

**EXPORT OF UNPROCESSED AND PROCESSED PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS TO INDIA -
7534EHC**

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

N.B.: COVID-19 - These interim guidance notes are intended to implement contingency measures and instructions essential to:

- **Protect public health**
- **Protect the health and welfare of animals**
- **Ensure the continuity of the chain supply of animals and food**
- **Provide reassurances by the UK Competent Authorities to certifying veterinarians that these guidance notes are within the (*) principles of certification of the RCVS and are issued to ensure the integrity of certification**

[() In general and, more specifically, Principle Numeral 4 and sections 21.5, 21.35, 21.36, 21.37 of the 10 Principles of Certification included in [Chapter 21 - Certification \(Supporting Guidance\)](#) of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons]*

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7534EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7534EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7534EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to India of all categories of unprocessed and processed pork and pork products including the following:

- fresh chilled/frozen meat, meat preparations (e.g. sausages) and offal;
- cooked meat, meat preparations and meat products that have been canned or otherwise processed at a temperature to attain an internal temperature of not less than 70°C for 30 minutes;
- meat that has been dried after salting.

Meat/meat products intended for export to India may be derived from animals born and reared in the UK or manufactured from raw materials

that were legally imported into the UK provided the raw materials meet all of the health conditions laid down in the certificate.

Exporters are advised that meat intended for export to India using this certificate must be solely derived from the porcine species and must contain no other meat.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

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

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit.

4. APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENTS

Paragraph IV(a) refers, Establishments may be certified on the basis of approval/registration of establishments by the relevant UK food safety competent authority and/or the application of the oval identification mark which demonstrate compliance with Regulations 852/2004 and 853/2004, as applicable.

Establishments that comply with the attestations in Part IV of the EHC can be certified based on domestic approval alone. Establishments listed in Part II must be domestically approved only and do not require FSSAI registration. Therefore, slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants, and cold stores do not need to be registered with FSSAI.

However, establishments included in Part III (d) must be listed with FSSAI under the provisions of the Indian Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations 2017. Only the exporter needs to

be registered with FSSAI.

The list of eligible UK establishments is available on India's FSSAI website at: [Registration of Foreign food
https://sites.fssai.gov.in/refom/Manufacturers - ReFoM](https://sites.fssai.gov.in/refom/Manufacturers - ReFoM).

Exporters should contact APHA for registration forms and guidance.

5. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

Paragraph IV(b) refers. In the case of meat derived from animals born and reared in the UK, OV's may certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of purchasing and operational patterns of the food business operator (FBO) and exporter. OV's may also wish to obtain written declarations from the FBO and/or exporter confirming that the conditions of this paragraph have been met for the exported goods.

In the case of meat derived from imported raw materials, OV's must carry out appropriate checks to ensure that the raw materials were legally imported into the UK. These may include checks of health marks and commercial documentation for meat originating from the European Union (EU) or Common Veterinary Entry Documents (CVEDs) produced by the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) for meat imported from third (non-EU) countries.

OV's must also note that any imported meat used in the manufacture of meat intended for export to India must comply with all the health conditions laid down in the certificate. It is likely that carrying

out the checks necessary to certify these paragraphs will not be straightforward. OV's are therefore advised not to certify these paragraphs in the case of imported raw materials unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details, backed up by written evidence (e.g. support certification), and are confident to do so.

6. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

Paragraph IV(e) may be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues, to which EU approved meat establishments are subjected. The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC. The HACCP requirements in Regulation [\(EU\) 2017/625](#) also places an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives.

The above Directives are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the equivalent statutory instruments in Wales and Northern Ireland.

(Link to the above [Statutory Instruments](#))

7. CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Paragraph IV(e) and sub-paragraphs IV(f) (iv) and IV(f) (vi) (i) refer. Codex Alimentarius is a series of international standards for food and agricultural products. Codex is jointly sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and comprises of more than 185 countries and one member organization (The European Union).

The European Commission represents all EU countries on matters of EU competence, including the EU meat hygiene regulations. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the lead UK Government Department for Codex. The Food Standards Agency takes the lead in a number of the vertical committees dealing with, e.g. food hygiene, food additives, food contaminants.

For the purposes of this certificate, compliance with the EU meat hygiene Regulations and UK legislation regarding residues and unauthorised substances may be regarded as compliance with Codex Alimentarius standards.

Paragraph IV(e) and sub-paragraphs IV(f) (iv) and IV(f) (vi) (i) may therefore be certified on the basis of presence of the EU oval mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and Regulation [\(EU\) 2017/625](#), as transposed into national legislation.

8. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

Sub-paragraphs IV(f) (i), IV(f) (ii) (first option), IV(f) (iii) (first option) and, in the case of meat derived solely from pigs of UK

origin, sub-paragraph IV(f) (v) (first option) and IV(f) (vii) (only for *Teschovirus encephalomyelitis* and Anthrax) refer.

OVs may certify these sub-paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

OVs should delete the second and third options of sub-paragraph IV(f) (ii) and the second option of sub-paragraph IV(f) (iii).

In the case of statements regarding *Aujeszky's disease*, sub-paragraph IV(f) (v) refers to 'country of origin'. In cases where the exported meat/meat products is derived from imported raw materials, OVs must carry out sufficient checks to support certification of freedom from *Aujeszky's disease* of the sourced material and that it does not contain prohibited ingredients (see paragraph 4 above). Paragraph IV(f) (vii) refers to clinical evidence of disease in the establishment of origin. OVs may certify *Teschovirus encephalomyelitis* and Anthrax for establishments only of United Kingdom origin provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

9. **TRICHINELLA STATEMENTS**

Background

Sub-paragraphs IV(iv) (i) - (iii) refer. Prior to June 2014, the EU legal requirement for *Trichinella* testing was to test all pigs regardless of risk. A new, risk-based approach was introduced EU-wide on the 1 June 2014. The new requirements for *Trichinella* testing, as laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375, state that carcasses of domestic swine shall be sampled in slaughterhouses as part of the *post-mortem* examination as follows:

- all carcasses of breeding sows and boars;
- all carcasses from holdings that are not officially recognised as applying **controlled housing conditions** (CHC);
- all carcasses of horses, wild boar and other farmed and wild animal species susceptible to *Trichinella* infestation.

Controlled Housing Conditions means a type of animal husbandry where pigs are kept at all times under conditions controlled by the food business operator with regard to feeding and housing. This includes a range of measures that reduce the risk of the pigs being infected with *Trichinella*, for example preventing rodents, mammals and carnivorous birds from accessing buildings where pigs and animal feed are kept and implementation of pest control programmes.

There is also scope for pigs to have some access to outdoor facilities provided that the Food Business Operator can prove by risk assessment that this does not pose a risk for introducing *Trichinella* in the holding.

The Food Chain Information (FCI) declaration accompanying the animals from the farm to the slaughterhouse has been updated and determines whether the pigs come from a holding which is operating controlled or

non-controlled housing conditions. This determination will then dictate the testing requirements at the slaughterhouse.

Trichinella Statements

The most appropriate of the three statements/options should be certified, based on the following guidance:

Paragraph IV(f) (iv) (first option) refers. A 'compartment' means a group of holdings which apply controlled housing conditions. All holdings applying controlled housing conditions in an EU Member State may be considered as one compartment. Provided that the FCI accompanying the pigs to the slaughterhouse confirms that all animals have come from controlled housing conditions, this option can be certified and the second and third options deleted.

Paragraph IV(f) (iv) (second option) refers. This option can be certified if the carcasses of the pigs have been subjected to a test for the larvae, with negative results. Samples for tests are sent to Biobest Laboratories but they can also be tested by on-site laboratories provided these have been approved by the UK National Reference Laboratory (APHA Bury St Edmunds). Further details can be found in the FSA Manual of Official Controls at [Section 5](#):

<http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Chapter%202.4%20-%20Post%20Mortem%2C%20Health%20and%20Identification%20Marking.doc> 1.pdf

Paragraph IV(f) (iv) (third option) refers. This option can be certified if the pigmeat intended for export is held frozen at a time/temperature combination that is known to inactivate the larvae. Details of the acceptable time/temperature combinations can be found in the FSA Manual of Official Controls at [Section 5](#):

<http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Chapter%202.4%20-%20Post%20Mortem%2C%20Health%20and%20Identification%20Marking.doc> 1.pdf

10. TAENIA SOLIUM STATEMENTS

Sub-paragraph IV(vi) (iii) refers. The second option of this sub-paragraph may be certified on the presence of the EU oval mark, confirming favourable results following examination for cysticercosis in swine in accordance with Chapters I and IV of Regulation (EC) 854/2004. Certifying OVs should delete the first option of the sub-paragraph.

In the unlikely case that the meat has been processed to inactivate cysticerci, the certifying OV should indicate the appropriate treatment in the third option. Otherwise this option should also be deleted.

11. DECLARATIONS OF DISEASE FREEDOM OF PREMISES OF ORIGIN - QUARTERLY VETERINARY FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION (FCI) DECLARATION - 7534ANNA

Covid-19 interim guidance:

In normal circumstances farm inspections under the Pig Assurance Scheme (PAS) are used for this purpose, with intervals between visits not normally exceeding four months. Alternatively, veterinarians may use other farm visits for this purpose.

However, due to the Covid-19 emergency and government guidance associated, routine PAS visits under the Red Tractor assurance scheme have been suspended. Some veterinarians may continue to carry out some farm visits, especially emergency visits to look after the health and welfare of the animals under their care, provided safe working arrangements can be ensured.

The **7534ANNA** quarterly veterinary certificate has been amended in parallel with these guidance notes to allow for its certification to be completed, based on veterinarians' familiarity with the herd, other relevant information sources such as the latest health and production records, remote consultations and other information available (Information from the unit owner / manager and disease clearances from Defra/APHA/DAERA, results of laboratory testing as available and reports from abattoirs, including during the past two years for those diseases (e.g. leptospirosis) which were not covered during previous inspections).

Veterinarians providing supporting FCI certification for the pig herds of origin do not need to be Official Veterinarians (OVs).

Certification for this purpose may be provided electronically in the Quarterly Veterinary Report (QVR) form, which is sent to Assurance Scheme administrators. Alternatively, certification can be provided using the certificate **7534ANNA**

Paragraph IV(f)(vii) refers to clinical evidence of disease in the establishment of origin. When certifying freedom from the various notifiable and non-notifiable diseases mentioned, the following guidance applies:

Occurrence of Notifiable diseases

- Tuberculosis - this means tuberculosis in pigs and not in cattle; if bovine tuberculosis is confirmed in pigs, the pig holding will be placed under restrictions and any movement to the slaughterhouse will be specifically licensed. The FCI will indicate that disease situation on the holding.
- Teschovirus encephalomyelitis and Anthrax please refer to paragraph 7 above.

Occurrence of Non-notifiable diseases

- Porcine brucellosis - means disease caused by *Brucella suis*. OVs must carry out sufficient checks to support certification of freedom from porcine brucellosis in the establishment of origin. If needed, this may be supported by written declarations from the vet of the premises of origin.
- Transmissible gastro-enteritis (TGE) - this disease is notifiable in Northern Ireland. As above OVs must carry out sufficient checks to support certification of freedom from TGE in the establishment of origin. If needed, this may be supported by written declarations from the vet of the premises of origin.

In the case of export of fresh meat of animals originating from UK holdings, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of the

certifying OV's own knowledge of the disease situations on the UK farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived. If necessary, this may be supported by written declarations from primary producers as part of the FCI.

OVs may also wish to contact the Centre for International Trade at Carlisle for up to date information on the current situation regarding the above-mentioned notifiable diseases. However, should the situation described above change, this guidance will be amended to require support health attestations from the holdings of origin and further attestations down the supply chain to provide the certifying OV with the required 'chain of evidence'.

It is possible that carrying out these checks may not be a straightforward matter if animals from which the meat/ meat products are derived are not directly traceable to farm of origin, i.e. they are purchased through dealers or markets, or originate from other EU Member States or from outside the EU.

OVs are advised not to certify these conditions unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details and are confident to do so.

Further advice may be obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle via the link below or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

12. **DISCLAIMER**

These notes are provided on the basis of information available at the time. It is the exporter's responsibility to check the information against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.

For further advice exporters should contact the APHA Customer Service Centre (CSC) Carlisle at product.exports@apha.gsi.gov.uk or by phone at 03000 200 301 or DAERA in Northern Ireland at VS.Implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by phone at 028 90520931.