

**EXPORT OF FRESH MEAT OF OVINE/CAPRINE ORIGIN TO TUNISIA - 7256EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7256EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7256EHC.

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.

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**1. SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7256EHC may be used for the export of fresh chilled and frozen meat derived from sheep and goats from the United Kingdom to Tunisia.

In the case of meat derived from sheep and goats of non-UK origin, please refer to paragraphs 5 and 11 of these notes for further guidance.

**2. 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, the Welsh Government or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), 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 ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the AHVLA Specialist Service Centre for Exports at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The Official Veterinarian should also keep a copy of the signed certificate for his/her own records.

**3. 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.

4. **COMPETENT AUTHORITIES**

The certificate header refers. The Competent Central Authority for the whole of the UK is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

For certificates issued in England, Defra is also the Competent Regional Authority. For certificates issued from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, OVs should enter Scottish Government, Welsh Government or Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland as appropriate.

5. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**

Paragraphs IV.A(a) and IV.B(b) refer. In the case of fresh meat derived from animals of UK origin, 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 the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

For fresh meat originating from other EU Member States, OVs should note that European Regulations do not permit the importation into EU Member States of fresh meat from countries or regions where the notifiable diseases specified in Paragraphs IV.A(a) and IV.B(b) are present. Accordingly fresh meat legally imported from other EU Member States will comply with these conditions and can be certified accordingly.

6. **ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN THE CONTEXT OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES**

OVs may certify the second part of paragraph IV.C(c) on the basis of their 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 this requirement. In the case of meat / meat derived from animals originating from other EU Member States, the certifying OV may wish to obtain written declarations from the a veterinarian at the slaughterhouse(s) involved to ensure that the animals meet this requirement.

7. **TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (TSE) STATEMENTS**

Paragraphs IV.A(b), IV.A(c), IV.A(d) and IV.B(a) refer. In the case of meat derived from animals originating from the UK and other EU Member States, these paragraphs may be signed on the basis of compliance with TSE Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, as transposed into national and EU 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 in the UK and other EU Member States, carcasses of animals required to be compulsorily slaughtered are completely destroyed.

8. **COMPLIANCE WITH CODEX ALIMENTARIUS CODE OF PRACTICE AND FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Paragraphs IV.B(c), IV.B(d), IV.B(e), IV.C(a), IV.C(b) and IV.C(f) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of the EU oval mark and evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004, as transposed into national legislation and

the Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

The above Regulations take account of international obligations laid down in the World Trade Organisation Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and the international food safety standards contained in the *Codex Alimentarius*.

The first part of paragraph IV.C(c) and all of paragraph IV.C(d) may be certified on the basis of compliance with the microbiological monitoring standards as required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005.

**9. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES INCLUDING DIOXINS**

Paragraph IV.C(e) and the certificate of freedom from dioxin contamination at Part VI may be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues to which EU approved meat establishments are subjected.

In the UK, the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC. These Directives are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examinations for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997.

The HACCP requirements contained in Regulation (EC) 854/2004 also places an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives.

**10. RADIATION MONITORING**

Part V refers. The Food Standards Agency, in association with the UK environmental agencies, monitors food and the environment in the UK. They publish an annual report - Radioactivity in Food and the Environment - which summarises the results of monitoring. The results of these monitoring supports the conclusion set out in the certificate of freedom from radiological contamination.

**11. CERTIFICATION OF MEAT / MEAT DERIVED FROM ANIMALS ORIGINATING FROM OUTSIDE THE EU.**

In the case of meat or meat derived from animals originating from outside the EU, OVs are advised that all the relevant information contained in the above paragraphs must be verified before certifying consignments.

It is likely that carrying out certain of these checks will not be a straightforward matter. OVs are advised not to complete the certificate unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details and are confident to do so.

**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 - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

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