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EXPORT OF PETFOOD CONTAINING MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS– 6998EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 6998EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export health certificate 6998EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6998EHC. 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.

1. **Scope**

Export health certificate 6998EHC may be used for the export to Singapore of petfood containing meat and meat products. For the purposes of this certificate, the term 'meat and meat products' refers to ingredients derived from slaughtered farmed animals or from killed game animals.

Exporters are reminded that their products must also comply with Singapore's relevant labelling and compositional requirements, such as those referred to via Singapore's website at:

https://avs.nparks.gov.sg/businesses/commercial-importers-exporters/animal-feed/importing-pet-food/

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

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

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

Certified Copy Requirements – England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying 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

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. **Establishment Approval: Paragraphs II(a) and (b)** refer. Singapore's "guidelines for importing pet food and feed for non-food producing animals containing meat or meat products into Singapore from scheduled countries" require the pet food manufacturer to have been approved by veterinary administration of the exporting country.

   Establishments manufacturing pet food from animal by-products in the UK must be approved in accordance with the **Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013** (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

   These statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the **assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** and the **assimilated Regulation (EC) 142/2011.**

   The approval number may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document or by reference to the responsible local APHA or DAERA office.

4. **Packaging and Heat Treatment: Paragraphs IV (a) and (b)** may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the procurement, processing and handling procedures in place at the manufacturing establishment, supported as necessary by physical inspection and examination of relevant documentation and/or suitable records.

   Paragraph IV (b) should be completed with the details of the significant treatment(s) used during the manufacture of the product, that is, those liable to destroy pathogenic organisms. Also see the guidance for paragraph IV (d) below.

5. **Bovine meat and meat products**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. The **first indent** must be certified if no beef or beef products were used to manufacture the pet food being certified.

The **second indent** must be certified if any beef or beef products were used in the manufacture of the pet food.

These ingredients must have been produced from bovine materials obtained from cattle slaughtered in countries, regions, or zones which are recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as having a negligible BSE risk. The relevant WOAH-recognised negligible BSE risk countries or zones of origin must be entered in the space provided.

The WOAH-recognised BSE risk status of a country or region (zone) can be confirmed by reference to the "*Official Disease Status*" link on WOAH's website at: https://www.woah.org/en/disease/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy/#ui-id-1

Note that WOAH currently recognises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as zones of the United Kingdom with a negligible BSE risk status, as follows:

- Northern Ireland;
- England and Wales;
- Scotland.

As a result, for ingredients originating from for example Wales, the relevant zone is "England and Wales" and not "Wales".

In either case, the indent not being certified must be struck through in the usual manner.

6. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. The **first indent** may be signed on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office of APHA or DAERA, on form **618NDC.**

If the United Kingdom has not been free of the named diseases for the prescribed time, the **second indent** may instead be certified on the basis of compliance with paragraph IV(b) of the certificate. Note however that, while WOAH's Terrestrial Animal Health Code identifies safe commodities and heat treatments for the inactivation of the foot and mouth disease virus in various commodities, it does not identify any heat treatments for the inactivation of the rinderpest virus.

Therefore, if the **second indent** is to be certified, the exporter is strongly advised to obtain written confirmation from the importing authorities that they are satisfied that the heat treatment described in paragraph IV(b) is sufficient.

The indent not being certified must be struck through in the usual manner.

7. Supporting declarations

If declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence and that he/she accepts full responsibility if any problems arise with the export should there be any dispute relating to the matters being declared.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

8. Disclaimer

This certificate and these notes 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 the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) – Carlisle, via the link below:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-animal-and-plant-health

In Northern Ireland, please contact the DAERA trade administration team:
e-mail - DAERAtradeexports@daera-ni.gov.uk