

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

In relation to 8932EHC titled:

**EXPORT OF CAT FOOD AND/OR DOG FOOD TO MACAO**

Associated Documents: 8932EHC

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8932EHC. 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**

This certificate may be used for the export of cat food and/or dog food to Macao. In line with the option at paragraph IV 1(c) of the certificate, the exported pet food may be made with or without animal-derived ingredients.

**2. Certification by a government veterinarian**

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

Veterinarians should sign and stamp the health certificate with their official 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 OV's 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**

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification System (DECS) 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.

**3. Paragraph IV - Health information**

The health information may be certified on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. This should be supported by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations. Where necessary, physical inspection may be required.

**(a) Paragraph IV 1 - Processing requirements**

Paragraphs 1(a), (b) and (c) should be certified or deleted as necessary to reflect whether the consignment consists of pet foods made with ingredients of animal origin and processed as required, or of pet foods made without using ingredients of animal origin.

Any options which are not being certified should be struck through in the usual manner.

**For ingredients of animal origin:**

For consignments containing products made using ingredients of animal origin, **paragraphs 1(a) and/or 1(b) must be certified as appropriate** to reflect the processing used, and paragraph (c) should be struck through in the usual manner.

**For ingredients of non-animal origin:**

For consignments containing products made using only ingredients of non-animal origin, **paragraph 1(c) must be certified** and paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) must both be struck through in the usual manner.

**Paragraph IV 1(a) - for canned pet food**

This paragraph must be certified for pet food containing ingredients of animal origin which have been heated in a hermetically sealed container to an F0 value of 3 or more during manufacture. The heat treatment may be supported by reference to relevant production records or, in the case of imported product, suitably worded veterinary import certification.

The pet food can be considered free of infectious animal disease pathogens on the basis that it has been heat treated to an F0 value of at least 3 and is therefore commercially sterile.

**Paragraph IV 1(b) - for non-canned processed pet food**

This paragraph must be certified for non-canned processed pet food containing ingredients of animal origin. The heat treatments applied during manufacture may be confirmed by reference to relevant production records, and/or ingredient suppliers' documentation or, in the case of imported product or ingredients, relevant and suitably worded veterinary import certification.

Compliance with the microbiological standards of the UK may be certified for UK-made pet food on the basis of compliance with the microbiological requirements laid down under the [assimilated Regulation \(EC\) 142/2011](#) or, in the case of Northern Ireland, [Regulation \(EC\) No 142/2011](#), particularly paragraphs 3 and 5 of Chapter II of Annex VIII thereof.

These Regulations are enforced and implemented by the [Animal By-Products \(Enforcement\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#) (as amended) or parallel legislation in force in [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).

This may be supported by reference to relevant production records, ingredient suppliers' documentation, and satisfactory laboratory test results. In the case of imported product or ingredients, this may be supported by suitably worded veterinary import certification facilitating the legal importation of the pet food or ingredients into the UK.

**Paragraph IV 1(c) - for pet food made without ingredients of animal origin**

This paragraph may be certified for pet food which was not made using any ingredients derived from animals. This may be supported on sight of relevant processing records and suppliers' documentation confirming that no ingredients of animal origin were used in the manufacture of the certified pet food.

**(b) Paragraph IV 2 - Bovine-derived ingredients**

This paragraph requires that bovine-derived ingredients used in the manufacture of the pet food must have come from a country or region (zone) recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as having a negligible BSE risk.

However, exporters of pet foods made using bovine-derived ingredients considered by WOAAH to be safe commodities with respect to BSE as described in Article 11.4.2 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code may wish to work with their importers to determine if the importing authority is prepared to provide a derogation from their BSE requirement for such ingredients.

The WOAAH recognised BSE risk status of a country or region (zone) can be confirmed by reference to the "Official Disease Status" link on WOAAH's website at:

<https://www.woah.org/en/disease/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy/#ui-id-1>

For products containing bovine-derived ingredients the WOAAH recognised negligible BSE risk countries or zones of origin must be entered in the space provided at the end of the paragraph.

Note that England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are currently recognised by WOAAH as zones of the United Kingdom with a negligible BSE risk status, as follows:

1. Northern Ireland;
2. England and Wales;
3. Scotland.

Therefore, for ingredients originating from for example Wales, the zone "England and Wales" should be entered in the space provided, not "Wales".

For products which are not made using any bovine-derived ingredients this paragraph may be certified on the basis that the products do not contain any non-compliant bovine-derived ingredients.

#### **4. SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS**

If declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence and that he/she accepts full responsibility if any problems arise with the export should there be any dispute relating to the matters being declared.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

5. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate and these notes 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 Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Carlisle, via the link below:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#customer-service-centres-csc>

In Northern Ireland, please contact the DAERA trade administration team:

e-mail - [DAERAttradeexports@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:DAERAttradeexports@daera-ni.gov.uk)