

PIG MEAT FOR EXPORT TO CANADA – 7644EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7644EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7644EHC, which is available via EHC Online (EHCOnline) and the DAERA Export Certification System (DECS) in Northern Ireland.

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

ADVISORY ON MEAT EXPORTS

Exporters and OVs should refer to the accompanying NFG Advisory (7644NFGA) on Meat Exports for further details regarding checking procedures on all consignments prior to final shipment to Canada.

1. FOR EXPORT OF FRESH PIG MEAT ONLY – REPLACEMENT OF HEALTH CERTIFICATE 7068EHC BY HEALTH CERTIFICATE 7644EHC

The certificate 7644EHC replaced the previously used certificate to Canada, 7068EHC for fresh pig meat, minced pig meat and pig meat preparations only. Companies wishing to export pig meat products must continue to use certificate 7068EHC.

Further advice regarding the precise scope of health certificate 7068EHC and may be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

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

2. SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE 7644EHC

Export health certificate 7644EHC may be used for the export of fresh pig meat, minced pig meat and pig meat preparations only from the United Kingdom to Canada. Fresh meat means all animal parts (including offal) fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

3. IMPORT PERMIT

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

4. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**. 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 foreign government official.
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 EHC 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 on 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 \(EHC\) - inspection.canada.ca](https://inspection.canada.ca).

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;

- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: provision of certified copies

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.

5. 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 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.4. - Local Competent Authority

The certifying OV should enter the name of the local office of APHA or DAERA in whose administrative area the establishment from where the fresh meat to be dispatched is located.

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 should be marked N/A (not applicable).

The three letter ISO Code for Canada is 'CAN' and should be entered at Box I.9. The certifying OV should make enquiries to verify the destination Canadian Regional Code (if applicable), which should be entered in Box I.10.

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 fresh meat of porcine origin exported to Canada are as follows:

- 02.03 - meat of swine (pork): fresh, chilled or frozen
- 02.06 - edible offal of swine
- 02.09 - pig fat: fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, dried or smoked
- 05.04 - intestines, bladders, stomachs & parts
- 05.11 - animal products not elsewhere specified or indicated, dead animals, products not for human consumption
- 15.01 - lard, other pig fat, rendered

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, indent 9 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, and so also must appear in Box I.25 of the EHC.

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://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-integrated-online-tariff-look-up-commodity-codes-duty-and-vat-rates)

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**

"dolv," as it is not recognised and may lead to rejection. Refer to UN Recommendation 21 for full details ([Recommendation 21](#)).

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.

Shipping marks applied on the boxes/containers/pallets must 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 \(canada.ca\)](#)

HEALTH INFORMATION

6. ESTABLISHMENTS CERTIFIED FOR EXPORT TO CANADA

Paragraph II.1 refers. slaughterhouse, cutting plant, manufacturing premises (if applicable) and cold store 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 must 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 via the following link:

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

Owners of establishments not appearing on the CFIA list that wish to export pig 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#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

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

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 and paragraph II.2.1.3 may be certified on the basis of the application of the oval health mark or identification mark on the exported meat or packaging thereof, indicating that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, manufacturing premises (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with the above Regulations and the respective

7. CONTACT WITH IMPORTED ANIMALS DURING THE LAST 90 DAYS

Paragraphs II.2.1.1 and II.2.1.2 refer. These paragraphs may be signed for meat derived from animals originating from the United Kingdom only provided no animals not meeting the conditions laid down in this paragraph have entered the farm of origin within the specified time frame.

Official Veterinarians should take into account their personal knowledge of the farms of origin to certify this paragraph. In addition, supporting statements may be required from the owner / exporter / agent of the exporter confirming that the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

8. EXPORT OF FRESH PIG MEAT OR MEAT DERIVED FROM PIGS NOT ORIGINATING FROM THE UK

All of paragraph II.2 refers. Health certificate 7644EHC permits the export from the UK to Canada of fresh pig meat derived from pigs originating from any EU Member State.

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

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

9. ** IMPORTANT **** REFERENCES TO APPROVAL NUMBERS FROM 31/08/2019**

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 pig meat 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 PIG MEAT 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 "UK" and "EC") or any other acceptable format prescribed by the UK authorities following the UK's exit from the EU. Some consignments might contain a mix of products which each might bear different health/ID marks. Products will be identified as originating from the final establishment of production by cross-reference with the central unique identifier number of the establishment in the oval mark/stamp of the product.

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 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