

EXPORT TO TURKEY OF FRESH/CHILLED/FROZEN MEAT OF BOVINE ORIGIN - 7217EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Associated Documents: 7217EHC, 7217CON and 372DMR.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7217EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7217EHC. 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

This certificate - 7217EHC - is for bovine meat only. As written, its scope is quite limited for the following reasons, but if all animals from which the meat is derived, regardless of their age, are tested for BSE, then its scope can be increased:

BSE: It requires the *dams* of the animals from which the meat is derived to be born on or after 1 August 1996, the date from which the ban on the feeding of mammalian meat and bone meal to farmed animals is considered to have been effectively enforced in the UK. The cattle passport has dam ID details, and if owners do not have the dams' date of birth, BCMS should be able to provide this. This assurance can be included in the FCI, which will enable the support/7217EHC to be signed. It also requires all animals from which the meat is derived to be tested for BSE, regardless of their age; from 1 January 2009, EU legislation does not require UK born and bred animals to be tested for BSE unless they are over 48 months old. It is possible for the exporter to arrange for younger animals to be tested, but this will have to be under the supervision of the FSA and the FBO will have to ensure evidence to that effect (and that the tests were negative) is available to enable the support/7217EHC to be signed. Bone-in carcasses/cuts (including vertebral column) may be certified for export from animals under 30 months old only; the corollary is that meat from animals over 30 months old must not contain any vertebral column.

FMD: The country/territory of origin of the meat must be free of FMD, rinderpest, rift valley fever for at least 12 months prior to the date of certification, and the animals must have been born and reared in this country/territory since birth. However, the meat must also be obtained from animals on holdings which are not within 25 km of holdings on which FMD has been confirmed during the previous 12 months. Therefore, in the case of the UK, details of the holdings of origin will be required if the animals were slaughtered before 19 February 2009 (the UK has been deemed to be FMD-free on 19 February 2008 in accordance with OIE). Also, the animals must have been resident on a holding for at least 40 days prior to their slaughter. This assurance can be included in the FCI which will enable the support/7217EHC to be signed.

The above means that the only meat - as placed on the UK market in accordance with EU legislation - which can be certified for export to Turkey without any additional BSE tests is meat without vertebral column from animals over 48 months old, derived from animals slaughtered on or after 19 February 2009, provided the following assurances (e.g. as part of FCI/support certificate) are available:

- The dams of the animals were born on or after 1 August 2006
- The animals were resident on the holding for at least 40 days prior to movement for slaughter.

If meat is derived from younger (under 48 or 30 months, depending on when the animals were slaughtered - see paragraph 5 below), evidence/support veterinary certificate will be required to the effect that the animals were tested for BSE, with negative results.

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 an 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 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.

PUBLIC HEALTH ATTESTATION

3. Paragraphs II.1.1 to II.1.7 may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 on hygiene rules for (and controls on) food of animal origin, Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on the microbiological criteria for foodstuffs and on the basis that the UK National Surveillance Scheme for residues fulfils the requirements of Directive 96/23/EC.

BSE

4. **Paragraph II.1.8.2** is applicable for bovine meat which is obtained from animals born and reared in countries classified as controlled risk, which includes the UK. The other option under II.1.8 should be deleted. Sub-paragraph (b) may be certified on the basis of the oval mark, but sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) require bespoke sourcing of animals and handling of meat to ensure compliance. **Sub-paragraph (c) requires the dams of the animals from which the meat is derived to be born on or after 1 August 1996, the date from which the ban on the feeding of mammalian meat and bone meal to farmed animals is considered to have been effectively enforced in the UK. Assurances by way of FCI may be required to ensure that the appropriate support certification is available to enable this sub-paragraph to be signed.** Sub-paragraph (d) allows export of carcass meat with vertebral column but only from animals under 30 months old; meat from animals over 30 months must not contain vertebral column.

5. **Paragraph II.1.11** requires animals from which meat is derived to be subjected to a test for BSE, regardless of their age. Cattle over 30 months of age slaughtered between 7 November 2005 and 31 December 2008 were tested for BSE in accordance with EU legislation applicable at the time. From 1 January 2009, the EU legislation was amended so that only cattle (born and reared in the UK) over the age of 48 months old required such a test. This paragraph may be certified on the above basis depending on the age and date of slaughter of the animals. Otherwise, a bespoke test will be required - see paragraph 1 above).

Traceability

6. **Paragraph II.1.9** may be certified on the basis of that cattle born since 1 July 1996 must be accompanied by a cattle passport confirming the identification details - sex, breed, date of birth, identification of the dam - and recording its movement history.
7. **Paragraph II.1.10** requires meat intended for export to be identified in such a way that the animals from which it was derived could be identified. This is possible under the Beef Labelling Regulations which implement Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000. It should be possible to trace beef back to the animal on this basis, and also because EU food hygiene legislation requires food business operators (FBOs) to keep records to enable traceability (at least one step up and one down).

ANIMAL HEALTH ATTESTATION

8. **Notifiable disease clearance:** The Official Veterinarian may certify the following paragraphs relating to disease freedom provided authority to do so has been obtained from the Animal Health (AH) Special Services Centre (SSC) - Exports - in Carlisle on form 618NDC:
- i) **Paragraphs II.2.1 (a) and II.2.5** - in respect of foot and mouth disease, and rinderpest and rift valley fever.
 - ii) **Paragraph II.2.3 (b)** - in respect of foot and mouth disease, but only in respect of meat from animals slaughtered on or after 19 February 2009. If the animals have been slaughtered before this date, then details of the holding(s) of origin will be required to ensure that they are not within 25 km of the 8 holdings in Surrey on which FMD confirmed was confirmed in 2007.
9. **Vaccination:** Paragraphs II.2.1 (a) and II.2.3 (a) may be certified on the basis that routine vaccination is not permitted in the UK for these diseases under the Animal Health Act 1981.
10. **Residency for 40 days prior to slaughter:** Paragraph II.2.3 (c) requires the animals to be resident in a holding for at least 40 days prior to their movement for slaughter. **Assurances by way of FCI may be required to ensure that the appropriate support certification is available to enable this sub-paragraph to be signed.**
11. **Ante-mortem inspection:** Paragraph II.2.4 (b) may be certified on the basis of the health mark.

12. DISCLAIMER

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The 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 Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

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

SPECIMEN