

EXPORT OF CHEESE (OTHER THAN RAW MILK CHEESE) TO AUSTRALIA - 8961EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

Associated Documents: 8961EHC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8961EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8961EHC.

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

Certificate 8961EHC may be used to accompany cheese (excluding raw milk cheese) of bovine, ovine and/or caprine origin only, to Australia.

This certificate does not apply to raw milk cheese, as defined in Australian legislation in the Imported Food Control Order 2019 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2019L01233/latest/versions>

The exporter must also apply for an Import Permit to the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. (DAFF)

The certifying OV must be provided with the Import Permit by the exporter.

Please note that there are other certificates for dairy products to Australia:

- 6969EHC EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS OF BOVINE ORIGIN TO AUSTRALIA (EXCLUDING CHEESE)
- 8960EHC EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS OF OVINE/CAPRINE ORIGIN TO AUSTRALIA (EXCLUDING CHEESE)

For retorted dairy products, exporters are advised to use the alternative 7355EHC for '*Retorted Goods for Human Consumption Containing 5% or more Animal Product (Egg/Dairy)*'.

IMPORTANT: If the dairy ingredients originated or were processed in a country other than the UK, it may be necessary to obtain an official certificate from the countries of origin for the ingredients in question to enable the certificate to be signed.

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, 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 should 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 OV 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

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.

3. HEALTH INFORMATION - SECTION IV. A

Asterisked sections should be struck through as appropriate.

Paragraph 1 and 2 – bovine and ovine/caprine origin and no presence of colostrum. The OV may certify these paragraphs based on familiarity with the manufacturer's procurement arrangements, examination of manufacturer's records and/or manufacturer declaration.

Paragraphs 3, 5 and 9

Paragraph 3. 1 and Paragraph 5.1: these options are to be selected when the milk from which the cheese was made, the goods and the dairy ingredients

within the goods originated and were manufactured in country/countries free from Foot and Mouth disease (FMD).

It should be noted that the statements refer to the disease-free country lists published by the Australian Director of Biosecurity (see links below), and NOT the WOAHA lists. The country of origin/manufacture must have been declared free from the relevant diseases by Australia at the time of collection and processing.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) freedom: As specified in the disease-free country List prepared by the Director of Biosecurity and published on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website:

[FMD-Free Country List - DAFF](#)

Paragraph 3.2 and Paragraph 5.2: these options are to be selected when the milk from which the cheese was made, the goods and the dairy ingredients within the goods originated and were manufactured in country/countries which are listed in the "Appendix - exclusion dates for dairy products due to disease outbreaks. "

The appendix 'Exclusion dates for dairy products due to disease outbreaks' **is included in the Australian import permit for the product being certified.**

In addition, **Paragraph 9.** Must be completed if the goods were manufactured in, and/or contain dairy ingredients sourced from and/or manufactured in a country/countries listed in the "Appendix - Exclusion dates for dairy products due to disease outbreaks"

Provided the milk/goods used has been demonstrably sourced from a country included on this list, the OV may certify on this basis.

Paragraph 4

Official veterinarians can certify these paragraphs for milk of UK or EU origin based on milk hygiene legislation in force in the UK and EU member states which ensures that only healthy animals are used for milk production.

For milk originating from other than UK or the EU, these paragraphs can only be certified if an official certificate from the country of origin which includes this information is made available to the certifying veterinarian.

Paragraph 6

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of documented evidence provided by the manufacturer or exporter.

The certifying OV should obtain evidence demonstrating that the milk and dairy ingredients used in the manufacture of the goods were produced, collected, transported and processed under documented quality assurance arrangements that are implemented and maintained by the relevant operators, in particular documented food safety management systems based on HACCP principles.

The OV should be satisfied that the evidence provided is credible, relevant to the product being certified and sufficient to support certification. Copies of supporting evidence should be retained by the OV for their records.

Paragraph 7

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of evidence demonstrating that all establishments involved in the manufacture of the finished product and dairy ingredients comply with applicable food hygiene approval or

registration requirements.

For establishments located in Great Britain, the OV may rely on approval or registration granted by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS) or the relevant Local Authority, as appropriate. An establishment approval number is issued by the competent authority. If required, the OV can verify the establishment status on an official approval, registration or listing database maintained by the competent authority, or the documentation issued by the competent authority confirming registration, approval or recognition status.

The OV should verify, where reasonably practicable, that establishment approval or registration remains valid at the time of certification and retain supporting evidence for audit purposes.

For the purposes of this attestation, facilities used solely for labelling, storage or distribution are not required to be considered unless specifically required by the importing country's certification requirements.

Paragraph 8 - one option must be selected.

Paragraph 10

OVs need to select applicable option in this paragraph.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of documented evidence provided by the manufacturer or exporter.

The relevant option may be certified on the basis that the milk from which the dairy products were made was heated to *at least* the required temperature, for the required time. Milk that has been treated at a higher temperature than that stated in the EHC may be considered to meet this requirement, provided that the treatment also meets the minimum time requirement.

An alternative heat treatment may be entered **only** if stated on the accompanying import permit.

4. 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