

**EXPORT OF RAW FROZEN PIG MEAT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR UNRESTRICTED SALE - 7579EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7579EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7579EHC.

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.

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**1. SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE**

**Additional Disease Control Measures regarding PRRS**

The Republic of South Africa (RSA) Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) has implemented additional disease control measures regarding porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS).

Exporters are advised that all exported pig meat is subject to further processing on arrival in RSA UNLESS the import permit (see below) specifies that the products/cuts are exempt from such a requirement (on the basis that they pose a lower PRRS risk as agreed beforehand by DALRRD). A list of such products has now been agreed with DALRRD and is at **Annex 1** to these notes.

Exporters and OVs must note that any category of pig meat that is not included in this list must undergo heat treatment at officially approved premises on arrival in the RSA. A different health certificate (7319EHC) is required for export of all other categories of pig meat.

If in doubt of whether a particular product is eligible for export to RSA under the current UK accreditation, please contact the APHA office responsible for issuing the EHC (APHA - Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) or DAERA).

Such meat from animals born and reared in the Republic of Ireland (IE) but slaughtered in the UK can also be certified provided the assurances which relate to the holdings of origin of the animals can be satisfied (and the necessary supporting evidence available, where required).

**2. IMPORT PERMIT**

A veterinary import permit issued by RSA DALRRD is required for each individual consignment. OVs must not provide certification without sight of this permit.

**The permit would specify which particular product/cut (from the pre-agreed list at Annex 1) could be imported for unrestricted sale on arrival in the RSA, and only products/cuts meeting that specification/anatomical description should be certified. Most importantly, the products/cuts should not contain any lymph nodes or excessive connective tissue.**

South African Import Permit conditions require a separate Export Health Certificate to be provided for each cutting plant and slaughterhouse. Section II Origin of products should therefore be completed with ONE slaughterhouse and ONE cutting plant only. Where consignments originate from more than one slaughterhouse and/or cutting plant, a separate EHC should be completed for each combination of slaughterhouse and cutting plant. Consignments may be held or rejected if multiple sources are listed without separate EHCs.

If the health conditions described in the import permit do not correspond to the health attestations appearing on this health certificate, the exporter or OV should contact the APHA CIT at Carlisle for further advice.

**Exporters and OVs should note that the import permit may contain a dispensation to amend the certificate with regard to cold treatment of consignments. Please refer to paragraph 12 of these notes for further guidance.**

### **3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

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

#### **Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland**

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: [certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk](mailto:certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk).

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITEC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

**DAERA Export Health Certificates: provision of certified copies**

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the Department where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

**4. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES - 618NDC**

Paragraphs IV(a), IV(b) (iii) and IV(c) refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs in relation to animals which are resident in the UK prior to movement for slaughter provided written authority to do so has been obtained on a valid form 618NDC issued by APHA or equivalent in Northern Ireland. In the case of animals moved from IE directly for slaughter in the UK, an appropriate import health certificate will accompany the consignment which allows paragraphs IV(b) (iii) and IV (c) to be certified (on the basis that if Teschen disease or Aujeszky's disease were to be confirmed in the area/holding of origin, disease restrictions will prevent the slaughter animals from being certified for trade. IE is officially free of Aujeszky's disease in accordance with Decision 2008/185/EC. Although Teschen disease is no longer WOAH listed, it remains notifiable in IE and it has not been reported there.

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

Paragraph IV(b) (i) may be certified on the basis of the certifying OV's knowledge of the operational conditions as regards the UK and/or IE farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived.

The certifying OV may wish to obtain written confirmation that the animals in question meet the requirements of this paragraph.

**6. OTHER PREMISES OF ORIGIN DECLARATIONS**

Paragraph IV(b) (iv) and IV(b) (v) may be certified on the basis of the certifying OV's knowledge of the disease situations on the UK farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived, or in the case of animals moved from IE directly for slaughter in the

UK, on the basis of the import health certificate (which would not be issued if the requirements of these paragraphs were not complied with).

OVs may also wish to verify the current disease situation of premises of origin by contacting the local office of the APHA or DAERA. In the case of animals moved from IE directly for slaughter in the UK, this is not necessary as the import health certificate ensures these requirements are met. OVs are also advised to obtain written confirmation from the farms of origin that the requirements of these paragraphs have been met.

**7. VACCINATION OF ANIMALS AGAINST NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**

Paragraph IV(b) (ii) may be certified on the basis that vaccination of animals against the diseases referred to in paragraph IV(a) is not permitted in the UK nor in IE (and in the rest of the EU).

**8. FREEDOM FROM TRICHIANELLOSIS**

Paragraph IV(e) refers. This paragraph can be certified on the basis that surveillance for *Trichinella* has been carried out in domestic pigs since 1979 with negative results.

**9. ASSIMILATED EU REGULATIONS 852/2004, 853/2004 AND 2017/625 (AS AMENDED)**

Paragraphs IV(b) (vii), IV(h), IV(j) (first statement) and IV(m) may be certified on the basis of the application of the oval health or identification mark on the exported meat or packaging thereof indicating that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, manufacturing premises (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with the above Regulations and the respective Food Safety Competent Authority Manual for Official Controls.

**10. APPROVAL OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND CUTTING PLANTS BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Paragraphs IV(b) (viii) and IV(j) (final statement) refer. All UK approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants are eligible to export to the RSA. They must further comply with additional approval stipulations, as required by the RSA authorities, before they can do so.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure prior to export that all slaughterhouses and cutting plants included in Section II of the certificate are included in the list of abattoirs and de-boning plants approved by the Director of Veterinary Services of the RSA. Cold stores and re-wrapping centres **do not** require such listing.

**Additional RSA requirement:**

Do not list multiple slaughterhouses or cutting plants on a single EHC. Each certificate must correspond to one slaughterhouse and one cutting plant only, even if all establishments are RSA-approved. Where consignments originate from multiple establishments, exporters must obtain separate EHCs.

The list of UK establishments currently approved by the RSA authorities for export to the RSA can be found by running the appropriate query via the following link:

<http://webapps1.daff.gov.za/VetWeb/abbatoirsEstablishment.do;jsessionid=2bae51717a130f6928d8a23235de>

If any of the establishments mentioned in Section II does not appear on the current list, the exporter/certifying OV must first contact the APHA CIT at Carlisle, via the link below:

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

**11. COLD TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraphs IV(d) and IV(f) refer. Meat intended for export to the RSA must meet the requirements of paragraph IV(d) after production, throughout storage and at loading.

Exported meat must also undergo either of the two specified periods of cold treatment as specified in sub-paragraphs IV(f)(i) or IV(f)(ii) prior to export. OVs should also complete sub-paragraph IV(f)(iv) as appropriate.

**12. DISPENSATION TO CARRY OUT PART OF THE FREEZING TIME EN-ROUTE AND CONFIRMATION OF STORAGE TEMPERATURES**

Sub-paragraph IV(f)(iii) refers. The import permit issued by DALRRD may contain a clause to permit the importer in the RSA to make use of a dispensation to carry out all or part of the freezing time en route.

The RSA authorities will accept consignments that have not been subjected to the cold treatment for the prescribed number of days at the time of signing, provided that the transit time makes up the difference.

Confirmation that cold treatment has been maintained for the duration of the voyage must be accessible by the RSA State Veterinarian at the port of entry in the RSA. The two options to achieve this are described in this paragraph:

- confirmation from data downloaded from the recording thermograph fitted to the refrigeration unit of the container (this is the preferred option); or
- a written declaration from the exporter confirming that appropriate arrangements have been made to maintain the temperature of the consignment at the prescribed temperature.

In the latter case, exporters are further advised to include additional temperature indicators inside the container confirming that temperatures have been maintained throughout the whole of the consignment en-route.

The OV should complete sub-paragraphs IV(f)(iii) and IV(f)(iv) to indicate the temperature and number of days (in numerals and letters) that the meat has been frozen up to the date of loading for export.

**13. PRODUCTS/CUTS EXEMPT FROM FURTHER PROCESSING ON THE BASIS THAT THEY DO NOT POSE A PRRS RISK**

Paragraph IV(g) refers. Option (i) can be certified in the case of products listed in Annex 1, Section A. Option (ii) can be certified in the case of products/cuts listed in Annex 1, Section B.1. Specifications for consumer ready products/cuts have yet to be agreed, so option (iii) should not be certified.

It is important that the FBO operatives are trained to produce cuts which match the anatomical description in the Annex. The certifying OV must ensure that the cuts being certified match this and, more importantly, do not contain any lymph nodes and excessive connective tissue.

**14. \*\*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*\* REFERENCES TO APPROVAL NUMBERS FROM 01/10/2019**

The UK has reached an agreement with South Africa to update the details of the approval numbers of all UK establishments requiring listing with South Africa. **With effect from 01/10/2019** the approval/registration numbers for establishments listed to export raw frozen pig meat to South Africa will cease to have references to "UK" or "EC". From that time, approval/registration numbers will include **the central unique identifier code ONLY** [four numerical digits for abattoirs (under FSA/FSS/DAERA control) - or - five/six alpha-numerical digits for cold stores, dairy and fish establishments (where under local authority approval)].

**The format of the approval/registration number including the "UK" prefix and the "EC" suffix shall continue to be used and entered in Sections II(a), II(b), II(c) and II(d) of 7319EHC export health certificates signed before 01/10/2019.**

**The format of the approval/registration number without the "UK" prefix and the "EC" suffix shall be used and entered in Sections II(a), II(b), II(c) and II(d) of 7319EHC export health certificates signed after 30/09/2019.**

**Illustrative examples:**

Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED BEFORE 01/10/2019	Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED AFTER 30/09/2019
UK 2090 EC	2090
UK AB 123 EC	AB 123

**THE NEW FORMAT APPLICABLE FROM 01/10/2019 MUST BE USED IN ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORTS OF RAW FROZEN PIG MEAT TO SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES OR SUPPORT HEALTH ATTESTATIONS SIGNED FROM THAT DATE.**

The authorities of South Africa will expect that the details of the establishments entered onto the certificate are both correct, consistent and in accordance with their own records of approved establishments. Approval codes, and other details, should exactly match the details as listed on the RSA Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) website.

<http://webapps1.daff.gov.za/VetWeb/abattoirsEstablishment.do;jsessionid=2bae51717a130f6928d8a23235de>

The new listing by South Africa replaces the previous listings by RSA Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

**Health/ID marking of products:** South Africa will accept consignments of product bearing either the current format of oval health/ID marks (with "UK" and "EC") or any other acceptable format prescribed by the UK authorities following the UK's exit from the EU. Some

consignments might contain a mix of products which each might bear different health/ID marks. Products will be identified as originating from the final establishment of production by cross-reference with the central unique identifier number of the establishment in the oval mark/stamp of the product.

**15. NO PARAGRAPH IV(i)**

The omission of a paragraph IV(i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

**16. DISCLAIMER**

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

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

DAERA - Email: [vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Annex 1**

**LIST OF IMPORTED PORK PRODUCTS WHICH WILL BE EXEMPT FROM FURTHER PROCESSING ON ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**TO BE USED FOR PORK IMPORTED ON HEALTH CERTIFICATE 7579EHC FOR UNRESTRICTED ENTRY (Paragraph IV g refers)**

The products on this list should fit the criteria under which they shall be certified as per certificate 7579EHC for pork products for unrestricted sale and should be anatomically recognisable on arrival in South Africa.

**A: LOWER RISK PRODUCTS NOT REQUIRING PRRS-RELATED CERTIFICATION: Paragraph IV g (i) refers:**

1. The following offal: heart, liver (recognisable as hearts and liver)

<b>Description</b>	<b>Anatomical Description</b>	<b>MLC/BPEX Code</b>
Pork heart	Attachments and fat shall be trimmed close to the surface of the heart	93200
Pork Liver	Gall bladder and all extraneous tissues are removed	93300

2. Skins, excluding lymph nodes, excessive connective tissue and masks

<b>Description</b>	<b>Anatomical Description</b>	<b>MLC/BPEX Code</b>
<b>Pork Rind (excluding mask)</b>	Connective tissue and lymph nodes are trimmed off, leaving the rind	51101

3. Subcutaneous fat, excluding lymph nodes & excessive connective tissue

<b>Description</b>	<b>Anatomical Description</b>	<b>MLC/BPEX Code</b>

Pork Subcutaneous Fat (from pork back, shoulder, loin, leg and belly)	External subcutaneous fat from the shoulder, loin, belly and leg, free from rind, lean and extraneous tissue	52100
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4. Trotters or feet, excluding the carpal and tarsal joint

Description	Anatomical Description	MLC/BPEX Code
Pork Trotters (hind and fore)	Fully cleaned, dehaired and dehooved. The feet do not include the carpal / tarsal joints.	93141 & 93142

5. Tails

Description	Anatomical Description	MLC/BPEX Code
Pork Tail	The tail is separated from the carcase at the first sacral vertebra and trimmed of lymph nodes and excessive connective tissue	93120

6. Ears, excluding lymph nodes and excessive connective tissue

Description	Anatomical Description	MLC/BPEX Code
Pork ear, excluding root	Square cut, with the lobe and root off, leaving only the funnel like upper portion	93931

**B: PRODUCTS INDIVIDUALLY AGREED UPON:**

1. Bone-in or deboned meat free of lymph nodes and excessive connective tissue (must be certifiable and recognisable as such). The individual cuts and packaging will be specified on the import permit and health certificate Paragraph IV g (ii) refers:

<b>Bone-in or deboned meat free of lymph nodes and excessive connective tissue (must be certifiable and recognisable as such)</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<b>Anatomical Description</b>	<b>MLC/BPEX Code</b>
Pork Belly, skinless, bone-in, square cut	The pork belly is removed from the loin by a cut typically 5 cm from the eye muscle and by perpendicular cuts from the leg and shoulder. The belly is presented fully derinded, free from mammary tissue, extraneous tissues including lymph nodes and exposed internal fat. The cut is presented square with the mammary strip and breast bone taken off.	51304
Pork Belly, boneless, square cut and streaky bacon	The pork belly is removed from the loin by a cut typically 5 cm from the eye muscle and by perpendicular cuts from the leg and shoulder. The belly is presented fully derinded, free from mammary tissue, extraneous tissues including lymph nodes and exposed internal fat. The cut is presented square with the mammary strip, rib sheet, cartilages and breast bone taken off. The belly may be presented cured as streaky bacon.	51311
Pork belly rib, excluding ribs 1 and 2	The 11-rib sheet including intercostals meat is taken from the loin side of the belly, excluding breast bone, leaf fat, ventral cartilage and underlying lean and fat.	51310
Pork Leg, Boneless (Gammon)	The leg is separated from the pork side by a straight cut perpendicular to the back line, 4-9 cm from the anterior edge of the aitch bone. All bones, cartilages, internal fat, fat and lean around the aitch bones, shank belly skirts and lymph nodes are removed. The loin end is exposed by a straight cut anterior to the <i>quadriceps femoris</i> . The leg consists of the outside leg muscles ( <i>biceps femoris, gluteus superficialis and semitendinosus</i> ), the inside muscle group ( <i>semimebranosus</i> and related muscles on the inside) and the leg knuckle or sirloin tip ( <i>the tensor fasciae latae and the quadriceps group</i> ). The product may be presented cured as gammon.	51213
Pork Loin, Boneless, Back bacon	The loin is separated from the belly typically 5 cm from the eye muscle, oyster off and from the shoulder and leg/chump by straight cuts perpendicular to the back line. Bones, cartilages and tenderloin are removed leaving the internal and vertebral side of the eye muscle ( <i>longissimus</i> ) fully naked but leaving the back fat cover trimmed to individual specification. The product may be presented cured as back bacon.	51110

<b>Description</b>	<b>Anatomical Description</b>	<b>MLC/BPEX Code</b>
Pork Tenderloin	The tenderloin is removed intact and consists of the <i>psoas major</i> , <i>psoas minor</i> and <i>iliacus</i> and attached aponeuroses, with all external fats and other external tissues fully trimmed off.	51111
Pork Loin Ribs, excluding ribs 1 and 2	The sheet consists of at least 8 ribs, including intercostals meat taken from the loin by a cut parallel to the eye muscle up to and excluding the vertebral column. The vertebrae shall be removed in their entirety.	51107

2. Consumer ready cuts (as agreed upon). The individual cuts and packaging will be specified on the import permit and health certificate

**Paragraph IV g (iii) refers**

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