

**EXPORT OF CHILLED/FROZEN MEAT OF BOVINE ORIGIN AND BOVINE PRODUCTS TO HONG KONG - 6669EHC****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 6669EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6669EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

**1. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EXPORTING TO HONG KONG - WHICH CERTIFICATE TO USE**

Three bilaterally agreed certificates are currently available for use for exports of meat and meat products derived from biungulate animals to Hong Kong, as follows:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Origin of product</b>
1957EHC	Export of fresh meat/meat preparations from biungulate animals (excluding bovines) to HK	UK Only
5604EHC	Export to HK of meat products of biungulate origin (excluding beef products)	UK only
6669EHC	Export of chilled/frozen meat of bovine origin and bovine products only to HK	UK only

The above certificates remain valid for use and their scope continues to be limited to meat/meat preparations and meat products derived from animals originating from and slaughtered and processed only in the UK.

In cases where these criteria for UK origin continue to be met in full for exported consignments, exporters should continue to use these three certificates as appropriate.

**Introduction of EU Certificate 8000EHC**

Agreement for the introduction of a new EU-wide certificate has been concluded between the Hong Kong veterinary authorities and the EU Commission. The new certificate, 8000EHC, is available on the EU Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES). It covers exports of fresh meat and offal derived from pigs, cattle and sheep that were born and raised in Member States of the European Union with established import protocols with Hong Kong for the species in question, so-called **eligible EU Member States**. These are listed by the Hong Kong Centre for Food Safety under:

[http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import\\_icfsg\\_04a.html](http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_04a.html)

This principle applies also to meat originally supplied by one Member State for further processing in another Member State prior to export to Hong Kong.

For the time being, Hong Kong accepts the new certificate only in those cases where the meat comes from animals that were not born or raised in the certifying Member State. As stated above, meat from animals that were born and raised in the certifying Member State should be exported with the current, bilaterally agreed certificates.

The EU Commission intends to discuss an expansion of the harmonised certificate to all exports, once experience has been gained.

In the case of further queries regarding the use and scope of certificate 8000EHC, OVs and exporters should contact the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade (CIT) in Carlisle or DAERA.

2. **SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE 6669EHC**

Export health certificate 6669EHC may be used for export to Hong Kong of fresh meat of bovine origin (boneless and bone-in), meat products, meat preparations, minced meat and offal derived from bovine animals **of UK origin**. Fresh meat means all animal parts fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

Hong Kong requires that meat/meat products exported from the United Kingdom using 6669EHC are of **UK origin only**, i.e. the animals were slaughtered, and the meat cut and processed entirely in the UK.

Exporters should note that previous exclusions concerning export to Hong Kong of minced beef, beef strips and beef offal and the ages of cattle from which exported meat is derived no longer apply.

3. **IMPORT PERMIT**

Prior to making arrangements to export to Hong Kong, exporters are advised to contact the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of the Government of the Hong Kong for up to date information on requirements for any import documentation.

4. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the APHA CIT at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

5. **FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Paragraphs 9.3 to 9.5 may be certified on the basis of the EU oval mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat

products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with Regulations (EC) Nos 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004, as transposed into national legislation.

All EU approved establishments are approved for export to Hong Kong.

6. **STATEMENTS CONCERNING TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSEs)**

Paragraphs 9.1, 9.2 (see paragraph 7 below regarding confirmation of UK origin), 9.6, 9.7 and 9.8 may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of the TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation), and the UK competent authorities (Defra and the Devolved Administrations, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation.

7. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph 9.9 may be certified on basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme (NSS) for residues, which cover all EU approved meat establishments in the UK. The NSS implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC. The HACCP requirements in Regulation (EC) 854/2004 also places an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives.

The above Directives are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in Wales and Northern Ireland.

8. **ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED**

Paragraphs 9.2 and 9.10 (regarding origin) may be certified on the basis of the certifying OV's knowledge of the operational conditions as regards the farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived.

The certifying OV may wish to obtain written confirmation that the animals were born and reared only in the UK.

9. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph 9.10 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 the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

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 CIT at Carlisle, via the link below:

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

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.