

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for the entry into the Union or Northern Ireland of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat of farmed rabbits 8380

August 2026

Contents

1. Applicable Legislation
2. Scope of the Certificate
3. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

Part I: Details of the Consignment

Part II: Certification

4. Residue Check Guarantees
5. Collection of evidence
6. Consignments or parts of the consignment originating from NI, EU member states or from third countries (triangular trade). [when applicable]
7. Oval mark on products of animal origin
8. Addition of Schedules
9. Certified Copies of Export Health Certificates (EHC)
10. Legal Statement
11. Disclaimer

No: 8380 NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of fresh meat excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat of farmed rabbits intended for human consumption,

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS (CO) AND EXPORTERS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

[Regulations \(EC\) No. 178/2002](#)

[Regulation \(EC\) No. 852/2004](#)

[Regulation \(EC\) No. 853/2004](#)

[Regulation \(EC\) 396/2005](#)

[Commission Decision 2011/163/EU](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) No 2017/625](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2292](#)

[Regulation \(EU\) No 2019/624](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/627](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/692](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/2235](#)

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2744](#)

[Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/905](#)

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Please note that [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) has repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.

Any EU legislation referenced in the EHC must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of Union legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click

'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the EU'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch to the EU or NI of meat of farmed rabbits for human consumption. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate may be used for export to the EU or NI of fresh meat excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat of farmed rabbits intended for human consumption.

This EHC contains no Animal Health attestations. It is therefore possible for fresh meat of wild Leporidae that was imported into GB to be re-exported to the EU as fresh meat using this EHC (without further processing).

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV appointed by the APHA on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC. There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the BCP of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Health Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA: [Official Veterinarian Training](#)

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.
- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.

We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission.

The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See [Using export health certificate \(EHC\) online: certifier guidance - GOV.UK](#)

You can also contact APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link: Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744. [Implementing Regulation - EU - 2023/2744 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R2235>

Box I.27- reference to batch number/s.

There is no specific format requirement for batch numbers and slaughter/production/best before date(s) may be used as appropriate.

Batch codes are intended to identify an amount of product that has been produced under the same conditions and so any hazard identified in a part of the batch can be presumed to be present in the whole.

Batch information is likely to be checked by BCPs as part of identity checks. Batch information in the health certificate should match information available when inspecting the product (e.g. on product labelling).

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections> and

<http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm>

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Public Health Attestation

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestation set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

The OV must also be aware of the relevant provisions of

Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625, Regulation (EU) 2019/624 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 and certify that the meat farmed rabbits described in this certificate has been obtained in accordance with those requirements and satisfies the relevant specific requirements listed in section II.1.

(a) - For meat derived from farmed rabbits slaughtered in the UK, this may be certified on the basis of the product(s) being produced in an establishment(s) that is (are) approved since all approved food establishments must also satisfy the requirements of Regulation (EC) 852/2004. A list of EU approved establishments in Great Britain can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade/non-eu-countries_en

(b) - This paragraph can be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian's own knowledge of the operations at the establishment and/or the conditions of transport. Or declaration from another OV with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed. This could be part of the Support Health Attestation.

(c) and (d) - These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of application of the oval mark in the format as required by the EU confirming that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant and cold store as applicable are officially approved and operating in accordance with assimilated EU Regulations Nos, 853/2004, 2019/624 and 2019/627.

These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland.

(e) - For fresh meat animals sourced from the UK this paragraph can be certified on the basis that the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/23/EC, which is transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

Said provisions fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products thereof provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Article 6(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292. The UK is listed as "triangle" in Annex -I of Commission

Implementing Regulation 2021/405 for the concerned animals and products covered under this EHC. This means that (subject to “triangular” trade rules), we can export fresh meat of farmed rabbit sourced from EU approved countries but we cannot export fresh meat of farmed rabbit originating in GB.

See section 4 for further advice on residue check guarantees. The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin.

The testing results of the level of pesticides and residue in food are published in an annual reports which can be found on gov.uk. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expert-committee-on-pesticide-residues-in-food-prif-annual-report>

II.1a - This attestation must be certified from 3 September 2026 where the European Union is the final destination of the POAO, regardless of the date of production.

For POAO obtained from food-producing animals in the UK, this attestation may be certified on the basis of the UK Veterinary Medicines Regulations and Maximum Residue Limit legal frameworks, which implement these EU requirements, and on the basis of Great Britain’s listing in the relevant EU third country list.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598, which is referred to in the current certificate text, has been repealed and replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189. As a result, the relevant third country list is now found in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405, as amended.

II.2 Identification

This sentence can be certified on the basis of the certifying veterinarian’s own knowledge of the operations at the establishment, or declaration from another OV with the relevant knowledge may be sought if further assurances are needed.

II.3 Animal welfare attestation

The OV must ensure Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulation (WATOK 2015) and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales is complied with at the slaughterhouse. WATOK 2015 regulation applies the provisions for the administration and enforcement of No 1099/2009 (EC).

4. RESIDUE CHECK GUARANTEES

The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in domestically produced foodstuffs of animal origin. Sample collection is conducted at the point of production i.e. at farm and slaughterhouse.

The domestic legislative basis for this monitoring is outlined in The Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations of 2015 and equivalent legislation in Wales ([2019](#)) and NI ([2016](#)). The monitoring conducted in GB is in accordance with the legislative requirements of Directive

96/23 (EC), 96/22 (EC), Decision 97/747 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) concerning residue testing of products of animal origin. The residues tested in the programme are in accordance with Annex I and II of Directive No 96/23 (EC), specifically, and include veterinary medical products, banned substances and environmental contaminants. In practice, monitoring conducted in the UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.

With regards to maximum levels used to determine sample non-compliance, for authorised veterinary medicines GB work to the GB Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) published [here](#); these MRLs are aligned to the EU veterinary MRLs published under Reg (EU) [37/2010](#). If a pesticidal compound has an MRL for food-producing species then this MRL is used as the respective non-compliance threshold, but if a pesticide does not have a foodstuff MRL then the MRLs as listed in Regulation (EC) 396/2005 are applied. For contaminants, such as heavy metals and mycotoxins, the limits as set out in Reg (EC) 1881/2006 are used to determine sample non-compliance.

The results of the statutory surveillance programme can be accessed on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/residues-statutory-and-non-statutory-surveillance-results>

The EHC residue testing requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance to the national surveillance programme, which complies with the relevant EU legislation.

The national monitoring programme for pesticide MRLs in food and feed in place under Regulation 396/2005 is underpinned by national legislation, The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels) Regulations (England and Wales) 2008 (as amended) and devolved administration equivalents. A national monitoring programme for Maximum Residue Levels is managed by the Health and Safety Executive. This involves testing a selection of produce that has already been placed on the market in Great Britain to provide assurance that only authorised pesticides, within permitted levels, are present. The results are published in an annual report. Annual reports can be found on gov.uk.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expert-committee-on-pesticide-residues-in-food-prif-annual-report>

Any EHC residue pesticide requirements can be certified based on evidence of compliance with the pesticide residue monitoring scheme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pesticide-residues-in-food-results-of-monitoring-programme>.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA. CSOs can collect evidence, directed by an OV, which may be used to support OV certification of matters which do not require a clinical assessment or judgement e.g. for POAO and ABPs.

In England, Scotland, and Wales, CSOs can be utilised by OVs for gathering evidence relating to this certificate. The CSOs must be authorised by APHA and they must hold the

appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ (AHP)-CSO) qualification.

The OV must direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the EHC should be obtained. CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement and are restricted to the execution of administrative checks.

They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by the directing OV, who remains responsible for the certification of the product. CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.

Any documentary evidence collected by the CSO must be stamped, signed, and dated by the CSO, before being submitted by them as supporting evidence to the OV. It is required that the OV is familiar with the product process and evidence required to start with, before directing the CSO to provide future evidence on an ongoing basis.

Additional guidance and principles of implementation are provided in the OV Instructions Exports section of the APHA [Official Veterinarian Training](#).

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM A THIRD COUNTRY (TRIANGULAR TRADE)

This EHC contains no Animal Health attestations. It is therefore possible for fresh meat of wild Leporidae that was imported into GB to be re-exported to the EU as fresh meat using this EHC.

NI origin:

For NI origin raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, this can be certified under the terms of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the Windsor Framework. The Windsor Framework applies EU SPS legislation in NI.

Approved premises in NI continue to implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004 and 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in the Windsor Framework. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Regulation (EU) No_ 2017/625, Directive (EC) Nos 96/22 and 470/2009 can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance

programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland>

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By-Products are handled in accordance with EU Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the GB exporter/CO must request this information from the NI exporter. This NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

EU origin:

For imported goods that need to be certified for export from GB, these are normally subject to import certification, or the availability of a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) issued by the BCP of entry to verify that they are compliant with GB import requirements and for placing on the GB market. COs including OV's may use these official documents to provide supporting evidence of compliance with relevant requirements for the re-export of products. Where the CHED or accompanying import certificate are not available or do not provide sufficient supporting information, the CO should seek a supporting attestation from an 'authorised veterinarian' who has personal knowledge of the matters in question. This may be further supported by relevant commercial information or records. It is the responsibility of the GB exporter to obtain the necessary supporting information to enable the CO to verify compliance with export requirements.

For goods sourced in the EU and EFTA countries, especially those that are not accompanied by a veterinary certificate or CHED issued by a BCP - COs may rely on the oval ID mark applied at approved food establishments in the EU as evidence that the goods were produced compliant with EU food production requirements for placing on the EU market - but care must be taken not to extrapolate this to animal health requirements not covered by the obligations of a food approved establishment, i.e. matters that extend beyond the scope of Regulations 852/2004 and 853/2004.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin.

From 3 September 2026, where a consignment contains POAO obtained from non-EU third-country origin animals and the European Union is the final destination of the consignment, the Certifying Officer must be satisfied that these products comply with the antimicrobial medicinal products attestation in Part II of this certificate, "Attestation as regards Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905".

This applies whether the third-country origin product is used as an ingredient in a POAO manufactured or further processed in GB, and/or was already present in GB before the EU requirement came into effect, including frozen, chilled, canned or otherwise stored products.

Exporters must provide Certifying Officers with sufficient traceability information to demonstrate that any non-EU third-country-origin POAO contained in the consignment originates from a third country or region listed for the relevant POAO in the relevant EU third country list.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598, which is referred to in the current certificate text, has been repealed and replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189. As a result, the relevant third country list is now found in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405, as amended.

COs may obtain the necessary supporting information from a copy of the original EHC used for import of these products into the UK.

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

7. OVAL MARK ON 'PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN – POAOs'

EU hygiene regulations require that food of animal origin carries and oval health or identification mark and that official controls are carried out by enforcement authorities to ensure the appropriate marking has been applied. Domestic legislation has been introduced to ensure these requirements continue to apply in GB as assimilated legislation.

The health marks indicate that meat is fit for human consumption and the identification marks show when foods of animal origin have been produced in officially approved establishments which are compliant with assimilated EU food hygiene Regulations (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004 and (EU) No 2017/625. Also, the primary food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is The Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended).

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/guidance-on-health-and-identification-marks-that-applies-from-1-january-2021>

Relevant text on the EHC can be certified on the basis that carcasses, half carcasses or quarters, or half carcasses cuts into three pieces, of domestic ungulates, farmed game mammals (other than lagomorphs) and large wild game bear the official health mark or that the primary, secondary and/or shipping packaging on food products of animal origin show the identification mark.

8. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated, and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here: [Official Veterinarian Training](#)

9. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OV's must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/>

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on [APHA Official Veterinarian Training](#).

10. LEGAL STATEMENT

References in this guidance to “assimilated EU Regulation” should be interpreted as references to assimilated law, as defined under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

11. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG 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 APHA in Carlisle.

© Crown copyright 2021

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/
or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at product.exports@apha.gov.uk

PB 8380 NFG

Version History

EHC

Published November 2025

Part II:

II.1. (e)- Attestation is amended for clarity that country of origin must be listed and marked with an 'X' in Annex -I to Regulation (EU) 2021/405.

II.1 (a): Reference to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 is replaced with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598.

Notes section:

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:

II.1 (a) - Attestation about the administration of antimicrobial medicinal products is added.

Notes - Footnote 3 is added.

Published 31 May 2024

Part I:

Identification Mark and Approval or registration number of plant/establishment are removed.

Part II:

II.1 (e): Council Directive for residue plan 96/23 EC and Commission Implementing Regulation 2011/163 for listing of concerned animal and products, is replaced by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for control plan and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 for listing.

II.1. (f): Related to maximum residue level for pesticides and maximum level of contaminants, is removed.

NFG

Version 14: Published August 2026

II.1a - Guidance amended regarding antimicrobial attestation.

Section 6 – Guidance added regarding third country-origin POAO.

Version 11: Published November 2025:

Section 6: is updated replacing reference to Northern Ireland protocol with Windsor framework.

Links to APHA Gateway are replaced with APHA [Official Veterinarian Training](#)

Legal statement is updated.

Version 10: Published 30 August 2024

Applicable Legislation: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 added

Part II: II.1 (a) - Guidance is added about the attestation related to antimicrobial medicinal products.

Version 9: Published 31 May 2024

Applicable Legislation is amended with addition of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292, 2023/2744 and 2020/2235.

Part I: Detail of the Consignment: Link to amended Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 is added for completing Part I of the EHC.

II.1. (e): Further clarity is added that the national surveillance scheme and mentioned provisions, fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292.

Section 4: Residue check guarantees: Further information is added: “In practice, monitoring conducted in the UK meets the requirement of Regulation (EU) 2022/2292 for veterinary medicine and prohibited substances, and Annex I of 2022/932, for contaminants.”

Section 6: Guidance on triangular trade is amended as this EHC can be used for export of fresh meat without further processing.

Version 8: Published 16 January 2024

Section 6 Consignment or Part of the Consignment Originating from the NI, EU Member States or from Third Country (Triangular Trade) and section 2 scope of the certificate amended:

After 15 January 2024, POAO consignments moving from Great Britain to NI that require an EHC will have to follow the rules on triangular trade. Separate rules apply to products that are eligible to move to NI via the NI Retail Movement Scheme.

Version 7: Published 28 March 2023

Triangular trade section EU paragraph:

Amended to standardise the advice we provide on documentary evidence across POAO NFGs.