Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Export of processed pet food other than canned pet food intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union (EU) and Northern Ireland (NI)

September 2026

Contents

No: 8305 NFG**.**

For export of processed pet food other than canned pet food intended for dispatch to or for transit through the European Union and Northern Ireland

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV), CERTIFICATION SUPPORT OFFICER AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and Commission (EU) Regulation 142/2011 (as amended)

Regulation (EU) 2020/2235:

EUR-Lex - 32020R2235 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu) ; this legislation repealed the following:

2007/240/EC: Commission Decision:

EUR-Lex - 32007D0240 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Any other EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and can be accessed on the following link:

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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers (CO) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for exports of processed pet food other than canned pet food intended for dispatch to or transit through the EU and Northern Ireland. 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 GB, 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 Model 8305 veterinary certificate may be used for the export of processed pet food other than canned pet food intended for dispatch to or transit through the EU and Northern Ireland, in accordance with the relevant requirements described in Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

Processed pet food is defined in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as meaning pet food, other than raw pet food, which has been processed in accordance with point 3 of Chapter II of Annex XIII.

Pet food means feed, other than material referred to in Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 for use as feed for pet animals and dog chews consisting of animal by-products or derived products which:

a) contain Category 3 material, other than material referred to in Article 10(n), (o) and (p) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009; and

b) may contain imported Category 1 material comprising of animal by-products derived from animals which have been submitted to illegal treatment as defined in Article 1(2)(d) of Directive 96/22/EC or Article 2(b) of Directive 96/23/EC.

A pet animal is defined in Article 3.8 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 as being any animal belonging to species normally nourished and kept but not consumed, by humans for purposes other than farming.
Note that in order to use this EHC, **the manufacturing plant shown in box I.28 must be approved as a processed pet food plant.**
See link to approved animal by-products plants in gov.uk:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-by-product-operating-plants-approved-premises

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer or by an OV appointed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (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 three 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/s of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU, as well as in the language of the EU MS of destination if this a different country from the point of entry to the EU. The required EHC must accompany the consignment.

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 EHC 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 EU Commission. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version are struck through, both versions can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English.

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.

Signing, stamping and pagination

The foreign language version/s and any schedules (if any) may be stapled to the English version but doing so and then fan stamping the multiple sheets is not enough to create one indivisible single document according to the EU Commission.

Therefore, each page (including schedules) should be individually signed and stamped and bear the reference number of the certificate. The pages comprising the complete document should be sequentially numbered so they are part of a finite sequence which covers the English, foreign language version/s and any schedule pages.

For example, if the certificate consists of four A4 pages printed back-to-back on two sheets of A4 paper with a schedule that is three A4 pages long, all 11 pages must be stamped and **signed** (as above) and numbered 1/11 to 11/11.

COs will have to make handwritten corrections to page numbering as may be required. E.g. 1/4 to 4/4 (if present) on the foreign language parts in the example given above will need to be crossed out and the 1/11 to 11/11 entered.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the pages of the schedule (if any) at the bottom.

As per general guidance for certifiers on APHA's Official Veterinarian Training, any handwritten corrections or permitted deletions to a certificate should be stamped and **initialled**. This includes the deletion of optional statements in Part II of the certificate and alterations to content in Part 1. The same applies if a pre-populated text in a box in part I of the EHC needs to be amended. (E.g. if box I.7 which is pre-populated as 'United Kingdom' 'GB', needs to be amended for triangular trade where third country origin 'Products Of Animal Origin' are being certified in the original third country packaging with the original third country Identification Marks, in which case the country of origin will be the third country in question and not the United Kingdom). Please follow the guidance on corrections in the link below.

Instruction: Official Veterinarian Training

We advise that individual stamping and initialling of diagonal lines drawn through blank boxes in Part 1 is not necessary. This is to reduce excessive stamping on the certificate. However, we are aware that some BCPs advise otherwise and request stamping and initialling of

manually crossed out blank boxes in Part 1 of the certificate. In such cases OV should conform to the BCPs request to facilitate the clearance of the goods.

You can find further information on EHCO guidance for Certifiers in the link below.

Using export health certificate (EHC) online: certifier guidance - GOV.UK
UK approved establishments will be uploaded to Europa website in due course, until the establishments are in Europa website you can find the list of UK approved establishments in the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu

Part I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

Please complete **all** the boxes in Part I of the certificate.

Please check the guidance on completion of part I of the EHC at the bottom of the EHC and in the links provided in the NFG.

Regulation (EU) 2020/2235:
EUR-Lex - 32020R2235 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu) ; this legislation repealed Commission Decision2007/240/EC.

To note: The EHC box numbering will not match Chapter 4 of Regulation 2020/2235, however the name of the box will suffice.

Commission Decision2007/240/EC:
EUR-Lex - 32007D0240 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Box I.8 Region of Origin Code

If applicable; the territory code should be as listed in the relevant legislation that is provided under the notes at the bottom of the EHC. This is only for species or products affected by regionalisation measures or by the setting up of approved zones in accordance with a European Community Decision. The approved regions or zones must be indicated as described in the Official Journal of the European Union. If there is no information in the Notes at the bottom of the EHC of specific listing due to regionalisation, this box can be crossed out.

I.15 Means of transport

Include full transport information including vehicle or trailer and ferry identification if appropriate.

I.23 Seal/Container number

For bulk containers, OVs must record the container number and the seal number (if applicable).

Box I.28 – Approval number of manufacturing plant
The plant must be approved in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, for the manufacture of pet food.

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 products 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

Animal Health Attestation

The OV signing the export health certificate must have read and understood Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009, in particular Articles 8 and 10, and Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011, in particular Chapter II of Annex XIII and Chapter II of Annex XIV and must ensure that the products meet the requirements of the certificate.

The following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification may be followed: **The OV must have familiarity with sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, and handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment and ensure that the consignment meets the conditions required in the certificate. Where the OV is required to certify conditions outside of their personal knowledge, they must request and be provided with appropriate supporting documentation from another veterinarian (if appropriate) and/or the exporter.**

II.1 Plant approval and consequent supervision may be established as per the procedure detailed at Section 7 - GB APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPORT TO THE EU. The OV should ask to see a copy of the approval document.

II.2 Starting/source material

The starting material must either be category 3 material and/or limited imported Category 1 material as detailed in the Scope section 2. Select the correct categories. Familiarity with the sourcing arrangement of the raw material by the establishment is necessary as supported by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documents, veterinary statements and valid written exporter declarations to ensure the correct sub-category or sub-categories is/are selected.

II.3 Processing method

The "either" option applies where the pet food in the consignment has been subjected in its entirety to the heat treatment described. It may be certified on the basis of familiarity with processing arrangements at the processing establishment and examination of relevant

records, including processing records e.g. thermographs, and the approval document which will detail the heat treatment for which the plant has been approved. This may be supported by written declaration from the establishment operator confirming that the treatment has been applied to the whole consignment. Delete where not applicable.

The first “or” option refers to individual constituents incorporated into the pet food and requires that the OV establish as appropriate that each constituent has been sourced and treated as per the requirements detailed for each. With the exception of milk and milk products (at b), this treatment may have taken place at another establishment within the UK, the EU, or another Third Country appropriately listed for import into the EU. Milk and milk products (b) must be from and processed in GB or another third country as listed in Column B or C of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 605/2010. Otherwise, appropriate supporting commercial documentation and veterinary certification in relation to permitted imported products would be required. Delete where not applicable.

The second “or” option applies where the pet food in the consignment has been subjected in its entirety to a treatment such as drying or fermenting which has been authorised by the competent authority and assures that the petfood poses no unacceptable risks to public or animal health. It may be certified on the basis of familiarity with processing arrangements at the processing establishment and examination of relevant records, including processing records e.g. thermographs, and the approval document which will detail the authorised heat treatment for which the plant has been approved. This may be supported by written declaration from the establishment. Delete where not applicable.

The third “or” option applies where the pet food in the consignment is derived from aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and has been subjected in its entirety to a heat treatment which has been authorised by the competent authority and assures that the petfood poses no unacceptable risks to public or animal health. It may be certified on the basis of familiarity with processing arrangements at the processing establishment and examination of relevant records, including processing records e.g. thermographs, and the approval document which will detail the authorised heat treatment for which the plant has been approved. This may be supported by written declaration from the establishment. Delete where not applicable.

II.4 Bacteriological testing

This attestation can be certified if the consignment has been analysed as per the standard detailed in the certificate. The consignment should remain identified and accessible to the OV/CSO until these results are available and the certificate is signed.

To establish that the heat treatment has been adequate the OV should have access to lab results in relation to the consignment confirming compliance with the following bacteriological standards:

- Salmonella: absence in 25 g, n=5, c=0, m=0, M=0
- Enterobacteriaceae: n=5, c=2, m=10, M= 300 in 1 g

Where:
n= number of samples to be tested
m= threshold value for the number of bacteria; the result shall be considered satisfactory if the number of bacteria in all samples does not exceed m;
M= maximum value for the number of bacteria; the result shall be considered unsatisfactory if the number of bacteria in one or more samples is M or more; and
C= number of samples the bacterial count of which may be between m and M, the sample shall still be considered acceptable if the bacterial count of the other samples is m or less.

II.5 Precautions to avoid contamination with pathogens

The OV must establish that processes are in place to prevent contamination by pathogenic agents after treatment through familiarity with processing, handling and storage arrangements at the establishments and should obtain a relevant written declaration from the plant operator confirming these measures have been taken.

II.6 This may be certified on the basis of familiarity with packaging and labelling processes in the plant as supported by physical checks and declaration from the establishment operator as required. The OV must ensure that products bear the labels indicating “NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION”.

II.7 BSE risk status

NOTE: THIS ATTESTATION ONLY APPLIES WHERE ABP OR ABP PRODUCTS ARE DERIVED FROM RUMINANTS.

Species material other than ruminants.

This section should be deleted in its entirety.

The OV should obtain a written declaration from the exporter confirming the species of the source materials. The OV must be familiar with the plant sourcing procedures and complete a documentary check of the records.

Ruminant species material other than bovine, caprine or ovine only
There is an ‘either/or’ section under II.7 relating to BSE risk of the country/region of origin of the animals from which the ABP material was derived:

The first “**either**” option of II.7 should be certified and all other sentences should be deleted.

The OV must obtain a written declaration from the exporter confirming the species of the source materials. The OV must be familiar with the plant sourcing procedures and complete a documentary check of the records.

Bovine, caprine or ovine species material only

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2208 amended the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC as regards the BSE status of the region of England and Wales, and the region of Scotland in the United Kingdom, listing them as regions with a negligible BSE risk.

All specified risk material (SRM) associated with controlled BSE risk status as described on Commission Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 must be removed from the product intended for dispatch to the EU or NI as required by EU legislation and UK TSE legislation.

BSE status of Member States or third countries or regions thereof according to their BSE risk:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0453-20200702&qid=1607603814945

The first 'or' option of II.7 may be certified if the ABP materials are derived from bovine, ovine or caprine animals. Under this option two further points appear:

- The "either" point may be certified if the animals from which ABP material was derived were born, continuously reared and slaughtered in GB or in a country or region classified as **negligible BSE risk** in accordance with Decision 2007/453/EC. Further evidence such as a support health attestation may be required to support certifying this option.
- The "or" point may be certified if the ABP product/material complies with all the following subparagraphs:

  - Sub-subparagraph (a) if the material does not contain the SRM material specified for controlled or undetermined BSE risk status as defined by Commission Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.
  - Sub-subparagraph (b) provided the ABP material or ABP products do not contain mechanically separated meat obtained from bones of bovine, ovine or caprine animals from controlled or undetermined BSE risk status countries or regions, or from countries or regions with negligible risk status where there have been indigenous BSE cases.
  - Sub-subparagraph (c) provided the ABP material or ABP products were not obtained from bovine, ovine or caprine animals slaughtered (after stunning) by gas injection or by pithing, if they were not born, continuously reared and slaughtered in a country or region with negligible BSE risk.

The OV must be familiar with the plant sourcing procedures and complete a documentary check of the records.

OVs might have to rely on further supporting documentation such as Support Health Attestations (SHAs) to certify these attestations.

Imported material:

If imported ABP material has been used then the OV should refer to Section 6 (CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM, NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE)).

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Where it is possible for the Certifying Officer (CO) (Official Veterinarian (OV) or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland) available on the Official Veterinarian Training.
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification) available on the Official Veterinarian Training.

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that GB has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease lists for the last occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Personnel may be authorised to collect evidence which may be used to support veterinary certification. In GB, the Certification Support Officer (CSO) role has been developed by APHA.

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 Export document section of the APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

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

This section of the guidance applies to exports to the EU and movements from GB to NI but does not apply to movements of retail products to Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS).

An ABP consignment for export from GB can contain animal products that originate from NI, EU and third countries, only if those products have undergone further processing in GB. Processing should be understood in the context of Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 and is different than the definition that applies in the context of products of animal origin for human consumption.

ABP imported into to GB, which is only unloaded, stored, and reloaded, or which is only rewrapped in GB, cannot be re-exported to the EU or moved to NI except under the NIRMS or under the customs transit procedure (see below). Guidance on triangular trade can be found here: Triangular Trade Briefing Note

To avoid the restriction applicable to triangular trade, businesses can make use of the customs transit procedure for goods from third countries landed in GB, to move through GB, directly to NI. Consignments being moved under the customs transit procedure are not

subject to triangular trade rules. Guidance on the transit procedure can be found in the triangular trade briefing note above.

7. GB APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPORT TO THE EU

The exporting establishment must be authorised and listed by the GB as a 'GB approved establishment' for ABP not for human consumption. A list of approved establishments can be found on the European Commission's list of approved establishments' link below:

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

Please note that the list is updated regularly and ONLY establishments on the list are approved to export to the EU and does not include establishments with pending applications for approval/registration.

If the final product contains animal products from other establishments, or products were previously processed in different establishments in the production chain, then these establishments should also be listed on the EU website as GB approved establishments.

For approved establishments in Northern Ireland the "EC" suffix which is present in the health/ID mark of approved food establishments, should not be included when referring to establishment approval numbers in the certificate. This may also be relevant to certain ABP consignments – e.g. where the ABP is generated at an approved slaughterhouse without separate ABP approval.

8. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs 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 the OV instruction Export document on the APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

9. 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.

10. 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 Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

product.exports@apha.gov.uk

8305 NFG

Version History
NFG

Version 13: Published September 2026

Section 2: Scope of the certificate – Guidance added regarding processing plant approval.

Part I: I.28 – Guidance added on how to complete box I.28

Version 12: Published November 2025

II.7 BSE risk status – Section updated to reflect EU recognition of change to GB's BSE risk status to negligible.

Version 11: Published Sep 2025

Section 6 - CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM, NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE) is amended to align with the Triangular Trade Briefing Note (ABP)

References for Vet Gateway replaced by APHA's Official Veterinarian Training

Legal statement is updated.

Version 10: Published June 2025

II.7 - BSE attestation guidance amended to reflect additional evidence requirements following change to WOAH's published GB BSE risk status.

Version 9: Published 13 December 2023

II.7 - BSE risk status: is amended to further clarify how to certify GB sourced bovine, ovine and caprine ABP material.