

EXPORT OF HEAT TREATED MEAT PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - 4312EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS: 4312EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 4312EHC Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4312EHC.

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 4312EHC may be used for the export of pig meat products and/or poultry meat products from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa.

NOTE: THIS CERTIFICATE CANNOT BE USED FOR THE EXPORT OF RUMINANT MEAT PRODUCTS, AS PARAGRAPH III.3.I OF 4312EHC, DECLARING COUNTRY FREEDOM FROM BSE AND SCRAPIE CANNOT BE SIGNED.

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 Rural Directorate, the Welsh Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs or by the Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, 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 Animal Health Central Operations for Export 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. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCT

Paragraph I.a refers. Because of the requirement for declarations which are particularly relevant to meat/meat products from ruminants or pigs or poultry, it is essential that the description of the product includes wording that indicates exactly from which type of animal the meat/meat products are derived. For example the description should include wording such as ... 'derived from / including meat/meat products only from pigs'...

4. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to the requirement for an import permit. The import permit number should be given in the health certificate on page 1.

5. **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF MEAT**

Paragraphs III.1.i and III.1.ii refer.

The OV should ascertain from the manufacturer's records if the product derives from animals in the UK or another country and delete as necessary.

Paragraph III.1.i requires the meat to be produced from animals/birds which have been born/hatched, reared and slaughtered in the UK. This paragraph can be certified on the basis of familiarity with the manufacturer's procurement arrangements from slaughterhouses or the examination of manufacturer's records, or examination of statements from the manufacturer's veterinary surgeon/s or of statements from the OVs at the slaughterhouse/s.

Paragraph III.1.ii may be certified on the basis of relevant assurances in documentation provided by the manufacturer of the product. The OV should examine such documents to ensure that adequate detail is provided to enable signing of 3412EHC.

6. **APPROVED STATUS AND APPROVAL NUMBER OF THE MANUFACTURING PLANT**

Paragraphs I.m and III.1.ii may be certified on the basis that processed food facilities/establishments are required to be approved in the UK. The OV should view evidence of approval, such as the facility/establishment official approval number.

7. **FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Paragraph III. 2. may be certified on the basis that the pig or poultry products have been supplied from approved slaughterhouses in the UK or other countries and that these products could only have been produced in the UK or imported into the UK for human consumption if the points in this paragraph were complied with.

8. **DECLARATIONS FOR BSE/SCRAPIE, FMD, NCD/HPAI, AD, TRICHINOSIS, AND PRRRS (PARAGRAPHS III.3, III.4, III.5, III.6, III.7 AND III.8)**

Paragraph III.3.i refers:

- It is NOT possible to certify paragraph III.3.i for the UK because the UK is NOT free from BSE and scrapie.
- Accordingly paragraph III.3.i must be deleted so leaving paragraph III.3.ii to apply, which states that the product does not contain any material of bovine, ovine or caprine origin.

Paragraph III.4 refers:

- This paragraph does NOT specifically refer to ruminant, poultry or pig products and this paragraph CANNOT be deleted in its entirety.
- **IF** the products are derived from the UK, and **IF** at the time of export the UK **IS** free of foot and mouth disease (FMD), paragraph III.4.ii must be deleted (see also paragraph 9 below of the notes for guidance)
- **IF** the products are derived from the UK, and **IF** at the time of export the UK is NOT free of foot and mouth disease (FMD), paragraph III.4.i must be deleted. In this circumstance the official veterinarian must contact Central Operations for Exports at Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) for information on processes to ensure inactivation of FMD virus and guidance to certify paragraph III.4.ii.
- For products sourced from other countries the official veterinarian should check the country status for FMD on the OIE website at:

http://web.oie.int/wahis/public.php?page=country_status.

If in doubt in this circumstance, the official veterinarian must contact Central Operations for Exports at Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) for information on freedom of other countries/zones from Aujeszky's disease for guidance to certify paragraph III.6.ii.

Paragraph III.5 refers:

- **IF** the product does NOT contain poultry meat, paragraph III.5 must be deleted in its entirety.
- **IF** the product DOES contain poultry meat of UK origin and **IF** at the time of export the UK **IS** free from Newcastle disease (NCD) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPNAI), paragraph III.5.ii must be deleted (see also paragraph 9 below of the notes for guidance).
- **IF** the country of origin of the poultry meat is a country other than the UK or **IF** the product DOES contain poultry meat AND **IF** at the time of export the UK or another country of origin is NOT free from Newcastle disease (NCD) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPNAI), paragraph III.5.i must be deleted and paragraph III.5.ii must apply.

If the import permit does not specify the treatment required, then the parameters in Council Directive 2002/99/EC -

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:018:0011:0020:EN:PDF>

can be certified, and these mentioned at paragraph III.13. If necessary the official veterinarian can contact Central Operations for Exports at Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) for information on processes to ensure inactivation of NCD and HPAI viruses and guidance to certify paragraph III.5.ii.

Paragraph III.6 refers:

- **IF** the product does NOT contain pig meat, paragraph III.6 must be deleted in its entirety.
- **IF** the product DOES contain pig meat, if at the time of export Great Britain is free from Aujeszky's disease (AD), for products sourced from a producer in Great Britain (GB), the words 'United Kingdom' should be deleted from paragraph III.6.i. and paragraph III.6.ii should be deleted (see also paragraph 9 below of the notes for guidance).
- For products sourced from a producer in Northern Ireland, paragraph III.6.i. should be deleted. For products sourced from GB, **IF** at the time of export GB is not free from AD, in this circumstance the official veterinarian must contact Central Operations for Exports at Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) for information on zoning and guidance to certify paragraph III.6.ii.
- For products sourced from other countries the official veterinarian should check the country / zone status for AD on the OIE website at:

http://web.oie.int/wahis/public.php?page=country_status.

If in doubt in this circumstance, the official veterinarian must contact Central Operations for Exports at Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland) for information on freedom of other countries/zones from Aujeszky's disease for guidance to certify paragraph III.6.ii.

Paragraph III.7.i refers:

- **IF** this paragraph does NOT contain any pig products this paragraph must be deleted in its entirety.
- **IF** this product does contain pig meat: The UK is NOT officially free from Trichinosis (Trichinellosis). Accordingly paragraph III.7.i must be deleted. The official veterinarian must also establish from records provided by the producer that any pig meat used in this product has been sourced from abattoirs where the pig carcasses for human consumption have been tested and have been found free from Trichinosis. This applies whether the pig meat is sourced from a UK abattoir or an abattoir in another country. If the meat is sourced from an abattoir in another country the official veterinarian should ask the manufacturer / processor to obtain information to support this declaration. Cold treatment for Trichinosis is not an option.

Paragraph III.8 refers:

- **IF** the product does NOT contain pig meat / pork products, paragraph III.8 must be deleted in its entirety.
- **IF** the product DOES contain pig meat / pork products, paragraph III.8.i must be deleted because the UK is NOT free of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS). AND, with respect to paragraph III.8.ii, the temperature/time parameters that applies should remain undeleted and the remaining temperature/time parameters that do NOT apply should be deleted.

9. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

- Paragraphs III.4.i for pig meat products from the UK with respect to foot and mouth disease refers.
- Paragraph III.5.i. for poultry meat products with respect to NCD/HPAI refers.
- Paragraphs III.6.i and III.6.ii for pig meat products with respect to AD refers.

If the products are derived from the UK, OV's may certify whichever paragraphs of the above are applicable, on behalf of the Department, provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from Central Operations for Exports at Carlisle (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

If the animal products are derived from another country, see guidance at paragraph 8 above.

10. PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT

Paragraph III.9. refers: The name and approval number of the processing establishment must be entered at paragraph III.9. The processing establishment may be the same as the manufacturing establishment at paragraph 1.m.

11. HEAT TREATMENTS

Paragraph III.13. refers: The import permit must be consulted and the heat treatments/processing standards required completed accordingly. Unused rows should be deleted.

Compliance with the heat treatment/processing standards in paragraph III.9. may be certified on the basis of:

- familiarity with the production process operating in the establishment: and
- checks on company records of processing, quality control checks, etc. for the batches certified; and/or
- supplementary supporting evidence provided by the responsible Environmental Health Officer.

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 Central Operations for Exports at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/general/contacts.htm>

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