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NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

In relation to 8924EHC titled:

EXPORT OF CAT AND DOG FOOD CONTAINING INGREDIENTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Associated Documents: **8924EHC and 618NDC.**

IMPORTANT
These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 8924EHC. 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**

This certificate may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to the People's Republic of China of **cat food** and/or **dog food** made using ingredients derived from animals.

The use of milk and milk-derived ingredients is permitted, but **the use of any other ingredients derived from ruminant animals or any ingredients derived from aquatic mammals is prohibited.**

NOTE – the exported cat food and/or dog food must have been manufactured in a **UK establishment specifically registered by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China** (GACC) with respect to pet food – see **paragraph 3** below.

NOTE - this certificate reflects requirements laid down in the **Protocol** on quarantine and hygiene requirements for pet food to be exported from UK to China, a copy of which is reproduced at the **Annex 1** to these notes for reference.

2. **Import Permit**

Prior to making arrangements to export to the People's Republic of China, exporters are advised to ensure that the necessary import permit and any other relevant import documentation is available.

Applications for import permits are usually made by the Chinese customer or the local import company in China and tend to be specific to the UK exporter.

3. **GACC Registration of Manufacturing Establishments**

An establishment manufacturing cat food and/or dog food for export to the People's Republic of China (the "**pet food establishment**") **must be specifically registered by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China** (GACC)

This GACC-registration requirement is in addition to compliance with the domestic requirements applicable to the pet food establishment in the UK.

Pet food establishments which are eligible to export to China are only those included in the current list of registered establishments maintained by GACC. At the time of writing, this list is published at: **https://scintl.chinaport.gov.cn/aprwebserver/pages/apr/public/html/companyList.html**

Details of UK establishments registered to export pet foods to China can be viewed by choosing the following options at the above website, and then clicking the "**Query**" button:

Option	**Value**
国家或地区 Country/Region	[GBR]英国 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)
产品类型 Product type (English)	动物源性饲料及添加剂【含宠物食品】 Animal-derived feed and additives [including pet food]
产品种类 Product category (English)	宠物食品及咬胶 Pet food and bite glue

A pet food establishment **cannot be considered to be registered for export to China until it appears in this list**, even if Defra has submitted its details to GACC.

Note that GACC's list includes a "**产品名称 Product name**" column for each establishment, and for the purposes of this certificate, **this column would be expected to include a reference to cat food and/or dog food**, rather than simply "pet food".

If the pet food establishment is not currently registered, they must contact APHA's Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or DAERA, as appropriate, for advice on how to apply.

4. 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.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with 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
Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification System (DECS) produced EHCs 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.

5. NOTES ON COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE

Important note to certifying OVs

Certificate entries must be fully typed/printed.

Certifying OVs must note that unauthorised deletions or manuscript amendments to the certificate are not permitted.

The only permitted handwritten entry is the signature of the OV.

The OV stamp is to be inserted ONLY on the space provided (next to the OV signature).

If the final date of certification cannot be typed in, this may be entered with a rubber stamp using ink of any colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

Consistency in recording details:
Both the OV and the exporter should note that it is imperative that the details on the certificate, and on all documents accompanying the consignment, match those displayed on GACC's list of registered overseas establishments referred to in **paragraph 3 above**, and published at:
https://scintl.chinaport.gov.cn/aprwebserver/pages/apr/public/html/companyList.html

and that consistency is maintained across all accompanying documentation.

Exporters and OVs have the final responsibility to ensure that the details on the completed certificate are correct.

Due to the complexity of the conditions, it is recommended that such checks should be carried out sufficiently in advance of the date of export to enable any changes that may be required. The Chinese authorities will expect that the details of the establishments entered onto the certificate are correct and consistent.

6. PARAGRAPH II(b) – PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT

For the purposes of this paragraph, the processing establishment at **paragraph II(b)** is the UK-based pet food establishment where the certified products were manufactured.

This in turn corresponds to the GACC-registered pet food establishment referred to in **paragraph 3 above**.

Paragraph II(b) must be completed with the establishment's name, address and UK approval number, **as they appear in GACC's online list** of registered establishments, even if these details have also been entered as the exporter at **paragraph II(a)**.

UK pet food manufacturing establishments 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 enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the **assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009**.

The approval and associated number of the establishment may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval document, or by reference to APHA or DAERA.

8. PART IV - HEALTH INFORMATION

OVs may certify this section on the basis of the following specific guidance in conjunction with the RCVS Principles of Certification. OVs should develop due familiarity with the sourcing, procurement, segregation, processing, handling and storage arrangements in place at the establishment. This should be supported as necessary by physical inspection and by examination of relevant documentation or other records including commercial documentation, veterinary statements, laboratory analysis and valid declarations.

(a) Paragraphs IV 1(a) and (b)
Processing establishment - approval and health management system

These paragraphs may be certified on the basis that the UK pet food establishment is approved under UK legislation as described in the guidance for paragraph II(b) at **paragraph 7** above.

This approval requires operators to "put in place, implement and maintain a permanent written procedure or procedures based on the hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) principles" for the manufactured of pet food.

(b) Paragraph IV 1(c)
Processing establishment - supervision
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the UK pet food establishment is approved under UK legislation as described in the guidance for paragraph II(b) at **paragraph 7** above and has been operating within the terms of this approval.

(c) Paragraph IV 1(d)
Processing establishment - GACC registration
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the UK pet food establishment is registered by China's GACC, as described in **paragraph 3** above.

(d) Paragraph IV 2(a)
Animals of origin - exclusions
This paragraph requires that the ingredients were not derived from ruminant animals (with the exception of milk-derived ingredients) or from aquatic mammals.

This may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

(e) Paragraph IV 2(b)
Animals of origin – not illegally hunted or fished
This paragraph requires that the ingredients were not derived from animals which were illegally hunted or fished.

This may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

(f) Paragraph IV 2(c)
Animals of origin – did not die from infectious diseases
This may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

This may be supported by the fact that the pet food was made using Category 3 material as defined under **Article 10** of the **assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009**.

(g) Paragraph IV 2(d)
Animals of origin – not subject to movement restrictions or culling
This paragraph requires the animal-derived ingredients to have come from animals which were neither culled nor illegally moved as a direct result of animal disease control measures applicable to the species concerned.

This paragraph may therefore be certified on the basis that the animal-derived ingredients are, or were made exclusively from, Category 3 material as defined under **Article 10** of the **assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009**.

This may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

(h) Paragraph IV 2(e)
Animals of origin – slaughtered and subject to ante- and post-mortem inspection
This paragraph does not apply to the animals from which milk or milk-derived ingredients were collected.

This paragraph requires terrestrial animals to have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse approved in accordance with the **Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013** (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland or, the case of game, killed for human consumption in accordance with the abovementioned legislation.

The abovementioned statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the EU Hygiene package, which includes **assimilated Regulations (EC) 852/2004**, **853/2004**, and **2017/625** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulations (EC) 852/2004**, **853/2004**, and **2017/625**.

This paragraph additionally requires the animals of origin to have undergone ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, and for the animals to not have shown any clinical signs of infectious animal diseases communicable through the material to humans or animals.

This may be supported by the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections carried out at the approved slaughterhouses, or in the case of game animals, by the statutory declaration from the trained hunter or by Official Veterinarians at game handling establishments in accordance with the abovementioned legislation.

Therefore, whilst pet food may be made in the UK from Category 3 materials described under **Articles 10(a)**to **(m)** of the **assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009**, not all of those Category 3 materials must have been obtained from animals which underwent inspections both before and after slaughter.

As a result, **not all Category 3 materials are eligible for use in the exported products.**

The OV must therefore make due enquiry to ensure that only those Category 3 materials obtained from slaughtered or killed animals which were subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections and which showed no clinical signs of communicable diseases are present in the exported product.

This may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

(i) Paragraph IV 3(a)
Raw materials – establishment of origin
This paragraph applies both to ingredients of animal origin and non-animal origin.

This paragraph requires that the ingredients originated from establishments which are under the supervision of the relevant health and safety authority in the country of origin, and are therefore suitable for use in the manufacture of pet food.

For ingredients produced in UK establishments, this may be certified on the basis that the establishment is:

- an animal by-products establishment 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** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009**.

or

- a food establishment approved in accordance with the **Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013** (as amended) or with parallel legislation in force in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
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  These statutory instruments currently enforce and implement the principles and controls laid down under the EU Hygiene package, which includes **assimilated Regulations (EC) 852/2004**, **853/2004**, and **2017/625** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulations (EC) 852/2004**, **853/2004**, and **2017/625**.

Or

- a feed establishment approved or registered in accordance with the **Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015** (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) 183/2005** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulation (EC) 183/2005**.

Approval or registration may be confirmed on sight of a valid approval or registration document, or by reference to the appropriate enforcement authority responsible for the establishment (for example, APHA, DAERA, FSA, FSS, Local Authority).

For ingredients produced in non-UK establishments, this may be certified on the basis of suitably worded import certification or commercial documentation, depending on the nature of the imported ingredient and the statutory import requirements for the ingredient.

(j) Paragraph IV 3(b)(i)
Raw materials – absence of ruminant-derived materials
This may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

Note that the importing authorities may decide to subject the products to laboratory tests upon arrival. In which case, exporters may wish to carry out their own laboratory analysis to be confident of their products passing such import checks.

These tests may be carried out on samples taken as part of a risk-based routine monitoring programme, or taken from each processed batch, or taken from each consignment.

(k) Paragraph IV 3(b)(ii)
Raw materials – Notifiable disease freedom and GACC recognition
This paragraph requires that the animal-derived ingredients came from countries or areas which are free from the named diseases relevant to the species from which they were obtained in accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and recognised by GACC as such.

Notifiable Disease Freedom:

(i) **For animal-derived ingredients from the United Kingdom:** freedom from **Foot and mouth disease, Classical swine fever, African swine fever,** and/or **Swine vesicular disease** may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form **618NDC** from the APHA CIT at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

(ii) **For imported animal-derived ingredients:** freedom from **Foot and mouth disease, Classical swine fever, African swine fever,** and/or **Swine vesicular disease** may be certified on the basis of suitably worded veterinary import certification or statements issued by the competent authority of the country of origin for the imported ingredients.

GACC Recognition of notifiable disease freedom:
Confirmation that GACC recognises the country of origin of the animal-derived ingredients to be free from **Foot and mouth disease, Classical swine fever, African swine fever,** and/or **Swine vesicular disease** (as appropriate) may be supported by reference to GACC's **"List of animals and their products prohibited from countries and regions where animal diseases are endemic"** (禁止从动物疫病流行国家地区输入的动物及其产品一览表)which can be downloaded via:
http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/dzs/2746776/index.html

Because this list is only published in Chinese it may be necessary to either make use of widely available machine translation tools or to seek assistance from a trusted interpreter.

This list sets out GACC's animal disease-related import prohibitions currently in force.

At the time of writing, the entry for the United Kingdom (英国) appears at rows 321-325 of the list and does not include restrictions due to foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, African swine fever, or swine vesicular disease.
However, this list must be checked each time this certificate is issued.

This part of the paragraph may therefore be certified on the basis that GACC does NOT have any animal disease-related import prohibitions in force on the country of origin with respect to and the ingredients concerned the above-named diseases.
However, exporters are advised to double check that their ingredients do not inadvertently fall within the scope of any other GACC restrictions.

(l) Paragraph IV 3(b)(iii)
Raw materials – Legally imported
This may be supported by relevant declarations from the manufacturer and sight of relevant commercial documentation or veterinary export certificates from the country of origin, or any other evidence which the OV considers appropriate.

(m) Paragraph IV 3(b)(iv)
Raw materials – From non-mammalian aquatic animals
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the ingredients derived from non-mammalian aquatic animals were made exclusively from the Category 3 materials described under **Articles 10(i) and (j)** of the **assimilated Regulation (EC) 1069/2009** or, in the case of Northern Ireland, **Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009**.

(n) Paragraph IV 4
Plant-origin ingredients – Genetically modified ingredients
This paragraph requires that any plant-origin ingredients do not contain any genetically modified ingredients which are not approved by China.

Genetically modified plant ingredients which are approved for use in the United Kingdom are not automatically approved by China.

The exporter is therefore responsible for obtaining confirmation that only genetically modified plant ingredients approved by China are used in the manufacture of the certified products.

This may be supported by the products being granted a licence by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

(o) Paragraphs IV 5(a) and (b)
Production process – Compliance with safety and hygiene management systems
These paragraphs may be certified on the basis that the pet food establishment is approved under UK legislation as described in the guidance for paragraph II(b) at **paragraph 7** above.

This approval requires operators to "put in place, implement and maintain a permanent written procedure or procedures based on the hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) principles" for the manufactured of pet food.

(p) Paragraph IV 5(c)
Pet food – Canned pet food processing requirements
This paragraph requires that the only canned pet food present in the consignment is compliant with these requirements.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

(q) Paragraph IV 5(d)
Pet food – Extruded pet food processing requirements
This paragraph requires that the only extruded pet food present in the consignment is compliant with these requirements.

If the extruded pet food is processed using an alternative treatment, the treatment may be considered "approved by Defra" if the pet food establishment is operating within the terms of its UK approval, as referred to at **paragraph 7** above.

However, the exporter is responsible for obtaining confirmation that the alternative treatment is suitably recognised by GACC.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

(r) Paragraph IV 5(e)
Pet food – Processing requirements for other pet foods
This paragraph requires that any pet foods in the consignment other than canned or extruded pet food are compliant with these requirements.

If the pet food is processed using an alternative treatment, the treatment may be considered "approved by Defra" if the pet food establishment is operating within the terms of its UK approval, as referred to at **paragraph 7** above.

However, the exporter is responsible for obtaining confirmation that the alternative treatment is suitably recognised by GACC.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant.

(s) Paragraph IV 5(f)
Pet food – Pollution
This paragraph relates to contamination of the pet food with ingredients or substances with are not permitted, either under UK legislation or within the context of the certificate.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the OV's familiarity with the sourcing and processing procedures in place at the pet food establishment and/or examination of relevant records and documentation including laboratory test results where relevant. This may also be supported by compliance with the remainder of the certificate.

(t) Paragraphs IV 6(a) and (b)
Pet food – Freely sold in the United Kingdom and traceability
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the pet food was manufactured in a pet food establishment approved under UK legislation as described at **paragraph 7** above.

(u) Paragraph IV 6(c)

Pet food – Not made using prohibited articles

This paragraph requires that either the pet food was not made using articles prohibited by Chinese laws and regulations, or that the pet food was not made using articles prohibited by relevant food and feed safety legislation in the United Kingdom.

This paragraph may therefore be certified on the basis that the pet food was manufactured in a pet food establishment approved under UK legislation as described at **paragraph 7** above.

However, the exporter is advised to confirm that their ingredients are permitted under Chinese laws and regulations. This may be supported by the products being granted a licence by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

(v) Paragraph IV 6(d)

Pet food – Not contaminated by unapproved raw materials

This paragraph requires that the pet food is not contaminated by raw materials or ingredients which are not authorised for use in pet food or which are prohibited elsewhere in the certificate.

This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the pet food was manufactured in a pet food establishment approved under UK legislation as described at **paragraph 7** above.

However, the exporter is also advised to confirm that their ingredients are permitted under Chinese laws and regulations. This may be supported by the products being granted a licence by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

(w) Paragraph IV 6(e)

Pet food – Not contaminated by toxic or hazardous substances

This paragraph requires that the pet food is not contaminated by toxic or hazardous substances harmful to animal health and meets the safety and hygiene legislation in both the United Kingdom and China.

Compliance with United Kingdom safety and hygiene legislation may be certified on the basis that the pet food was manufactured in a pet food establishment approved under UK legislation as described at **paragraph 7** above, and the product is eligible for placing on the United Kingdom market.

However, for compliance with Chinese safety and hygiene legislation, the exporter is also advised to confirm that their ingredients are permitted under Chinese laws and regulations. This may be supported by the products being granted a licence by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

(x) Paragraph IV 6(f)

Pet food – Processing and microbiological compliances

Paragraph IV 6(f)(i) requires samples of canned pet food to have been examined to verify that a minimum F0 value of 3.0 was achieved, as required at paragraph IV 5(c). The OV should verify that microbiological testing has been carried out on the finished products to confirm that they are commercially sterile. This should include sampling of at least 5 representative units of each product batch, tested at an approved laboratory to demonstrate compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in paragraph IV **6**(f)(ii).

This may be further supported by processing records referring to the batches of canned pet food which were sampled. Supporting evidence such as thermal processing records, incubation checks, or visual inspection may be used as part of the overall assurance of commercial sterility, but these do not replace the requirement for microbiological testing.

Paragraph IV 6(f)(ii) requires samples of extruded and other non-canned pet foods to have complied with the given microbiological standards. This may be certified on the basis of satisfactory laboratory results referring to the batches of pet food which were sampled.

(y) Paragraph IV 8
Pet food – Specific labelling requirements
This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the product has been labelled as described, supported by as necessary by appropriate declarations, or widely available machine translation tools, or a trusted interpreter.

Exporters are also advised that the Protocol (see Annex 1) requires the pet food to be labelled in Chinese in accordance with their pet food labelling rules.

Exporters are therefore advised to engage with their importer to ensure their labels are fully compliant across China's wider labelling rules.

9. 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.

10. 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

PROTOCOL BETWEEN DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON QUARANTINE AND HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS FOR PET FOOD TO BE EXPORTED FROM UK TO CHINA

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as Defra) and General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as GACC), through friendly negotiations, have reached the following understandings on quarantine and hygiene requirements for pet food to be exported from UK to China:

Paragraph 1

Pet food is defined as commercially processed and prepared products intended for feeding to companion animals (dogs and cats), including dry, canned, snacks, and chews.

Paragraph 2

GACC and Defra will be the competent authorities respectively for the implementation of this Protocol.

Defra will be responsible for the inspection and quarantine of pet food exported to China and issue health certificates to ensure that the products meet the requirements of this Protocol.

Paragraph 3

Manufacturers exporting pet food to China will meet the following requirements:

1. Approved by the relevant competent authorities of UK and operate legally;
2. Implement a health management system according to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles;
3. Supervised by the relevant competent authorities of the UK to ensure that the production and processing process of enterprises continues to comply with the relevant safety and hygiene management provisions of UK and is not under restrictions due to safety and health problems;
4. Recommended by Defra for registration by GACC.

Paragraph 4

Animals used as raw materials for pet food production must meet the following requirements:

1. They do not originate from ruminant animals (except for milk and dairy products), and aquatic mammals.
2. They were not illegally hunted or fished animals.
3. They did not die of infectious animal diseases.
4. They were not subject to movement restrictions or culled to contain or extinguish animal disease outbreaks.
5. The terrestrial animals are slaughtered in officially approved slaughterhouses, undergo ante- and post-mortem inspections and do not show any clinical signs of animal infectious diseases communicable through that product to humans or animals.

Paragraph 5

The raw materials used to produce pet food must meet the following requirements:

1. They should be from an establishment under the supervision and monitoring of the relevant safety and health competent authorities of the UK, and obtained in line with UK laws and regulations and safety and hygiene requirements, and suitable for pet food production.

2. Animal-derived raw materials must meet the following requirements:

   a Do not contain the materials from ruminant animals and not be contaminated by ruminant-derived components (except for milk and dairy products).

   b. Come from the countries\areas which comply with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) regulations and have been recognized by the GACC as:

      – free from the following diseases:

         • Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), for ingredients of artiodactylous origin;

         • Classical swine fever (CSF), African swine fever (ASF), Swine vesicular disease (SVD), for ingredients of porcine origin;

   c. If the raw materials are imported from the countries other than the UK, it will be legally imported, passed inspection and quarantine, and legally used for processing pet food.

   d. Aquatic raw materials come from aquatic animals (except aquatic mammals) , and parts of such animals, which did not

show any signs of disease communicable to humans or animals; as well as by-products from non-mammalian aquatic animals arising from the production of products intended for human consumption.

3. The plant-origin ingredients will not contain genetically modified ingredients that have not been officially approved by China.

Paragraph 6

The control of the pet food production process will meet the following requirements:

1. Organize production in accordance with the hygiene management system officially recognized or approved by the competent authorities of Defra, and effectively control the production critical control points;
2. Defra supervises production and processing in accordance with relevant UK laws and regulations to ensure that the production and processing processes of enterprises continue to comply with the relevant safety and hygiene management provisions of the of the United Kingdom;
3. Commercially sterile pet food will be subjected to a high temperature and high pressure heat treatment to a minimum F0 value of 3.0;
4. Extruded dry pet food will be subjected to extrusion and drying processing at a centre temperature of at least 90°C; or another treatment approved by Defra and recognised by GACC, to ensure the elimination of the risks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, Newcastle disease and other diseases;

5. Other pet food will be subjected to a heat treatment with a centre temperature of not less than 90 ° C ; or another treatment approved by Defra and recognised by GACC; to ensure the elimination of the risks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, Newcastle disease and other diseases.

6. In the production process, effective measures have been taken in accordance with the relevant requirements of the hygiene management system to avoid pollution such as unauthorized raw material ingredients and foreign bodies.

Paragraph 7

The pet food exported to China must meet the following requirements:

1. Allowed to sell freely in the UK domestic market;
2. Have complete traceability;
3. Not carry any prohibited articles as stipulated by Chinese laws and regulations or by relevant food and feed safety legislation in the UK;
4. Not be contaminated by unapproved raw materials or ingredients;
5. Not contain any toxic or hazardous substances harmful to animal health, and meet the requirements of the related safety and hygiene legislation of the two countries;
6. Prior to export, at least 5 samples of each production batch will be tested and need to be in compliance with the following requirements:
    a. Commercially sterile pet food will be in compliance with the commercial sterilization requirements;
    b. Non-commercially sterile pet food will be in compliance with

the following requirements:

Salmonella: none in 25g of product: 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;

c = number of samples, the bacterial count of which may be between m and M; the sample will be considered acceptable if the bacterial count of the other sample is m or less.

m = threshold value for the number of bacteria; the result is considered satisfactory if the number of bacteria in all samples does not exceed m;

M = maximum value for the number of bacteria; the result is considered unsatisfactory if the number of bacteria in one or more samples is M or more.

Paragraph 8

1. The packing material will be new, clean, well-sealed, moisture-resistant and sturdy.

2. The package will be labelled in Chinese and the product labelling must comply with the requirements of the Chinese "Pet Food Label Rules".

3. The product packages will be marked with the name and registration number of the manufacturing facility, and Chinese language phrases indicating "to the People's Republic of China "and "not for human consumption" or "for pet food only".

Paragraph 9

Effective measures will be taken to avoid external contamination during the storage and transportation of pet food.

Paragraph 10

The validity period of registration is 5 years. Six months before the expiration, Defra will submit an application for registration extension to GACC, and GACC will extend the registration after it has passed the examination in accordance with the regulations.

If there are any changes in the information of the manufacturing facility (such as name, address), Defra will notify the GACC in advance of the changes in the relevant information. Only after the GACC has confirmed the changes in the relevant information can the products concerned be exported to China.

Paragraph 11

Each shipment of pet food exported to China must be accompanied by a health certificate in English or Chinese, one original and two copies.

After a sample health certificate is confirmed by both Sides, Defra will provide GACC with the certificate with a valid stamp of the competent authorities of UK.

In the event Defra wants to revise the sample health certificate, it will notify GACC at least one (l) month in advance and provide the revised certificate.

Paragraph 12

When a possible safety and hygiene incident occurs within the UK that may affect the export of pet food to China, Defra should immediately

cease the export of pet food from relevant regions and enterprises to China, notify GACC, recall problematic and potentially risky products, and provide detailed information on the investigation and control situation to GACC.

Paragraph 13

If the pet food imported from the UK is found by GACC to be not in compliance with the requirements of Chinese laws, regulations, standards and this Protocol, GACC will seek to carry out quarantine treatment, return or destroy the product. The registration for export to China of concerned premises may be suspended in the event of serious or repeated non-compliance.

GACC should promptly inform Defra of the non-conforming situation and disposal measures. Defra will investigate and address the problem, take remedial and corrective measures and notify GACC of the result of rectification. GACC should assess the feedback on time. Upon mutual agreement, relevant UK enterprises can resume exports to China after effective rectification and receiving confirmation from GACC.

Paragraph 14

After the signing of the Protocol, through mutual negotiations, GACC may send experts to the UK to conduct a review of the official regulatory system of the pet food and on-site inspections of enterprises applying for registration.

During the implementation of the Protocol, through consultation between both sides, GACC may send experts to the UK to conduct a retrospective review of the implementation of this Protocol and conduct on-site inspections of registered or newly applied enterprises.

Paragraph 15

This Protocol will come into effect on the date of its signature and remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. Upon the mutual written consent of both Sides, this Protocol can be amended. This Protocol will be automatically extended for a further five (5) years unless either Side wishes not to extend it. In the event either Side wishes to terminate this Protocol, it will inform the other Side in writing, at least six (6) months in advance.

Paragraph 16

This Protocol is Signed in duplicate at on in the English, and Chinese languages, all text being equally authentic. Any disagreement relating to the interpretation or to the implementation of this Protocol will be solved through consultations between both sides.

On behalf of	**On behalf of**
Department for Environment	**General Administration**
Food and Rural Affairs of the	**of Customs**
Government of the United	**of the People's Republic**
Kingdom of Great Britain and	**of China**
Northern Ireland	



