

EXPORT OF FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN MEAT OF DOMESTIC SHEEP TO ALGERIA - 6581EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6581EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6581EHC.

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

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 6581EHC may be used for the export to Algeria of chilled or frozen meat derived from sheep that were born, reared and slaughtered in the United Kingdom.

The certificate must not be used for the export of minced meat or offal.

2. LIMITED ISSUE OF IMPORT PERMITS

The Algerian authorities have notified the Department that exports of sheep meat from the UK are permitted only at limited times of the year, e.g. Ramadan, and not necessarily every year.

Prior to making firm arrangements to export sheep meat, exporters must contact the veterinary authorities of Algeria for the latest advice regarding timing of exports and any import documentation that may be required.

The import number must be recorded in the appropriate part of the heading of certificate 6581EHC on page 1.

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 ink of any 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 for Exports located at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

4. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES - 618NDC

Paragraph IV.1 refers: Official Veterinarians may certify this paragraph provided written authority to do so has been obtained on a valid form 618NDC issued by the AHVLA or equivalent in Northern Ireland.

5. FLOCK FREEDOM FROM NOTIFIABLE / SPECIFIED DISEASES

Paragraph IV.2 refers: With regard to sub-paragraph IV.2.1, it may be necessary to provide details (including the CPHH) of the flocks/holdings of origin of the animals from which the meat was derived to the local office of AHVLA, who will then check the official database to provide the clearance required.

This will only be necessary if any of the diseases referred to in this sub-paragraph has occurred in the UK during the 12 months prior to slaughter of the animals.

The notifiable disease situation in Great Britain can be found on the Defra website at:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/notifiable.htm>

and that in Northern Ireland, on the DARD website at

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-animal-health/publications-ahs-notifiable-diseases.htm>

If unsure about whether the information is up-to-date, or if further clarification of dates of the last outbreak is required, the local office of AHVLA or DARD must be contacted in the first instance.

The certifying Official Veterinarian may also wish to obtain written confirmation that the flocks of origin of the animals in question meet the requirements of these paragraphs.

6. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

Sub paragraphs IV.3.1 and IV.3.2 refer: These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of the certifying Official Veterinarian's knowledge of the operational conditions as regards the farms of origin in the United Kingdom of the animals from which the exported meat is derived.

The certifying Official Veterinarian may wish to obtain written confirmation from the exporter that the animals in question meet the requirements of these paragraphs.

7. TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (TSE) STATEMENTS

Sub-paragraphs IV.3.3 and IV.4.6 may be signed on the basis of compliance with 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.

Following confirmation of scrapie on a holding, carcasses of animals required to be compulsorily slaughtered are completely destroyed.

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

Paragraphs IV.4.1, IV.4.3, IV.4.7 and IV.4.10 may be certified on the basis of the application of the oval health 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 Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

9. **PRESENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND/OR CYSTICERCI IN SHEEP CARCASSES**

Sub-paragraph IV.4.2 refers: Certifying OVs must ensure that any meat exported to Algeria was not derived from carcasses that were subjected to trimming because of presence of tuberculous lesions or cysticerci.

Suitable arrangements must be put in place in meat plants to ensure that such carcasses are ineligible for export to Algeria.

10. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV.4.4 refers: This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the microbiological monitoring required by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 and on basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues, which cover all EU approved meat establishments. The national surveillance scheme 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.

11. **APPROVAL OF PREMISES TO EXPORT TO ALGERIA**

Paragraph 4.11 may be signed on the basis that all premises approved under EU Hygiene Regulations are also eligible to export to Algeria.

12. **NO REJECTION BY 3RD COUNTRY AND UNBROKEN COLD CHAIN**

Paragraph 4.12 can be certified if the consignment has not left the UK since it was produced and it continues to bear the oval mark

12. **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 for Exports at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>

SPECIMEN