

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters on the associated document, the Export Health Certificate (EHC) 7833EHC. The certificate may also be known as the Official Meat Inspection Certificate (OMIC) to the Canadian authorities. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7833EHC, which is available via the Export Health Certificates Online (EHCO) or DECS in Northern Ireland.

Specimen copies of EHCs and NFGs can be found at Form Finder:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

The latest amendments to the guidance notes have a line on the left-hand side of the footer.

ADVISORY ON MEAT EXPORTS

Exporters and OVs should refer to the accompanying NFG Advisory (7833NFGA) on Meat Exports for further details regarding checking procedures on all consignments prior to final shipment to Canada.

1. SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE 7833EHC

Export health certificate 7833EHC may be used to export **intact bovine meat** (e.g. carcass and primal/sub-primal cuts) or **bovine meat intended for intact use** (i.e. not for grinding) and/or **precursor material** (e.g. trim) intended for the production of **finished raw ground beef production (FRGBP)** in Canada or precursor material used to produce FRGBP for further export, including minced meat.

Fresh meat means all animal parts fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Prior to making arrangements to export to Canada, exporters are advised to contact the CFIA for up-to-date information on requirements for any import documentation.

<https://inspection.canada.ca/importing-food-plants-or-animals/food-imports/food-specific-requirements/importing-meat-products/eng/1545799257612/1545799287057#mper>

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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in a colour that must be different to the colour of the printing of the certificate. Each and every page of the certificate and that of any attachment/s must be **SIGNED, STAMPED** and **DATED** by the OV, using ink of any colour other than black. Photocopies and carbon copies of health certificates are not acceptable for the purposes of Canadian import inspections, except when specifically accepted by Meat Programs Division, Import Programs, in Ottawa.

The imported shipments of meat products will not be subjected to the required import inspection until the Inspector has in his possession the original EHC, or a copy of the guaranteed replacement certificate.

Certificates are not acceptable if any of the item descriptions listed below are erased, typed over, altered, or changed by any other means. If this occurs, the certificate shall be refused, and a replacement certificate must be obtained if the meat product is to be considered for importation.

1. The identification of the commodities (description of the meat)
2. The shipping marks.
3. The number and kind of pieces, containers, packages, etc.
4. The net weight.
5. The slaughterhouse/manufacturing plant (foreign establishment) number.
6. The signature of the certifying official veterinarian.
7. The certificate number.

Certificates which contain obvious misspelled words may be accepted. Unacceptable certificates shall be refused.

If a replacement certificate is required, one with a new number generated by the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system or DECS in Northern Ireland, will be issued. It will state that the new certificate replaces and cancels certificate no XXXXXXXX signed on XXXXX, or words to that effect - all in type.

Detailed instructions for completing the EHC, and the procedures the CFIA expects exporting countries to follow, are available at: [Procedures for the use of Official Meat Inspection Certificates \(OMIC\)](http://inspection.canada.ca/Procedures%20for%20the%20use%20of%20Official%20Meat%20Inspection%20Certificates%20(OMIC)) - inspection.canada.ca.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance for returning certified copies of EHCs has changed; only specific certified copies need to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OV's must return a certified copy of an EHC for the following EHC types only:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
- or
- if the certificate was applied for manually with the application documents having been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the 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 EHC system, the certifying OV must complete the status of the certificate and the date of signature on the certifier portal.

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 System (DECS) produced EHCs must upload a legible scanned copy of the signed EHC to the DECS system (via AVP Portal or DECS Export Application notification email link, as appropriate) within 7 working days of signing.

Clearly legible 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. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DISPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

Any modification of the authenticated EHC will result in the invalidation of the certificate and consequently the refusal of the shipment.

The EHC must be complete, accurate, and legible for it to be acceptable. In addition, only original certificates with an original signature of the foreign government official are acceptable. For the purpose of documentation clearance, the CFIA will accept copies of the original certificates as the proof that the imported products comply with the provisions of the pertinent Canadian legislation.

Exporters and OVs are forewarned that presentation of a certificate that has been partially completed in manuscript may result in the rejection of the consignment on arrival at the port of entry in Canada.

I.2. - Certificate Reference number

The certificates are to be numbered consecutively in box number I.2, immediately following the country code, for example, GBR 0000. This same number will be required to be stamped on all the shipping cartons of product covered by that certificate unless shipping marks are used. Refer to [this link](#) for details on the use of shipping

marks.

I.3 and I.4. - Central and Local Competent Authority

The certifying OV should enter the Animal and Plant Health Agency, or DAERA if exported from Northern Ireland.

I.7. - Country ISO Codes

The three letter ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is 'GBR' and should be entered at Box I.7. Box I.8 is (not applicable).

The three letter ISO Code for Canada is 'CAN' and should be entered at Box I.9. Box I.10 is not applicable.

I.11. - Place of origin

This must be the CFIA listed/approved establishment from which the consignment is certified/dispatched. It is usually a cold store. This establishment would also be mentioned in box I.25.

I.25. - HS Code

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system in which articles are grouped into various categories. It is used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

The HS Codes to be entered in this box for the various categories of meat of bovine origin exported to Canada are as follows:

0201 - Fresh or chilled bovine carcasses and half carcasses, fresh or chilled meat, bovine cuts with bone in, fresh or chilled boneless bovine meat;

0202 - Meat of bovine animals, frozen;

0206 - Fresh or chilled edible bovine offal, inc. tongues and livers;

0504 - Intestines, bladders and stomachs of animals (other than fish), whole and pieces thereof, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine, dried or smoked;

1502 - Fats of bovine animals other than lard stearin, lard oil, oleostearin, oleo-oil and tallow oil, not emulsified or mixed or otherwise prepared.

I.25. - Identification of the commodities

Product description

OVs and exporters must complete the product description in strict accordance with the instructions provided under this heading at Part I of the Notes section on page 2 of the EHC.

In summary, the description of the product on the EHC MUST be identical to the description of the product on the label of the shipping carton. In addition, the terms 'boneless' or 'bone-in' (with no abbreviations) must be included on the labelling of the shipping carton, only for products falling under Commodity Codes 020220 and 020230, and so also must appear in Box I.25 of the OMIC. For information on product descriptors applicable to each CN code, please refer to the following gov.uk link:

[UK Integrated Online Tariff: Look up commodity codes, duty and VAT](#)

[rates - GOV.UK \(trade-tariff.service.gov.uk\)](https://trade-tariff.service.gov.uk)

Various examples are presented to further clarify this requirement.

Type of Packaging

UN Recommendation 21 standardises terms for describing packaging in trade. Acceptable package types include bin, box, crate, drum, packet, pouch, tub, tray and similar forms. Exporters must **not use the term "dolav,"** as it is not recognised and may lead to rejection. Refer to UN Recommendation 21 for full details.

Name and number of the food establishments within the supply chain

Only the approval numbers of the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, manufacturing premises (if applicable) and cold store are required to be entered, as per the footnote. All of these establishments must be CFIA listed - see below.

Shipping mark

Each shipping container in each imported lot must be clearly marked with an appropriate shipping mark.
Further advice in point 13.

HEALTH INFORMATION

5. ESTABLISHMENTS CERTIFIED FOR EXPORT TO CANADA

Paragraph II.1 refers. All slaughterhouses, cutting plants, manufacturing premises (if applicable) and cold stores in which meat intended for export to Canada is processed, handled and stored must have specific approval to export to Canada prior to exports taking place. Such approval does not involve a bespoke inspection; however, the establishment/s can only be listed by the CFIA as eligible to export to Canada following a written endorsement by the Department to the CFIA.

The current list of UK premises eligible to export to Canada may be found at:

<https://active.inspection.gc.ca/netapp/meatforeign-viandeetranger/forliste.aspx>

Owners of establishments not appearing on the CFIA list that wish to export bovine meat to Canada should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle for further advice, using the following link:

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

Exporters and certifying officers in Northern Ireland may contact DAERA at vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk.

6. **EU REGULATIONS 852/2004, 853/2004 AND 2017/625 (AS AMENDED) WHICH HAVE BEEN RETAINED IN GREAT BRITAIN AS RETAINED EU LAW AS DEFINED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (WITHDRAWAL) ACT 2018- FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

The remainder of paragraph II.1 may be certified on the basis of the application of the oval health mark or identification mark on the exported meat or packaging thereof. This indicates 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.

7. **90 DAY EUROPEAN UNION (EU) RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

Paragraph II.2.1 refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with premises of origin, procurement policy at the slaughterhouse/s and examination of appropriate records. OVs may rely on a blanket assurance from the suppliers, or the suppliers on a blanket assurance from the farmers (if this cannot be covered in the Food Chain Information), to enable this statement to be signed as long as there is an undertaking to inform the OV if the situation was to change. OVs are advised to audit compliance from time to time by asking for animal movement records to be provided and checks run on CTS/BCMS (or NIFAIS in NI) for animals which arouse suspicion.

8. **CONTACT WITH IMPORTED ANIMALS DURING THE LAST 90 DAYS**

Paragraph II.2.2 may be signed for meat derived from animals originating from the United Kingdom only provided animals which do not meet the conditions laid down in this paragraph have not entered the farm of origin within the specified time frame.

OVs should take into account their personal knowledge of the farms of origin, and examination of appropriate records to certify this paragraph. OVs may wish to request supporting statements from farms of origin confirming that the requirements of this paragraph have been met. However, EU/WOAH rules/recommendations mean that at least 3 months must elapse following slaughter of affected/emergency vaccinated animals before the region/zone/country is able to lift restrictions and allow movements to take place. The statement can then be certified on this basis.

9. **TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (TSE) STATEMENTS**

Requirements related to removal of SRM (Specified Risk Material)

Paragraph II.2.4.2 refers.

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 tissues which are prohibited from export, according to the prevailing domestic requirements.

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

Some FBOs may choose to continue removing SRM in line with previous "Controlled Risk" processes. Where this is the case and the SHA/ veterinary declarations make that clear, OV's 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 OV's to certify that the conditions were met during the processing of the export consignment.

10. EXPORT OF FRESH BEEF OR BEEF DERIVED FROM BOVINE ANIMALS NOT ORIGINATING FROM THE UK

All of paragraph II.2 refers. Health certificate 7833EHC permits the export from the UK to Canada of fresh beef derived from bovine animals originating from any EU Member State.

In cases where this provision applies, it is the responsibility of the certifying OV at the point of export in the UK to carry out the appropriate checks regarding disease status of the Member State of origin of the imported meat/meat products, residency of the animals from which the meat/meat products were derived and the conditions under which the beef has been handled throughout the production chain.

It is likely that carrying out such checks will not be a straightforward matter. OV's are strongly advised not to certify this section unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details and are confident to do so.

11. ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION - paragraph II.3 refers

This MUST be certified if EITHER precursor material II.3.1 - 1st option) OR finished raw ground beef products (FRGBP) (II.3.1 - 2nd option) is intended for export.

In either case, each batch/lot of precursor material must be subjected to N60 sampling as mentioned in paragraph 2 above and the samples sent to Campden BRI or AFBI in Belfast where they should be subjected to analysis for *E. coli* O157:H7/NM using an ISO 17025 method which is acceptable to CFIA and accredited by UKAS (paragraph II.3.2 refers). The results for each and every batch sampled/tested must be negative (reported as 'Not Detected') and the results of the N60 test must be retained by the OV along with the copy of the Export Health Certificate. If the report confirming the result is not available or it is difficult to correlate the result to the lot that was sampled (backward traceable) and the batch presented for certification (forward traceable), the certifying OV should refuse to sign the certificate.

The certifying OV must request:

- a one off a copy of the RMOP (Required Methods of Operation Procedures) for every establishment that produced/sampled the precursor material that they are asked to certify exports of.
- 7833IMC - an internal movement certificate to cover the sampling and testing carried out when product is being moved within UK. For movements within Northern Ireland, DAERA has their own internal traceability/communication process.

12. REFERENCES TO APPROVAL NUMBERS

The UK has reached an agreement with Canada to update the details of the approval numbers of all UK establishments requiring listing with Canada. **With effect from 31/08/2019** the approval/registration numbers for establishments listed to export fresh beef to Canada 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 NEW FORMAT APPLICABLE FROM 31/08/2019 MUST BE USED IN ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORTS OF FRESH BEEF TO CANADA, INCLUDING INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES OR SUPPORT HEALTH ATTESTATIONS SIGNED FROM THAT DATE.

The authorities of Canada 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 Canadian Food Inspection Agency website <https://active.inspection.gc.ca/netapp/meatforeign-viandeetranger/forliste.aspx>

The new listing by Canada replaces the previous listings by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Health/ID marking of products: Canada will accept consignments of product bearing either the current format of oval health/ID marks (with "GB", "EC", "EU") 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.**

13. Safe Food for Canadians Act (SFCA) - Labelling requirements

The exporter should be aware of Section 6 of the SFCA and to ensure the product description on the label matches the actual product specifications (e.g. cutting specifications of the meat):

[Safe Food for Canadians Act \(justice.gc.ca\).](https://www.justice.gc.ca)

The exporter is responsible for ensuring the product specifications match the product description on the label of the packaging. The exporter should confirm with the importer that the product specifications adhere to Canadian guidelines (see link below). The OV is strongly advised to check compliance to this. For example, if the product description is 'beef prime rib' on the label then the product should be cut according to that specification standard set by CFIA. Please refer to CFIA Meat Cuts Manual for a description and diagram of specific cuts of meat:

[Beef - Meat Cuts Manual - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](https://www.canada.ca)

Defra/DAERA advise the OV's to seek verification from the exporter confirming they have understood Canadian requirements as per the Safer Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) - specifically labelling, standards of identity and grades

Advised methods of verification include uploading a declaration as well as the cutting plant checklist stating the product is compliant for export to Canada. This may state the certificate number and the shipping mark. Other documents may also be attached such as certificates of conformity and the origin of the animals.

[Labelling, standards of identity and grades - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)

They should also verify that the shipping marks applied on the boxes/containers/pallets comply with Canadian requirements and would remain on the relevant packaging during transport to the destination in temperature-controlled conditions. See link below on shipping mark guidance from CFIA website:

[Use of Shipping Marks - Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)

The FBO responsible for the cutting plant must also complete the attached FBO Verification checklist confirming compliance with Canadian non-hygiene requirements.

14. 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