

# OFFICIAL

## EXPORT OF MEAT, VISCERA AND SAUSAGES DERIVED FROM PIGS TO JAPAN

### NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

#### IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1292EHC. These NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1292EHC. 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.

#### 1. SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE

Health certificate 1292EHC is intended to accompany consignments of pigmeat, minced pigmeat, sausages derived from pig meat (with casings derived from pigs only), ham and bacon, including cooked/heated pork meat products to Japan from the United Kingdom.

#### 2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), 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 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 CITC 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**

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing

## OFFICIAL

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.

### 3. SEALING OF CONTAINERS

Paragraph I (d) refers. All containers must be officially sealed. It needs to be clear that it was sealed by a UK authority. The OVs must check the seal number and include within the EHC.

Physical verification checks of some boxes will have to be carried out by the certifying OV at cold store before the container is sealed. The percentage of boxes to be open will be dependent on the OV criteria.

4. Paragraphs II (f) and (h) refer. The dates entered should be those of on which the meat was subjected to cutting, further processing and/or freezing.

### DISEASE AND OTHER CLEARANCES

5. Paragraph IV (a) may be signed on behalf of the Department by the Official Veterinarian provided a 618NDC form is received from APHA Cit at Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA.
6. Paragraph IV (b) refers. This paragraph may be signed by the Official Veterinarian on behalf of the Department on the basis of the following information:

The United Kingdom does not permit vaccination for, nor the importation of animals vaccinated against foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, classical swine fever or African swine fever.

Regarding pig meat, the United Kingdom does not permit the importation of meat from animals vaccinated against foot and mouth disease, rinderpest or African swine fever. Regarding classical swine fever see advice provided in Point 13 of this guidance. although the UK is permitted to import pig meat preparations and meat products consisting of, or containing pig meat providing it has been treated in such a way that any classical swine fever virus present is destroyed (i.e. heat treated), in such cases the meat must be marked with special marks which cannot be confused with the oval health marks for pig meat provided for in UK Meat Hygiene Legislation. These products cannot therefore be marked with an oval mark. For meat products the OV should therefore check that there is an oval health mark on the constituent products.

7. Paragraph IV (c) may be signed on the basis that the feeding of swill to domestic pigs is prohibited by Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018 and by equivalent legislation in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
8. Paragraphs IV. d) (x) and (xi) relating to precautions to avoid contamination with pathogenic agents and packaging in new or clean

## OFFICIAL

packaging for export to Japan; refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the factory processes in place supported by relevant documentation and/or suitable records. If the meat has been imported from a plant in another country which is also approved for export to Japan, then it can be assumed that paragraphs IV. d) (x) and (xi) were complied with in that plant.

See paragraph 10 and 11 about checking if plants in other countries are approved for export to Japan.

### **9. INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATION PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AT THE PLACE OF CERTIFICATION FOR EXPORT.**

Official Veterinarians will provide such internal movement certification on a form (see for example Annex A). Using this form, the OV at the abattoir / cutting plant/ processing plant etc can simply provide an Internal Movement Certificate (IMC) that states that the meat complies with the Japanese requirements. It is not necessary to provide further details on the Internal Movement Certificate.

The Official Veterinarian providing the final export health certification can use such Internal Movement Certification to confirm that the pig meat has been produced according to Japanese requirements.

**It is not necessary that each consignment/lorry has to be delivered to the cold store with an internal movement certificate providing that the parts of the consignment for export can be reconciled with at least one IMC.**

### **10. THIRD FREE COUNTRIES**

Paragraphs IV. d) (i), (ii) and (iii) refer. The Japanese authorities publish a list of countries, regions and zones from which Japan approves as free from rinderpest, FMD, ASF and CSF, and as such eligible to export pigs and pig meat to Japan. Such countries, regions and zones are referred to in the certificate as 'third free countries'.

The current list of Japanese 'third free countries' is available at the following link: <http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/news/third-free.html>

**OVs and exporters should note that this list includes regions or zones of countries which are approved by JMAFF as eligible to export pig meat to Japan. The whole country does not have to be free from these diseases to be eligible to export pig meat to Japan.**

### **11. CHECKS ON PIGS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM OTHER COUNTRIES**

Paragraph IV(d) (i) refers: It is the responsibility of the Official Veterinarian to check that imported pigs originate from countries which are listed on the Japanese third free country list (see previous paragraph of these NFG).

If pigs have been imported, the OV can check the country of origin by reference to the country code on the pigs' ear tags. Each tag will be marked with the country code of origin.

The third indent of paragraph IV(d) (i) regarding freedom from infectious disease can be certified on sight of an export health certificate from the country of origin that declares that the pigs are healthy and fit to travel.

Official Veterinarians should note that the declaration at paragraph IV(d) (i) of the EHC only refers to Notifiable disease - this does not refer to non-Notifiable diseases. The fourth indent of paragraph IV(d) (i) regarding direct importation and not transiting non-third free

## OFFICIAL

countries can be certified on verification from the import certificate confirming the route of transit that it did not transit a country other than a third free country.

The fifth indent of paragraph IV(d) (i) regarding freedom from animal infectious disease as a result of import inspection can be certified on the basis that this declaration only refers to Notifiable disease as described at paragraph IV(a) of the EHC and that if these Notifiable diseases had been confirmed, the pigs would not be eligible for slaughter for human consumption.

If necessary the Official Veterinarian should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland for advice.

For consignments of pig meat comprising meat from pigs from the UK and pigs from other 'third free countries' which are slaughtered at the plant in the UK, the OV should not delete any of the options in paragraph IV(d) (i) and all of the options in paragraph IV(d) (ii) should be deleted. No deletions should be made to paragraph IV(d) (iii). These procedures need to be followed to enable the certificate to be completed and for it to be accepted in Japan.

### **12. CHECKS ON PIG MEAT IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM OTHER COUNTRIES**

Paragraph II and IV(d) (ii) refer: In the case of pig meat imported into the United Kingdom, for cutting or processing, to complete paragraph II of the EHC and to meet the additional requirements laid down in paragraph IV(d) (ii), the Official Veterinarian must carry out checks to ensure that:

Paragraph II(a) and IV(d) (ii) first indent: the country of origin is included on the Japanese third free country list (see paragraphs 10 and 11 above);

Paragraph IV(d) (ii) second indent: the pig meat etc is derived from pigs which have been born and raised only in third free countries;

Paragraph II(b), II(d) and II(e) if appropriate: that the plant(s) involved is included on the Japanese third free country list;

Paragraph IV(d) (ii) third indent: the meat was imported into the UK without passing through any country not on the Japanese third free country list;

These checks can be made by reference to the Japanese website (see paragraph 10 above) and also for plants by seeking a declaration signed by the Owner/ Operator/ Official Veterinarian at the plant of origin (ie the plant of export to the UK) in the other country. Such a declaration does not need to be obtained for every consignment; each year will be sufficient. It is only necessary to obtain such a declaration from the plant from which the meat is exported to the UK - ie for imported processed meat it is not necessary to obtain a declaration from the abattoir at which the pigs were slaughtered. A suggested form of words for this is at Annex B. This wording includes mention of the route that the lorries will use.

In addition to this, the Official Veterinarian can check if plants in the UK and other countries are approved for export Japan by checking the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture (JMAFF) website. The list of plants that are approved is through the relevant country/commodity link at:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/ags/tetuzuki/facility/seijo-building.html>

## OFFICIAL

Paragraph IV(d) (ii) third and fourth indents also require that the Official Veterinarian must check that the imported meat is:

- accompanied by the inspection certificate issued by the government authorities of the third free country.
- derived from pigs which have been free from evidence of disease.

These declarations can be certified on the basis that the carcasses or the packaging of the meat is marked with an oval mark indicating compliance with UK meat hygiene rules and that the carcasses or meat is accompanied by appropriate commercial documents;

Paragraph IV(d) (ii) fourth indent also requires that the Official Veterinarian must check that the pig meat is free from any evidence of animal infectious disease as a result of import inspection. This declaration can be certified on the basis that the carcasses or the packaged meat is marked with an oval mark indicating compliance with UK meat hygiene rules and was legally imported into the UK with appropriate documents and that it was inspected as deemed necessary by the Portal Inspection authorities in the UK.

Paragraph IV(d) (ii) first indent also requires that the Official Veterinarian must check that the imported meat is imported on or after 23 May 2008. This can be done by reference to commercial records.

If necessary the Official Veterinarian should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland for further advice about these declarations in advance of the export.

Where pig meat for export to Japan is prepared from meat imported into the UK, the OV should delete paragraph IV (d) (i) and also delete the first deletable option at paragraph IV(d) (iii) which reads: "been born and raised only in the United Kingdom". See again paragraph 11 above.

### **13. OTHER DECLARATIONS CONCERNING CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER**

Paragraph IV. (d) (iii) refers. Under EU rules (Commission Decision 855/2008 as amended) neither live pigs nor fresh pig meat or pig meat products may be exported from Member States or their regions which are affected with CSF (and therefore may be using CSF vaccine) to other Member States. However, pig meat preparations and meat products consisting of, or containing pig meat may be dispatched to other Member States if they are treated in such a way (i.e. heated) that any classical swine fever virus present is destroyed. If these exports take place, such pig meat, pig meat products and preparations must be marked with special marks which cannot be confused with the health marks for pig meat provided for in UK Meat Hygiene Legislation. In other words such pig meat and pig meat products and preparations cannot be marked with the oval health mark as required under the UK Hygiene Regulations. The Official Veterinarian can therefore certify paragraph IV(iii) by carrying out checks on this basis.

If pig meat is imported from third free countries outside the EU, the OV should seek guidance from APHA CIT at Carlisle or from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports.

### **14. CHECKING DETAILS OF PREMISES AND PROCEDURES FOR EXPORT TO JAPAN**

Paragraphs IV. d (v) and (vi) refer. Exports to Japan may only take place from approved premises that are specifically authorised for exports to Japan and notified to the Japanese authorities. This applies not only to the slaughterhouses, cutting and processing premises, but also to any cold stores.

## OFFICIAL

The Japanese authorities are likely to refuse entry of consignments, if the details of approved establishments (e.g. slaughterhouses / cutting plants / processing premises / cold stores) on the export certificate are not included on their list of authorised premises.

The Official Veterinarian can check if plants in the UK and other countries are approved for export Japan by checking the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture (JMAFF) website. The list of plants that are approved is through the relevant country/commodity link at:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/tetuzuki/facility/seijo-building.html>

15. Certifying Official Veterinarians must therefore ensure that premises details are correctly recorded on the certificate, especially if the exporting company has recently changed ownership. Where the name of the exporting company has changed, details must be sent via the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland for formal approval by the Japanese authorities before exports commence from that premises.

All UK slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants and cold stores must have received prior approval from JMAFF as designated facilities before exports can take place.

Establishments wishing to become approved for export to Japan must first received an onsite inspection visit by the FSA/FSS/DAERA for compliance with the agreed export conditions and then recommended to JMAFF for approval. Exports from the establishment may commence only after JMAFF has confirmed that it appears on the list of designated facilities.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure prior to export that **all** establishments included in Section II of the certificate are listed as designated facilities.

Further advice regarding approval of existing premises and new approvals may be obtained from the APHA CIT at Carlisle via the following link:

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

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: [vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

See paragraphs 10 and 12 above regarding checking if plants in other countries are approved for export to Japan.

### 16. HANDLING AND SEPARATION OF PIGS AND PIGMEAT

In respect of paragraphs IV (d) v) and IV (d) (vi) which refer to handling pigs and meat in plants that are approved for the export of pigmeat to Japan:

The declaration at IV(d) (v) regarding the pigs can be made based on checks on ear tags and if necessary further enquiries - see also paragraph 11 of these NFG.

As regards the declaration at paragraph IV(d) (vi) this declaration can be certified firstly on the basis that the UK plant is approved for export of pig meat to Japan and secondly that any imported pig meat moved to the plant originates from plants in other countries, regions or zones that are also approved to export to Japan and that the meat has only been transported through approved countries/regions/zones. The basis for checking that those plants in other counties, regions or zones are approved for export to Japan is indicated at paragraph 12 of these

notes for guidance.

Where other pig meat is handled in a plant and that pig meat does not, is not known to, originate from a plant which is approved for export of pig meat to Japan, then suitable temporal or physical segregation must be established. This can be done by for example by handling the non-approved pig meat after approved pig meat has been processed or by ensuring that the meat for Japan is spatially handled separately. In this context the interpretation of the declaration at IV(d) (vi) is therefore that in the premises involved the meat handled for export to Japan comprises only meat which originates from the pigs born and raised only in the United Kingdom or countries approved for the export of pig meat to Japan and that the handling of this meat is physically separate from other meat that is not known to be approved for export to Japan.

17. Paragraphs IV(d) (iv), IV(d) (vii) and IV(d) (viii) may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with UK Meat Hygiene Legislation.

**18. EQUIVALENCE OF UK AND JAPANESE HEALTH STANDARDS**

Paragraph IV (e) may be signed on the basis of an agreed comparison between meat hygiene legislation in force in Japan and the UK. It was concluded by FSA/FSS and Defra that, for the production of fresh meat and meat preparations, the level of protection offered by Japanese and UK meat hygiene legislation is equivalent.

**In the case of heated meat products (ham, bacon and sausages):**

Exporters are advised to work closely with their importer regarding Japanese standards of meat products intended for export to Japan. Depending on the level of cooking, partially cooked products may be classified as raw/uncooked products intended to be cooked before consumption and could therefore generally be exempt from the following processing requirements. The information presented below is not inclusive of all the details of the standards of composition and manufacture. (Reference: **SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR FOODS, FOOD ADDITIVES, ETC. UNDER THE FOOD SANITATION ACT.**)

This standard requires all meat products to contain nitrate radicals exceeding 0.070 grams for every 1 Kg of meat products.

This standard defines heated meat products as those which have been thermally sterilized by heating the central part of the meat products at 63°C for 30 minutes, or methods equivalent to or more effective than this method.

There are some microbiological standards that the exporter needs to be aware of, as The JMAFF reserves the right to test shipments upon arrival. These are:

- It shall be free of E. Coli.
- The Staphylococcus count shall be 1,000 or less for every 1 gram of the specimen.
- It shall be free of Salmonella.

-

**19. SAUSAGES USING CASINGS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN**

Paragraph IV(f) refers. This paragraph may be deleted if the sausages are manufactured from artificial collagen casings.

For casings of animal origin, the casings must be derived only from porcine animals. The country of origin of the casings must be entered at paragraph IV(f) (ii) and the name and approval number of the casings processing facility entered at paragraph IV(f) (iii).

## OFFICIAL

Paragraph IV(f)(iv) may be deleted if the country of origin of the casings is included on the third free country list at paragraph 9 above. For countries not included on the third free country list, the Official Veterinarian must have sufficient documentary and other evidence to certify this paragraph. This documentary evidence may not be readily available and the Official Veterinarian should contact the APHA CIT Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland for further advice.

In the light of this possible difficulty, exporters are advised to ensure that casings of porcine origin are imported only from countries that are included on the Japanese third free country list.

### **20. 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)



DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, RURAL DIRECTORATE  
WELSH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT FOR RURAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS NORTHERN IRELAND

CERTIFICATE NUMBER<sup>1</sup> : ...../...../.....

OFFICIAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR THE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE UK OF MEAT OR MEAT PRODUCTS FOR FURTHER STORAGE AND EXPORT TO THIRD COUNTRIES

COUNTRY OF EXPORT: .....

• Identification of meat

a) Description of product: Species, nature of packaging, weight and number of carcasses/cuts/quarters/cartons or packages:

.....  
.....  
.....

b) Unique identification marks on carcasses or packaging:

.....  
.....

\*c) Pallet numbers (where relevant): .....

d) Date(s) of slaughter or freezing.....

.....

• Origin and Destination of the meat

a) Veterinary approval number(s) of the approved \*slaughterhouse(s)/ \*cutting plant / \*cold store of origin:

.....  
.....

b) Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved \*cutting plant(s)/\*cold store(s) to which the consignment will be dispatched:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

<sup>1</sup> Plant number/date/sequential number (e.g. UK1234EC/20.6.11/05)

Defra GUIDELINES for IMC for export of meat/products to unspecified Third Countries 10/10/2013

• **Health attestation**

I, the undersigned Official Veterinarian, certify that the meat described above meets the following requirements:

- (a) the meat complies with EU requirements and with the import requirements of..... (country/ies)
  - (b) \* the meat was cut, prepared, stored, wrapped and packed on ..... (date(s))
- in accordance with the requirements of the country/ies specified above.
- d) Date(s) of slaughter or freezing.....

**\*Delete as appropriate**

**Official Stamp**

**Signed..... RCVS  
Official Veterinarian**

.....  
**Name in block letters**

**Date .....**

**Address .....**  
.....  
.....

**Plant Approval Stamp**

**SUGGESTED WORDING FOR A DECLARATION FROM AN OWNER / OPERATOR / OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AT A PLANT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR PIG MEAT TO BE EXPORTED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**USE HEADED PAPER**

**GIVE PLANT NAME, ADDRESS, EU APPROVAL NUMBER AND MAP REFERENCE**

I refer to the Japanese conditions for the export of pig meat to Japan.

I CONFIRM THAT:

1. [COUNTRY] is included on the Japanese third free country list for the export of pig meat to Japan.
2. [name the plant] is approved for export of pig meat to Japan and is listed on the JMAFF website at: [add link to JMAFF website].
3. The pig meat [etc i.e. specify the range of products] to be exported to [plant in the UK] is derived from pigs which have been born and raised only in third free countries according to Japanese requirements;
4. The pig meat [etc] to be exported to [plant in the UK] complies with the Japanese requirements;
5. The pig meat will be exported to [plant in the UK] without passing through any country, region or zone not on the Japanese third free country list;
6. I will inform [plant in the UK] if the meat exported to the UK does not meet the Japanese requirements.

Signed:

Name:

Designation: (e.g owner/operator/Official Veterinarian)

Date: