

EXPORT OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO QATAR

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND THE EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2544EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2544EHC. 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 OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 2544EHC may be used for the export of meat and meat products from the United Kingdom to Qatar.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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, the Welsh Government 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.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraph IV(1) refers: OVs may certify paragraph IV(1) 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 the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

4. OVAL MARKING OF FRESH MEAT

Paragraphs IV(2) - IV(5) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of oval marks from approved slaughterhouse/s or meat products establishments which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004, and in the case of fresh meat and/or meat products produced before 01/01/2006, the requirements of the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995 (as amended) or the Meat Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

5. **RESIDUES TESTING**

Paragraphs IV(6) - IV(8) refer. All member states of the EU are required to operate a monitoring programme for residues in meat in accordance with Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC. The UK national testing plan covers all licensed slaughterhouses in the UK and implements the Animals & Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997, which implement European Council Regulations 2377/90/EEC and 426/98/EEC, and Council Directives 96/22/EEC and 96/23/EEC in the UK. On the basis of this testing plan, it can be considered that the meat does not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the European Community by Regulation 2377/90 of any veterinary medicinal product, antiparasitic agent, or heavy metal contaminant nor any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally in the meat.

6. **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://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/>