

**EXPORT OF DEBONED BEEF IN ANATOMICALLY RECOGNISABLE CUTS AND/OR
RECOGNISABLE BEEF OFFAL TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - 7278EHC**

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 7278EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7278EHC.

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 CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 7278EHC may be used for the export of deboned anatomically recognisable beef cuts and/or recognisable beef offal from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa (RSA) - paragraph IV (j) refers.

Such meat from animals born and reared in the Republic of Ireland (IE) but slaughtered in the UK can also be certified provided the assurances which relate to the holdings of origin of the animals can be satisfied (and the necessary supporting evidence available, where required).

The term 'recognisable beef offal' as determined by the RSA veterinary authorities means the following items only:

- thick skirt (pillar of diaphragm)
- heart (whole)
- liver
- kidney (whole)
- reticulum
- cow/bovine heels - skin-on, blanched and singed before packing

Only whole hearts and kidneys will be acceptable for export to the RSA.

Export of beef trimmings and mechanically separated meat (MSM) of bovine origin to the RSA is **not permitted**.

Note: according to the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No of 2000) the definition of meat is: "those parts of a slaughtered animal which are ordinarily intended for human consumption and which have not undergone any processing other than deboning, cutting up, mincing, cooling or freezing, and includes meat which -

- a) has been treated with a substance which does not substantially alter the original characteristics thereof; and
- b) assumes its original characteristics after a substance referred to in paragraph a) has been physically removed therefrom".

2. **IMPORT PERMIT**

A veterinary import permit from the South African veterinary authorities is required for each individual consignment. Official Veterinarians must not provide certification without sight of this permit. The OV must enter the permit number as indicated on Page 1 of the certificate.

If the health conditions described in the import permit do not correspond to the health attestations appearing on this health certificate, the exporter or Official Veterinarian should contact the AHVLA Centre for International Trade (CIT) at Carlisle for further advice.

3. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by an 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 by a Veterinary Officer of the Department. In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARDNI).

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 AHVLA Centre for International Trade (CIT) 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. **APPROVAL OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND CUTTING PLANTS BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Paragraph IV(g) refers. All EU-approved UK slaughterhouses and cutting plants are eligible to export to the RSA. They must further comply with additional approval stipulations, as required by the RSA authorities, before they can do so.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure prior to export that all slaughterhouses and cutting plants included in Section II of the certificate are included in the list of abattoirs and de-boning plants approved by the Director of Veterinary Services of the RSA. Cold stores and re-wrapping centres **do not** require such listing.

The list of UK establishments currently approved by the RSA authorities for export to the RSA can be found by running the appropriate query via the following link:

<http://www.nda.agric.za/vetweb/ImportExport/Approved%20establishments/I Imp Query.htm>

If any of the establishments mentioned in Section II does not appear on the current list, the exporter/certifying OV must first contact AHVLA CIT at Carlisle for further advice prior to making arrangements for export:

<http://defraweb/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/search/index.asp>

5. **OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCES - 618NDC**

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(b) refer. The Official Veterinarian may certify these paragraphs provided written authority to do so has been obtained on a valid form 618NDC issued by the AHVLA CIT or DARDNI.

6. **BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) STATEMENTS**

Paragraphs IV(c) and IV(d) 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.

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

Paragraphs IV(e) (i), (iii) and (iv) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of the certifying Official Veterinarian's knowledge of the operational conditions as regards the UK farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived, or in the case of animals moved from IE directly for slaughter in the UK, on the basis of the ITAHC (which would not be issued if the requirements of these paragraphs were not complied with).

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

IMPORTANT: Additional guidance in respect of Paragraphs IV (e) (iii) and (iv), with special emphasis on bovine tuberculosis, is provided in the Annex to this guidance.

8. **VACCINATION OF ANIMALS AGAINST NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**

Paragraph IV(e) (ii) may be certified on the basis that routine vaccination of animals against foot and mouth disease is not permitted in the United Kingdom nor in the Republic of Ireland (and in the rest of the EU).

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

Paragraphs IV(f), IV(g) (second sentence), IV(l), IV(m) and IV(n) (i) 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.

10. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV(h) refers. The statement in this paragraph in respect of chemical residues 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. **NO PARAGRAPH IV(i)**

The omission of a paragraph IV(i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

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 CIT at Carlisle.

<http://defraweb/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/search/index.asp>

Additional guidance in respect of Paragraphs IV (e) (iii) and (iv), with special emphasis on bovine tuberculosis.

Summary

Paragraph IV (e) (iii)

'they come from holdings that are not under official restriction due to an outbreak of notifiable disease to which cattle are susceptible'

Paragraph IV (e) (iv)

'they were not slaughtered in a disease eradication campaign'

These are tuberculosis (TB) reactors which are subject to compulsory slaughter.

The above two statements can only be certified if meat/offal intended for export to the Republic of South Africa is not derived from tuberculosis reactors or slaughterhouse cases originating from holdings under tuberculosis restrictions.

Detail

Further detail in respect of these statements, with special emphasis on bovine tuberculosis, is provided below:

Paragraph IV (e) (iii)

'they come from holdings that are not under official restriction due to an outbreak of notifiable disease to which cattle are susceptible'

The notifiable diseases in question are those which can be transmitted via meat (and therefore would not include bluetongue) and which require whole herd slaughter ie a stamping out policy will be triggered if disease is confirmed and protection / surveillance/ restriction zones established in which herds will be under official movement restrictions.

Although stamping out is not applicable to diseases like bovine tuberculosis (TB) because whole herd slaughter is not practiced, the meat must pass all the checks specified in the EU food hygiene legislation (Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) which requires an Official Veterinarian (OV) to be present at all times during post-mortem inspection if bovine animals originate from herds in which TB restrictions are in place (ie the herd is not officially tuberculosis free). Ensuring that the EU food hygiene legislation is complied with in such cases is essential when passing judgement on whether the meat/offal is fit for human consumption and therefore certifiable for export on the basis that the EU food package was deemed equivalent to the South African Meat Safety Act. Essentially, judgement on whether the meat/offal is fit for human consumption (and therefore certifiable for export) is based on the findings during post-mortem inspection. Where there are indications of generalised TB, or TB lesions with emaciation, the entire carcass and all the blood and offal is rejected as unfit for human consumption under EU food hygiene legislation. The same applies to meat/offal from animals in which post-mortem inspection has revealed localised tuberculosis in a number of organs or a number of areas of the carcass. However, for the purposes of certification to the Republic of South Africa, meat/offal from any carcass with suspect lesions - the so called slaughterhouse case - cannot and should not be certified. Carcasses and offal from slaughterhouse cases are usually detained in a separate room pending further investigation and so it is possible to exclude such meat/offal from the batch/es ultimately intended for export to

Republic of South Africa. Support Health Attestation (SHA) should be used to identify and certify such batches moved downstream into storage.

Paragraph IV (e) (iv)

'they were not slaughtered in a disease eradication campaign'

Where disease control is through stamping out, the animals will not be slaughtered for human consumption and therefore will not be sent to a slaughterhouse killing for human consumption. However, bovine tuberculosis (TB) reactors (and inconclusive reactors/direct contacts) are also required to be slaughtered as part of a disease eradication campaign and they can be slaughtered in slaughterhouses killing for human consumption. Under a framework arrangement, only a small selection of slaughterhouses have been approved to slaughter such reactors. Meat from these reactors cannot and should not be certified for export to the Republic of South Africa. As the reactors are usually slaughtered at the end of the day's kill, it is possible to ensure that meat from these animals is excluded from the batch/es ultimately intended for export to Republic of South Africa. Support Health Attestation (SHA) should be used to identify and certify such batches moved downstream into storage.