) - general principles and requirements of food law

[Regulation \(EC\) No 852/2004](#) and [Regulation \(EC\) No 853/2004](#) – hygiene/public health requirements for foodstuffs (852) and for food of animal origin (853)

[Regulation \(EC\) No 2160/2003](#) – control of salmonella and other food-borne zoonoses

[Official Control Regulations \(EU\) 2017/625](#)

[Animal Health Regulations \(EU\) 2016/429](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2292](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692](#) - rules for entry into the Union including animal health requirements for products of animal origin.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#) – lays down model official certificates and general guidance for completion.

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#) – laying down lists of third countries from which entry into the Union of animals, animal products and germinal products is permitted.

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/905](#)

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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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 EU 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 EU'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch to the EU or NI of eggs for human consumption. 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 may be used for entry into the EU or NI of eggs intended for human consumption.

It can also be used for the transit of these products through the EU to another third country.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV (OV) appointed by the APHA 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 EHC (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 (MS).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of 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 Health 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 initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, 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 the OV Instructions on page 23: [Official Veterinarian Training](#)

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section

at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.
- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.

COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See page 34 of the OV Instructions: [Official Veterinarian Training](#).

You can also contact the APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

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 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)

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

For further information on where to find your approval number, please visit:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/approved-food-establishments>

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

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 *[To delete if the whole consignment is intended only for transit through the EU]*

The public health attestations should be deleted if the whole consignment is intended for transit through the EU territory only (see box I.21 of the certificate).

This can be certified on the basis of the OV's own knowledge of the listed legislation and:

II.1.1, II.1.2 – For eggs originating in the UK, this may be certified on the basis of the eggs coming from establishment(s) that is (are) registered with the competent authority as meeting the requirements of Regulation (EC) 852/2004, which meets the requirements of Section X, Chapter I of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and which is listed as an EU approved establishment. 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.1.3 – For eggs produced in the UK, this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, which is 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 8 for further advice 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.

Annual reports on pesticide residues in food, can be found on gov.uk:

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

II.1.4 – These requirements can be certified based on the OV’s familiarity with the establishment, and records of compliance with the national control programme for salmonellas of public health significance. The establishment must not be under a related investigation.

II.1.5 This attestation can be deleted if the consignment is not destined for Finland, Denmark or Sweden. If the consignment is intended for Finland, Denmark or Sweden see the relevant paragraph in Section 9. Animal Health Schemes below.

II.1a - This attestation must be certified from 3 September 2026 where the European Union is the final destination of the POAO, regardless of the date of production.

For POAO obtained from food-producing animals in the UK, this attestation may be certified on the basis of the UK Veterinary Medicines Regulations and Maximum Residue Limit legal frameworks, which implement these EU requirements, and on the basis of Great Britain’s listing in the relevant EU third country list.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598, which is referred to in the current certificate text, has been repealed and replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189. As a result, the relevant third country list is now found in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405, as amended.

II.2 Animal health attestation

II.2.1. - Enter the territory code (e.g. “GB-0”).

(a) For ‘either’ option, the UK is listed for export of eggs under Annex XIX of [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/404](#).

The ‘or’ option is added, however this option can’t be used for transit purpose from GB.

(b) For UK origin eggs, this may be certified on the basis that the UK’s disease surveillance programme for highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to be carried out in a way that meets or exceeds EU requirements.

II.2.2.-

(a) For GB origin eggs, this can be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered (e.g. have a CPH number) and are under the control of APHA. Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 requires farmers to keep up-to-date records of the number of animals in the establishment (including species and, where relevant, identification), movements of animals into and out of the establishment and mortality in the establishment. These records must be kept for at least 3 years. Supporting evidence (e.g. a declaration from the farmer) may be used to support certification.

(b) This may be certified based on establishments receiving regular animal health visits from a veterinarian. If the farm of origin is a member of an approved farm assurance scheme [Farm assurance schemes: evidence of vet visits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farm-assurance-schemes-evidence-of-vet-visits) (e.g. Red Tractor, QMS) which requires annual veterinary visits then this statement may be certified on the basis of the relevant farm assurance scheme membership.

The veterinary visits should take place at least once per year and must be a visit of the establishment at herd / flock level for the purpose of detection of, or information on, occurrence of animal disease, or a statutory visit for herd health reasons.

If farms are not part of recognised farm assurance schemes that mandate annual veterinary inspections, then a declaration from a private veterinarian confirming veterinary visitations to the farm are performed at least annually (or at a higher frequency if deemed proportionate to the animal health and welfare compliance risk in the holding) is required. A sample Establishment Veterinary Visitation Attestation form can be found here: [Establishment Veterinary Visitation Attestation Form](#).

This is an EU requirement which must be certified based on evidence such as membership of a recognised farm assurance scheme or via provision of a Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN) on the Food Chain Information (FCI) document. Where available, the vet attestation can also be checked on the relevant digital systems in Great Britain.

(c) For GB origin eggs, this can be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as referred to in Section 4 of this guidance.

(d) & (e) 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.

(d) If the eggs are collected after day 30 but the certificate is issued x days later (for example, the eggs were sent to and stored in a packing centre), the CO should consider that:

If no further outbreaks were detected (in the establishment of origin or within a 10 km radius), between the day 31 and the date of issuing the certificate, the consignment can be certified.

If further outbreaks were notified (in the establishment of origin or within a 10 km radius), between day 31 and the date of issuing the certificate, the consignment cannot be certified.

II.2.3.- This may be certified on the basis of OV's own knowledge of the procedures in place (including animal health surveillance) at the establishment of origin of the eggs and/or support certification from another veterinarian with relevant knowledge.

II.2.4.- The date or date range of egg collection must be entered here, this may be obtained via commercial records.

II.2.5. - This may be certified on the basis of OV knowledge at the time of loading/dispatch

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

For guidance on certifying paragraphs relating to Avian Influenza, see the OV Instructions: [Official Veterinarian Training](#).

COs (OVs (OV) and Food Competent COs (FCCO)) can certify certain disease clearances paragraphs within this EHC, on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been provided/obtained on form 618NDC from APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC).

The clearance will be provided by CITC on form 618NDC. It will specify the statements on the certificate that it covers and is only in relation to the official GB disease status specified in the relevant paragraphs. All other matters such as residency, vaccination status, status of premises in respect of other diseases not covered by the 618NDC and disease status of countries, areas, premises outside the UK, are for the CO to check and verify, obtaining support certification where necessary including support certification for products of animal origin that have originated in NI.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA. CSOs can collect evidence, directed by an OV, which may be used to support OV certification of matters which do not require a clinical assessment or judgement e.g. for POAO and ABPs.

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 (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: [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 emailing the exporter's name, GEFS membership number and the address of the exporting premises to GEFS@defra.gov.uk

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATE OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE) [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

For NI origin 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. 2073/2005 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) No_ 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 accordance 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 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. This 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 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 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)
- 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 make/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 BCP (BCP) of entry to verify that they are compliant with GB import requirements and for placing on the GB market. COs including OVAs may use these official documents to provide supporting evidence of compliance with relevant requirements for the re-export of products. In this context OVAs 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:

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.

From 3 September 2026, where a consignment contains POAO obtained from non-EU third-country origin animals and the European Union is the final destination of the consignment, the Certifying Officer must be satisfied that these products comply with the

antimicrobial medicinal products attestation in Part II of this certificate, "Attestation as regards Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905".

This applies whether the third-country origin product is used as an ingredient in a POAO manufactured or further processed in GB, and/or was already present in GB before the EU requirement came into effect, including frozen, chilled, canned or otherwise stored products.

Exporters must provide Certifying Officers with sufficient traceability information to demonstrate that any non-EU third country origin POAO contained in the consignment originates from a third country or region listed for the relevant POAO in the relevant EU third country list.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598, which is referred to in the current certificate text, has been repealed and replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189. As a result, the relevant third country list is now found in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405, as amended.

"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.

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.

7. OVAL MARK ON "PRODUCT OF ANIMAL ORIGIN"- POAOS

In addition to the general requirements for identification, the oval mark is not necessary on packs of eggs when a packing centre code is applied in accordance with Part A of Annex XIV to Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007.

General requirements

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries and 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 GB 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. 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 carcasses, half carcasses or quarters, or half carcasses 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.

8. 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 NI ([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-statutory-surveillance-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>.

9. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Salmonella Control in Poultry

[Regulation \(EC\) No 2160/2003](#) on the control of Salmonella in poultry is currently implemented through the UK Salmonella National Control Programme that is enforced by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order Regulation 2007 (England), the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Wales) Order 2008, the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Breeding, Laying and Broiler Flocks) (Scotland) Order 2009, the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009, and the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order.

Poultry Health Scheme

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2035](#) is currently being committed to through the equivalent Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) in Great Britain. A list of approved Poultry Health Scheme members can be found on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-health-scheme-list-of-members>

Relevant text can be certified based on the establishment committing to the Poultry health scheme for the control and surveillance of specified non-zoonotic mycoplasma and salmonella bacterial species.

SALMONELLA GUARANTEES FOR EGGS TO BE EXPORTED TO FINLAND, SWEDEN AND DENMARK

There are special requirements of salmonella testing for eggs intended for export to Sweden and Finland, with reference to Chapter III, Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (EU). These requirements also apply to eggs intended for Denmark (see [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 427/2012](#)). [Regulation \(EC\) No 1688/2005](#) sets out the requirements for sampling in Article 4.

Testing is not required if the consignments is intended for the manufacture of processed products by a process that guarantees the elimination of salmonella and/or if the establishment of origin conforms to a control program recognised as equivalent to that approved for Sweden and Finland.

If testing is required, the OV must check the flock records to confirm that the appropriate tests have been carried out at the correct frequency with negative results of zoonotic salmonella species. Evidence must be collected and attached to EHC as supporting documentation.

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 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.

Further guidance is available here on page 23: [Official Veterinarian Training](#).

11. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCS

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

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 APHA 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 in the OV instructions: [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 the APHA (APHA) in Carlisle.

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at: product.exports@apha.gov.uk

PB8359 NFG

Version History

EHC

Published November 2025

Part II:

II.1.3- 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.1 (a): Reference to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 is replaced with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598.

II.2.1: An ‘or’ option is added for transit from third countries.

Notes section:

Footnote 3 is added for Code of the zone as per Annex XXII to implementing Regulation 2021/404.

Footnote 4 is added for listed country or territory authorized for transit through the Union as per Annex XXII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:

II.1 (a) - Attestation about the administration of antimicrobial medicinal products is added.

Notes - Footnote 5 is added.

Published 31 May 2024

Part I:

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

Part II:

II.1.3: 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.1.5: Guidance is removed about the maximum residue level for pesticides and contaminants.

II.1.6 is now II.1.4.

II.1.3 is now II.1.5.

NFG

Version 19: Published August 2026

II.1a - Guidance amended regarding antimicrobial attestation.

Section 6 – Guidance added regarding third country origin POAO.

Version 18: Published xx November 2025:

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

Section 6: 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 17: Published December 2024

APHA Gateway links updated.

Version 16: Published 30 August 2024

Applicable Legislation: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 added

Part II: II.1 (a) - Guidance is added about the attestation related to antimicrobial medicinal products.

Version 15: Published 31 May 2024

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

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

II.1.3: 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.

II.1.6 is now II.1.4: Requirements are not changed.

II.1.5 is removed: Requirement was regarding maximum level for pesticides, which is now deleted from the EHC.

Part II:

II.1.3 is now II.1.5: Guidance is now included under point II.1.5. Requirements remain the same.

II.2.2 (b): Paragraph related to Farm Assurance Scheme is amended to provide up to date information.

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 14: Published on 16 January 2024

Section 6 Consignment or Part of the Consignment Originating from the NI, EU Member States or from Third Country (Triangular Trade) amended:

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

Version 13: Published 28 March 2023

Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

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