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EXPORT OF DEBONED BEEF IN ANATOMICALLY RECOGNISABLE CUTS AND/OR RECOGNISABLE BEEF OFFAL TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - 7278EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7278EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7278EHC.

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

Export health certificate 7278EHC may be used for the export of deboned anatomically recognisable beef cuts and/or recognisable beef offal from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa (RSA) – paragraph IV (j) refers.

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).

The term 'recognisable beef offal' as determined by the RSA veterinary authorities means the following items only:

- thick skirt (pillar of diaphragm)
- heart (whole)
- liver
- kidney (whole)
- reticulum
- cow/bovine heels – skin-on, blanched and singed before packing

Only whole hearts and kidneys will be acceptable for export to the RSA.

Export of beef trimmings and mechanically separated meat (MSM) of bovine origin to the RSA is **not permitted.**

Export of Beef Fat

S**ubcutaneous beef fat** may be eligible for export to South Africa, but exporters should confirm that this is acceptable and referenced in their import permit. Visceral fat and other fats are not permitted.

The labelling must specify that the is subcutaneous fat only and this information must also be entered in box I(a) of 7278EHC.

Note: according to the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No of 2000) the definition of meat is: "those parts of a slaughtered animal which are ordinarily intended for human consumption and which have not

undergone any processing other than deboning, cutting up, mincing, cooling or freezing, and includes meat which –

a) has been treated with a substance which does not substantially alter the original characteristics thereof; and
b) assumes its original characteristics after a substance referred to in paragraph a) has been physically removed therefrom".

2. IMPORT PERMIT

A veterinary import permit from the South African veterinary authorities is required for each individual consignment.

Official Veterinarians must not provide certification without sight of the permit. The OV must enter the permit number as indicated on Page 1 of the certificate.

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. 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 Official Veterinarian should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT)at Carlisle for further advice.

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 any ink 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.

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

Paragraph IV(g) refers. 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:

Abattoirs

If any of the establishments mentioned in Section II does not appear on the current list, the exporter/certifying OV must first contact APHA CIT at Carlisle for further advice prior to making arrangements for export:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening

5. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES – 618NDC

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(b) refer. The Official Veterinarian may certify these paragraphs provided written authority to do so has been obtained on a valid form 618NDC issued by the APHA CIT or DAERA.

6. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) STATEMENTS

IV(c) and IV(d) may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation. The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency) ensure compliance with the legislation.

Requirements related to removal of SRM (Specified Risk Material)

Section IV (c) (iv) and (v) refer.
The prohibited tissues mentioned/referenced in the EHC must not be included in the exported consignment, nor contaminate or be in contact with it after removal. This is a requirement of the importing country but does not affect the categorisation or subsequent use of those tissues under UK domestic rules (e.g. as SRM or not). Once removed and segregated from product for export, the FBO can process or dispose the export-prohibited tissues according to the prevailing domestic requirements."

If the certifying OV is unable to personally verify the required measures were taken during dressing and processing, additional support documentation may be required and additional checks on product (to verify that prohibited tissues are not present) should be taken.

Some FBOs may choose to continue to remove SRM in line with previous "Controlled Risk" processes. Where this is the case and the SHA/ veterinary declarations make that clear, OVs may continue to certify the relevant sections of the EHC based on that assurance. If FBOs have chosen to reduce the scope of SRM removal in line with "Negligible Risk" definitions, additional export-specific measures for removal of prohibited tissues / segregation will be required to enable OVs to certify that the conditions were met during the processing of the export consignment.

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

Paragraphs IV(e)(i), (iii) and (iv) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of the certifying Official Veterinarian's knowledge of the operational conditions as regards 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 ITAHC (which would not be issued if the requirements of these paragraphs were not complied with).

The certifying Official Veterinarian may wish to obtain written confirmation from the farms of origin that the animals in question meet the requirements of these paragraphs.

IMPORTANT: Additional guidance in respect of Paragraphs IV (e)(iii) and (iv), with special emphasis on bovine tuberculosis, is provided in the Annex to this guidance.

8. VACCINATION OF ANIMALS AGAINST NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Paragraph IV(e)(ii) may be certified on the basis that routine

vaccination of animals against foot and mouth disease is not permitted in the United Kingdom nor in the Republic of Ireland (and in the rest of the EU).

9. ASSIMILATED EU REGULATIONS 852/2004, 853/2004 (AS AMENDED)

Paragraphs IV(f), IV(g)(second sentence), IV(l), IV(m) and IV(n)(i) 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. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

Paragraph IV(h) refers. The statement in this paragraph in respect of chemical residues may be certified on the basis of the microbiological monitoring required by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 and on basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues, which cover all UK approved meat establishments. The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC, 96/23/EC and Regulation (EC) 854/2004, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examinations for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997.

11. ** IMPORTANT **** REFERENCES TO APPROVAL NUMBERS FROM 30/09/2019**

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 30/09/2019** the approval/registration numbers for establishments listed to export deboned breed in anatomically recognisable cuts and/or recognisable beef offal 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 7278EHC export health certificates signed before and up to *30/09/2019*.

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 7278EHC export health certificates signed after *30/09/2019*.

Illustrative examples

Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED *BEFORE* 30/09/2019	**Format to be used in export health certificates SIGNED *AFTER* 30/09/2019**
UK 2090 EC	**2090**
UK AB123 EC	**AB123**

Consignments certified before 30/09/2019 (which must contain UK and EC references in the approval/registration number) will be accepted

for export to South Africa upon arrival within a transitional period of 6 months after *30/09/2019*.

THE NEW FORMAT APPLICABLE FROM 30/09/2019 MUST BE USED IN ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORTS OF DEBONED BEEF IN ANATOMICALLY RECOGNISABLE CUTS AND/OR RECOGNISABLE BEEF OFFAL 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://webapps.daff.gov.za/VetWeb/abbatoirsEstablisment.do

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.**

12. **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.

13. **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

Annex

Additional guidance in respect of Paragraphs IV (e)(iii) and (iv), with special emphasis on bovine tuberculosis.

Summary

Paragraph IV (e)(iii)

'they come from holdings that are not under official restriction due to an outbreak of notifiable disease to which cattle are susceptible'

Paragraph IV (e)(iv)

'they were not slaughtered in a disease eradication campaign'

These are tuberculosis (TB) reactors which are subject to compulsory slaughter.

The above two statements can only be certified if meat/offal intended for export to the Republic of South Africa is not derived from tuberculosis reactors or slaughterhouse cases originating from holdings under tuberculosis restrictions.

Detail

Further detail in respect of these statements, with special emphasis on bovine tuberculosis, is provided below:

Paragraph IV (e)(iii)
'they come from holdings that are not under official restriction due to an outbreak of notifiable disease to which cattle are susceptible'

The notifiable diseases in question are those which can be transmitted via meat (and therefore would not include bluetongue) and which require whole herd slaughter ie a stamping out policy will be triggered if disease is confirmed and protection / surveillance/ restriction zones established in which herds will be under official movement restrictions.

Although stamping out is not applicable to diseases like bovine tuberculosis (TB) because whole herd slaughter is not practiced, the meat must pass all the checks specified in the EU food hygiene legislation (Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) which requires an Official Veterinarian (OV) to be present at all times during post-mortem inspection if bovine animals originate from herds in which TB restrictions are in place (ie the herd is not officially tuberculosis free). Ensuring that the EU food hygiene legislation is complied with in such cases is essential when passing judgement on whether the meat/offal is fit for human consumption and therefore certifiable for export on the basis that the EU food package was deemed equivalent to the South African Meat Safety Act. Essentially, judgement on whether the meat/offal is fit for human consumption (and therefore certifiable for export) is based on the findings during post-mortem inspection. Where there are indications of generalised TB, or TB lesions with emaciation, the entire carcase and all the blood and offal is rejected as unfit for human consumption under EU food hygiene legislation. The same applies to meat/offal from animals in which post-mortem inspection has revealed localised tuberculosis in a number of organs or a number of areas of the carcase. However, for the purposes of certification to the Republic of South Africa, meat/offal from any carcase with suspect lesions – the so called slaughterhouse case – cannot and should not be certified. Carcases and offal from slaughterhouse cases are usually detained in a separate room pending further investigation and so it is possible to exclude such meat/offal from the batch/es ultimately intended for export to Republic of South Africa. Support Health Attestation (SHA) should be used to identify and certify such batches moved downstream into storage.

Paragraph IV (e)(iv)

'they were not slaughtered in a disease eradication campaign'

Where disease control is through stamping out, the animals will not be slaughtered for human consumption and therefore will not be sent to a slaughterhouse killing for human consumption. However, bovine tuberculosis (TB) reactors (and inconclusive reactors/direct contacts) are also required to be slaughtered as part of a disease eradication campaign and they can are slaughtered in slaughterhouses killing for human consumption. Under a framework arrangement, only a small selection of slaughterhouses have been approved to slaughter such reactors. Meat from these reactors cannot and should not be certified for export to the Republic of South Africa. As the reactors are usually slaughtered at the end of the day's kill, it is possible to ensure that meat from these animals is excluded from the batch/es ultimately intended for export to Republic of South Africa. Support Health Attestation (SHA) should be used to identify and certify such batches moved downstream into storage.