

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR FRESH MEAT, INCLUDING MINCED MEAT, OF DOMESTIC BOVINE ANIMALS (INCLUDING BISON AND BUBALUS SPECIES AND THEIR CROSS-BREEDS) FOR DISPATCH TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA - 7411EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV's) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7411EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7411EHC.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the veterinary authorities of the Republic of Macedonia, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7411EHC may be used for the export of fresh meat, including minced meat and trimmed offal, of domestic bovine animals (including bison and buffalo species and their cross breeds) from the United Kingdom to the Republic of Macedonia.

Fresh meat means all animal parts (including offal) fit for human consumption whether chilled or frozen.

Minced meat is boned meat which has been minced into fragments and that must have been prepared exclusively from striated muscle (including the adjoining fatty tissues) except heart muscle.

Trimmed offal of domestic bovines must be exclusively that offal from which the bones, cartilage, trachea and main bronchi, lymphatic glands adhering connective tissue, fat and mucus have been completely removed.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Prior to making arrangements to export fresh meat of domestic bovine animals to Macedonia, exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities in Macedonia for up to date information on requirements for any import documentation.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

This certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or a Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government Rural Directorate, the Welsh Government Department for Rural Affairs or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARD), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate export panel for export purposes.

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

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

4. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE

In accordance with the requirements of the Veterinary Authorities of the Republic of Macedonia, the layout and numbering of certificate 7411EHC follow the template of Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificates (ITAHCs) produced by the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).

5. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DISPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

1.2. - Intentionally blank

1.3. - Central Competent Authority

Enter 'Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs'

I.4. - Local Competent Authority

Enter the name of the local office of the AHVLA or DARD in whose administrative area the establishment from where the fresh meat to be dispatched is located.

I.7. - Country ISO Codes

ISO 3166 is the commonly accepted International Standard for country codes.

The ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is 'GB' and this is entered at Box I.7. Box I.8 is marked N/A (not applicable).

The ISO Code for Macedonia is 'MK' and is entered at Box I.9. The certifying OV should make enquiries to verify the destination Macedonian Regional Code, which should be entered in Box I.10.

I.11. - Place of Origin

Enter the details of the dispatch establishment in this box.

1.12. - Intentionally blank

I.15. - Identification

The registration number of transport vehicles, flight number or name of the vessel must be provided. In case of unloading and reloading, the consignor must inform the BIP of entry into the Republic of Macedonia.

I.19. - 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 bovine origin exported to the RM are as follows:

- 02.01 - chilled fresh meat
- 02.02 - frozen fresh meat
- 02.06 - offal (fresh or frozen)

I.20. - Quantity

Indicate total gross weight and total net weight.

I.28. - Identification of the Commodities

Under the heading 'Nature of Commodities' indicate 'carcase whole', 'carcase-side', 'carcase-quarters', 'cuts', 'trimmed offal' or 'minced meat'.

For 'Treatment Type'; if appropriate, indicate 'deboned', 'bone-in', 'matured', and/or 'minced'. If frozen, indicate the date of freezing (mm/yy) of the cuts/pieces.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATION (EC) NO 178/2002

Paragraph II.1. refers. Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 provides a framework for food and feed Law within the EC and imposes obligations both on Member States and on food and feed business operators. It applies to all stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed, but does not apply in the domestic situation.

This statement may be certified on the basis that Regulation 178/2002 is implemented in the UK by means of the following domestic legislation:

- The Food Safety Act 1990 (Amendment) Regulations 2004;
- The General Food Regulations 2004;
- The Feeding Stuffs (Safety Requirements for Feed for Food-Producing Animals) Regulations 2004.

7. EU REGULATIONS 852/2004, 853/2004 AND 854/2004 (AS AMENDED) (THE EU 'FOOD HYGIENE PACKAGE')

Paragraphs II.1.1., II.1.2., II.1.4., II.1.5. and II.1.8. 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, in the case of premises operating in the UK, the Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

The Animal Welfare attestation at paragraph II.3. may be similarly certified on the basis that Regulation 854/2004 requires OVs 'to verify compliance with relevant Community and national rules on animal welfare, such as rules concerning the protection of animals at the time of slaughter and during transport'.

Referrals to Macedonian legislation

Several paragraphs in Section II.1. refer to Macedonian legislation, i.e. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, the Law on veterinary public health, Books of Rules and the Official Journal of Macedonia. However in all such instances the certificate also refers to EU legislation, which is regarded by the Macedonian authorities as equivalent.

OVs should therefore note that personal familiarity with Macedonian legislation is not a requirement in order to certify these paragraphs and the alternative of conformity with EU regulations can be relied upon. Therefore if the meat has been marked with the official EU oval health mark the above mentioned paragraphs may be certified.

8. MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA AND RESIDUES

Paragraph II.1.6. may be certified on the basis of compliance with microbiological monitoring criteria as required by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.

Paragraph II.1.7. may be certified on basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme (NSS) for residues, which covers all EU-approved meat establishments. The NSS implements Council Directives 96/22/EC, 96/23/EC and Regulation (EC) 854/2004, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examinations for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997 (as amended) and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

9. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) STATEMENTS

OVs should note that paragraph II.1.9.1 refers to imports into Macedonia from the UK, the UK being a country with a controlled BSE risk and listed as such in Regulation 999/2001.

In the case of bovine meat of UK origin, sub-paragraphs II.1.9.1(a) and II.1.9.1 (b) may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation. The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency) ensure compliance with the legislation.

11.1.9 c has two options, one of which must be certified:

In the case of export of bone-in carcase meat (half carcasses cut into no more than three wholesale cuts), the OV should delete the first option and certify the second option of sub-paragraph II.1.9.1(c). Carcasses/wholesale cuts derived from animals less than 30 months of age have to be identified by a blue stripe on a label. Those from animals over 30 months do not have to be. Vertebral column and associated Dorsal Root Ganglia (DRG) in carcasses derived from animals aged more than 30 months are deemed to be specified risk material (SRM). Use of the blue striped label will facilitate the disposal of SRM in the country of destination. The number of carcasses/wholesale cuts with the blue striped label in the consignment should be mentioned in any accompanying commercial documentation. Amongst other things, Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 lays down guidelines regarding the labelling of beef and beef products. Exporters and OVs are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of the RM for further advice concerning Macedonian requirements for labelling of bone-in carcase meat exported from the UK.

In the case of all other meat, the OV should delete the second option having first confirmed that any minced meat intended for export does not contain mechanically separated meat.

10. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES

Sub-paragraphs II.2.1(a) and II.2.1(b) and, in the case of animals originating from UK holdings and slaughtered and processed in UK premises, sub-paragraph II.2.3(b) and paragraph II.2.5. refer.

OVs may certify these paragraphs on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle (or issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland).

Additional Information:

Sub-paragraphs II.2.1(c), (d), (e) and (f), II.2.3(c) and II.2.3(e) should be deleted as these are options which may be used during an outbreak of the diseases mentioned - see paragraph 15 below.

11. RESIDENCY AND ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

Paragraph II.2.2. and sub-paragraphs II.2.3.(d) and II.2.3.(f) may be certified on the basis of the OV's knowledge of the operational conditions of 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 meet the requirements of these sub-paragraphs.

In the case of animals imported onto the holding of origin within three months of slaughter, the certifying OV must carry out appropriate checks to ensure the eligibility and health status of the animals prior to certifying the relevant statements in paragraphs II.2.2. and II.2.3.

It is likely that carrying out certain of these eligibility checks will not be a straightforward matter, for example when animals are obtained through dealers or markets and are not directly traceable to farm of origin. OVs are advised not to certify these conditions unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details and are confident to do so.

Further advice may be obtained from the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre (SSC) - Exports, Carlisle or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DARDNI, Dundonald House, Belfast.

12. VACCINATION OF ANIMALS AGAINST NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Sub-paragraph II.2.3(a) refers. In the case of animals originating from the United Kingdom and other EU Member States, this sub-paragraph may be certified on the basis that vaccination of animals against the diseases mentioned in paragraph II.2.1. of the certificate is not permitted in the United Kingdom and animals vaccinated against any of these diseases may not be traded throughout the European Union.

13. APPROVED HOLDINGS & REGULATION (EU) 206/2010

Paragraph II.2.3(h) may be certified providing that that the holding of origin is registered with the veterinary authorities of the United Kingdom and has been subjected to satisfactory inspections by the competent and local authorities.

The reference to TRACES may be certified on the basis that the list of approved holdings is reviewed by the competent authority on a regular basis and is made publicly available for information purposes by the EU Commission.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 of 12 March 2010 lays down lists of certain third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the European Union of certain animals and fresh meat. The Regulation also provides Model Certification requirements for the importation into the European Union of domestic ungulates and other animals and their meat.

OVs should use their knowledge of the operating conditions of the holdings of origin to ensure that any imports of domestic ungulates have taken place in accordance with current EU legislation.

As already indicated in paragraph 11 of these Notes, it is likely that carrying out these checks on holdings of origin will not be a straightforward matter. OVs are advised not to certify these conditions unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details and are confident to do so.

14. TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS TO THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Sub-paragraph II.2.4(a) may be certified on the basis of the certifying OV's knowledge of the operational conditions as regards transport from the farms of origin in the United Kingdom and compliance with relevant livestock movement legislation.

The certifying OV may wish to obtain written confirmation the farms of origin that the animals in question meet the requirements of this sub-paragraph.

15. DATE(S) OF SLAUGHTER

Paragraph II.2.4(c) refers. Imports of meat to the RM will not be permitted when derived from animals slaughtered either prior to the date of authorisation of the UK for exportation to the RM or during a period when restrictive measures have been adopted by the RM against importation of the meat from the UK.

In the case of meat originating from animals slaughtered in the UK, the date of slaughter must be on or after 30 December 2007. If the date of slaughter is before this date and after 15 July 2007 (i.e. when the previous EU FMD safeguard measure was in place on the UK), then additional information (location of the animals prior to their slaughter etc) will be required, and the authorities in Macedonia will have to be contacted for advice before the certificate can be signed.

The matter should be referred to the AHVLA SSC - Exports in Carlisle or DARD in the first instance.

16. EXPORT OF BONED MEAT SUBJECT TO A MATURATION PROCESS

Paragraph II.2.6. refers. In the case of export of fresh meat, minced meat or trimmed offal that has not undergone a maturation process, sub-paragraphs II.2.6 (b) - (g) should be deleted.

In the case of export of meat /offal that has undergone a maturation process, exporters and OVs should note that the meat is subject to supplementary guarantees and must not be imported into RM until 21 days after the slaughter of the animals.

OVs should contact the AHVLA SSC-Exports or DARD for further advice in this instance.

17. TRANSCRIPTION ERRORS

OVs should note that the superscript (2) in paragraph II.2.2(b), the superscript (3) in paragraph II.1.9.1(c) and the superscript (6) in paragraph II.2.3(a) are transcription errors in the certificate and should be disregarded.

18. 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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>

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