

**EXPORT OF FRESH MEAT OF THE PORCINE SPECIES TO UKRAINE - 6481EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS, PIG ASSURANCE SCHEME VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS.**

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs), Pig Assurance Scheme Veterinarians and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6481EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6481EHC.

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 THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 6481EHC may be used for the export of chilled/frozen fresh pig meat (excluding offal, minced meat and mechanically separated meat) from both Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland to Ukraine

**Export from Northern Ireland**

Northern Ireland was previously ineligible to export pig meat to Ukraine, nor was meat from pigs originating from Northern Ireland eligible for export to Ukraine, because of Northern Ireland's Aujeszky's disease status.

However, with effect from 13 November 2012, Northern Ireland has been listed in Annex I of Commission Decision 2008/185 (as amended) as a region free from Aujeszky's disease.

Therefore, meat may now be exported to Ukraine from Northern Ireland and from pigs originating from Northern Ireland with immediate effect.

**2. EXPORTS TO UKRAINE FROM ESTABLISHMENTS GRANTED APPROVAL FOR EXPORT OF PIG MEAT TO CHINA**

Whereas procedures for the certification of exports of pig meat to Ukraine and China may have certain similarities, exporters and OVs supervising premises exporting to both countries must ensure that meat destined for China is kept separate from all other pig meat, including that intended for export to Ukraine and other countries, during all stages of production, cutting, transport and storage.

This is to ensure that exports to China are not jeopardised due to non-compliance with the very strict Chinese import requirements as detailed in the relevant Notes for Guidance 7006NFG.

3. **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 Rural Directorate, the Welsh Government Department for Rural Affairs, 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 - 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.

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 entered at paragraph III(f) of the certificate.

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE TERRITORIAL UNIT**

In Great Britain, the administrative territorial unit referred to immediately above Part I of the certificate is the name of the AHVLA office responsible for the area in which the establishment of despatch is located.

In Northern Ireland, the administrative territorial unit is DARD in Belfast.

6. **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraph IV(a) refers. The Ukraine authorities require that all pigs from which the meat exported to Ukraine must have been resident since birth in the United Kingdom.

The OV must obtain the written declarations via support documentation from the supplier of the pig meat or their agent(s) in order to certify these statements. Further details regarding support documentation is at **Annex 1** to these notes.

7. **APPROVAL OF PREMISES BY THE CENTRAL STATE VETERINARY SERVICE OF UKRAINE**

Paragraph IV(a) refers. The OV may certify this paragraph on the basis that any UK premises officially approved and operating in accordance with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 is recognised as being approved by the veterinary authorities of Ukraine.

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

Paragraph IV(b) refers. OVs may certify this entire paragraph 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.

9. **DECLARATIONS OF DISEASE FREEDOM FOR PREMISES OF ORIGIN**

Paragraph (IV)(c) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of support documents from Official Veterinarians at slaughterhouses with cutting plants or, if used, separate cutting plants as part of the Food Chain Information (FCI).

**Additional guidance for owners/managers of pig units, Pig Assurance Scheme Veterinarians, FSA Official Veterinarians and Official Veterinarians appointed to export panels 3 and 5 regarding certification of freedom of farms of origin from non-notifiable diseases is at Annex 1 to these notes.**

10. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV(d) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues, which EU approved meat establishments are subjected to. The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC and the HACCP requirements in Regulation (EC) 854/2004 also places an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives. These Directives are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examinations for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997.

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

Paragraphs IV(e)(i), IV(f), IV(g) and IV(h) may be certified on the basis of the application of the oval health mark or identification mark on the exported meat or packaging thereof, indicating that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant and manufacturing premises (if applicable) are officially approved and operating in accordance with the above Regulations and the Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

12. **STORAGE TEMPERATURE FOR CHILLED MEAT**

Paragraph IV(e)(iii) refers. OVs should note that the required storage temperature for chilled meat is +4°C. This differs from the conditions laid down in Chapter V of Regulation 853/2004, which requires that the temperature of meat other than offal is maintained at not more than +7°C during storage.

13. **FINAL COMPLETION OF CERTIFICATE 6481EHC PRIOR TO DESPATCH**

Prior to final certification of the consignment, OVs must ensure that they have a completed copy of 6481IMC confirming that the meat complies with EU requirements and also with the import requirements of Ukraine.

Confirmation that the meat complies with the import requirements of Ukraine means that the meat so certified has met the following conditions as regards upstream production, handling and storage:

- (a) the meat and meat products were derived from slaughter and processing of healthy animals, which had been kept in the territory of the United Kingdom, and processed at meat-processing enterprises which have been approved by the Central State Veterinary Service of the United Kingdom;
- (b) the animals from which the product is derived were obtained from premises which meet the following requirements:
  - (i) they were free from porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) for the last 12 months;
  - (ii) there was no clinical evidence of swine erysipelas during the last 20 days, prior to loading of the animals for slaughter;

**[please refer to Annex 1 for further guidance]**

- (c) the meat/the meat from which the product is derived:
  - (i) has no blood clots, unremoved abscesses, mechanical pre-mixes, odour and taste unusual for meat (fish, drugs, medicinal herbs etc). Serous membranes were intact and lymph nodes were not removed;
  - (ii) was not de-frosted during storage and has a deep muscle temperature of no higher than -8°C (for frozen meat) and +4°C (for chilled meat);
  - (iii) does not contain any offal, minced meat or mechanically separated meat of porcine origin;
  - (iv) does not contain preservatives and was not treated with colouring substances, ionising or ultraviolet rays.

**14. 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>

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR OWNERS/MANAGERS OF PIG UNITS, PIG ASSURANCE SCHEME VETERINARIANS, FSA OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS APPOINTED TO EXPORT PANELS 3 AND 5

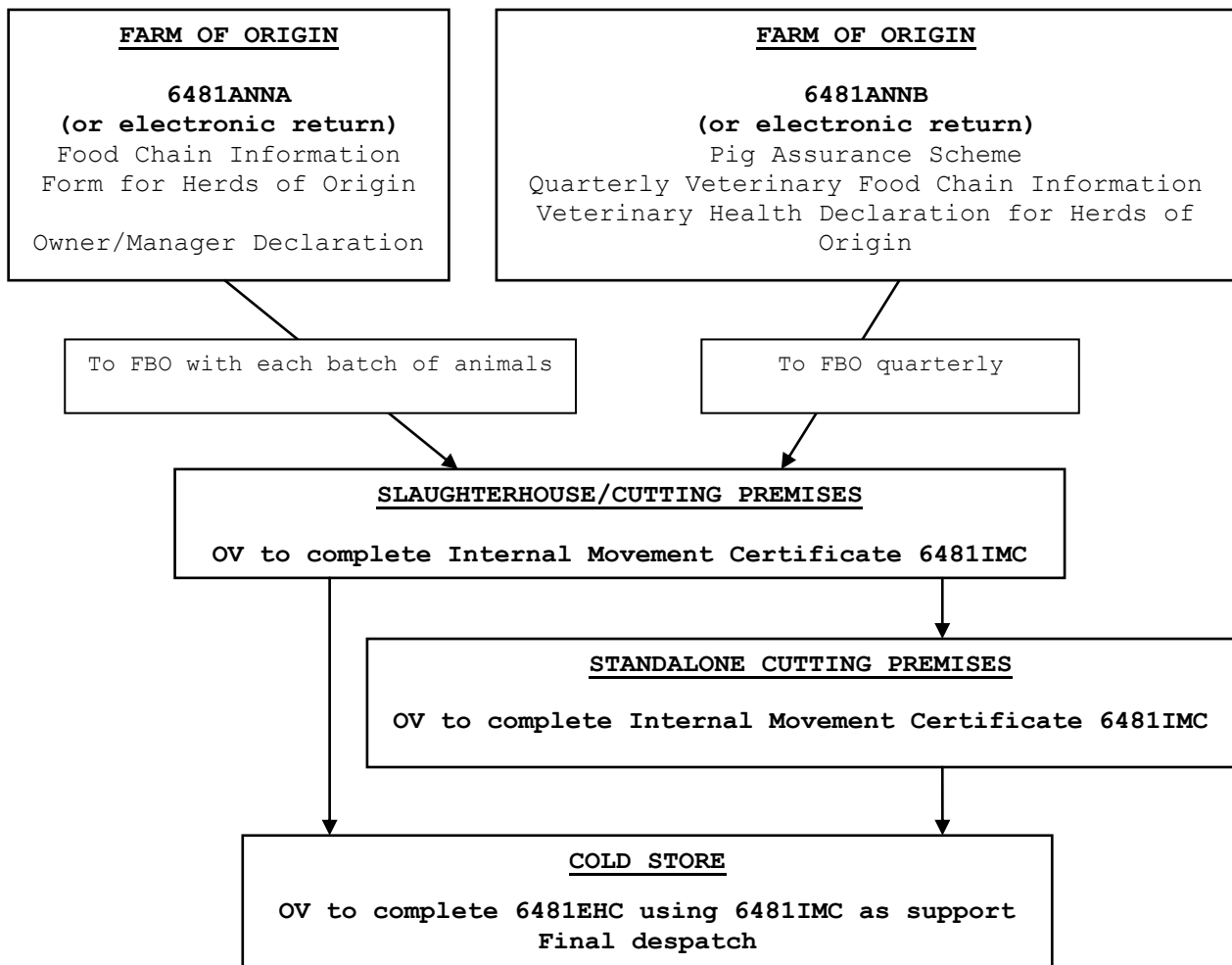
FREEDOM OF FARMS OF ORIGIN FROM NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Paragraph IV(c) of 6481EHC refers. Pigs from which meat intended for export to Ukraine is derived must originate from premises that have been free from porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) for 12 months prior to slaughter and on which there was no clinical evidence of swine erysipelas during the 20 days prior to loading of the animals for slaughter.

Such declarations from farms of origin, particularly regarding PRRS freedom, are not straightforward and require a chain of support certification from premises of origin to the cold store from where consignments are despatched to Ukraine.

CERTIFICATION CHAIN

The chain of certification attesting to freedom from non-notifiable diseases from farm of origin to cold store is summarised as follows:



### **6481ANNA - OWNER/MANAGER DECLARATION**

Producers must provide a Food Chain Information (FCI) declaration for each batch of pigs. A form providing this declaration is at 6481ANNA. Producers can use paper copies of 6481ANNA or may wish to submit FCI declarations electronically.

A paper copy of this form must be used in the event that the electronic FCI form is unavailable. The FCI declaration 6481ANNA must accompany each consignment of pigs to the slaughterhouse.

### **6481ANNB - PIG ASSURANCE SCHEME VETERINARY DECLARATION**

An FCI veterinary declaration is required for the farm from which the pigs are supplied to the slaughterhouse. 6481ANNB is completed quarterly by Pig Assurance Scheme (PAS) Veterinarians on the basis of their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin with the support of the owner/manager declaration on 6481ANNA. It is not an absolute requirement for PAS Veterinarians providing FCI certification to be appointed as Official Veterinarians (OVs) or Local Veterinary Inspectors (LVIs), although it is likely that many will already hold such appointments.

If a three-site system is used, FCI certification is not required for all three farms - certification can be provided for the finishing unit only. All pigs on the farm should be inspected but examination of individual animals on the farms is not required to provide this certification.

PAS Veterinarians should also carry out appropriate checks of the farm records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records on farms of origin to verify their ability to make the declarations required. Farm inspections for the Pig Assurance Scheme can be used for this purpose.

### **Freedom from PRRS**

Certain certification requirements (i.e. the requirement for a declaration of freedom from PRRS for the last 12 months on the farm of origin) are not straightforward. Defra has discussed and agreed the following guidance with the Certification Sub-Committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Freedom from PRRS can be based on clinical inspection/examination alone and does not require laboratory examination to prove lack of infection with PRRS virus. Freedom from PRRS can be certified for herds which are vaccinated against PRRS using inactivated or live vaccines providing, in the Veterinarian's judgement, clinical signs of PRRS are absent.

### **Freedom from Swine Erysipelas**

Similarly, freedom for 20 days from swine erysipelas infection can be based on clinical inspection and/or examination alone. Freedom from swine erysipelas can be certified for herds which are vaccinated against swine erysipelas providing, in the Veterinarian's judgement, clinical signs of the disease are absent.

Completed 6481ANNB forms must be sent to the relevant slaughterhouse FBO(s). In future it is expected that the box indicating compliance with these conditions will be completed on the Quarterly Veterinary Report (QVR) form. Producers should keep a copy of 6481ANNB in case this is needed for other slaughterhouses.

A new 6481ANNB declaration should be completed by the Assurance Scheme Veterinarian approximately every three months.

#### **NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE BREAKDOWN**

If signs of either PPRS or swine erysipelas are discovered at a unit, the owner/manager must notify the FBO at the slaughterhouse immediately so that the necessary action can be taken to prevent export-ineligible meat from being despatched to Ukraine.

Once a declaration of the presence of disease has been made, no further declarations are required until these specified diseases have been absent for the period specified in the export health certificate (for PPRS - 12 months; for swine erysipelas - 20 days). From that time onwards, the owner/manager and the PAS Veterinarian can complete 6481ANNA and 6481ANNB to enable the meat to be exported.

#### **INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE (IMC) 6481IMC**

The OV at the slaughterhouse/co-located cutting premises or at standalone cutting premises must complete a copy of internal movement certificate 6481IMC at **Annex C** for downstream movement (i.e. to another approved cutting premises or an approved cold store) of each consignment of meat intended for export to Ukraine.

Individual IMCs are not issued by AHVLA. OVs must securely store blank paper copies of IMCs and maintain appropriate records of IMCs that have been issued. Hard copies of completed IMCs may be kept on file, or alternatively OVs may prefer to keep scanned copies of completed IMCs electronically.

The FSA OV at the slaughterhouse must give each IMC a unique reference number which should consist of the plant approval number followed by the date of slaughter and a sequential number e.g. 3567/24.06.11/03.

If the slaughterhouse is co-located with a cutting plant the reference number should include the date of production at the cutting plant.

6481IMC can be completed and signed on the basis of the following:

- (i) support documents 6481ANNA and 6481ANNB completed by the owner/manager of the farm(s) of origin and the PAS Veterinarian.
- (ii) personal knowledge of the procedures at the slaughterhouse/slaughterhouse and combined cutting plant and on the basis of production records and SOPs.

**EXPORT OF PIG MEAT TO UKRAINE  
FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION FORM FOR HERDS OF ORIGIN  
OWNER / MANAGER DECLARATION**

**Premises name:** .....

**Address:** .....

.....

**CPHH:** .....

**Pig Assurance Scheme (PAS) reference number:** .....

**Slap number:** .....

**Declaration**

I, .....(name in block letters)

of .....

.....(address)

am the \*owner / \*manager of the above holding.

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge and belief that the following statements are correct and true with regard to the above consignment;

- 1. The pigs originating from the above premises were born and reared in the United Kingdom;
- 2. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the premises named above have been free of the following:
  - (i) porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in the previous twelve (12) months prior to loading for slaughter;
  - (ii) evidence of swine erysipelas during the twenty (20) days prior to loading for slaughter.

Signed .....

Date .....



**EXPORT OF PIG MEAT TO UKRAINE**

**PIG ASSURANCE SCHEME**

**QUARTERLY VETERINARY FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION  
HEALTH DECLARATION FOR HERDS OF ORIGIN**

PAS reference number: .....

Slap number: .....

**To whom it may concern:**

I hereby certify that concerning the animals on the premises named below:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

CPHH: .....

To the best of my knowledge and belief and based on herd inspections at intervals of approximately three months and other information available\*, the premises named above have been free of the following:

- (i) clinical evidence of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) - for the previous twelve (12) months;
- (ii) clinical evidence of swine erysipelas during the previous twenty (20) days.

Signed ..... RCVS

Name in block letters: .....

Address: .....

.....

Date .....

\* Information from the owner/manager of the unit and examination of farm records



DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, RURAL DIRECTORATE  
WELSH GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT FOR RURAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT NORTHERN IRELAND

CERTIFICATE NUMBER <sup>1</sup>: ...../...../.....

OFFICIAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR THE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE UK OF MEAT OR MEAT PRODUCTS FOR FURTHER STORAGE AND EXPORT TO THIRD COUNTRIES

COUNTRY OF EXPORT: .....

**I. Identification of meat**

a) Description of product: Species, nature of packaging, weight and number of carcasses/cuts/quarters/cartons or packages:

.....  
.....  
.....

b) Unique identification marks on carcasses or packaging:

.....  
.....

\*c) Pallet numbers (where relevant): .....

d) Date(s) of slaughter or freezing .....

**II. Origin and Destination of the meat**

a) Veterinary approval number(s) of the approved \*slaughterhouse(s)/ \*cutting plant / \*cold store of origin:

.....  
.....

b) Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved \*cutting plant(s)/ \*cold store(s) to which the consignment will be dispatched:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

<sup>1</sup> Plant number/date/sequential number (e.g. UK1234EC/20.6.11/05)

**III. Health attestation**

I, the undersigned Official Veterinarian, certify that the meat described above meets the following requirements :

- (a) the meat complies with EU requirements and with the import requirements of .....(country/ies)
  
- (b) \* the meat was cut, prepared, stored, wrapped and packed on .....  
.....(date(s))

in accordance with the requirements of the country/ies specified above.

**\*Delete as appropriate**

**Official Stamp**

**Signed** ..... **RCVS**  
**Official Veterinarian**  
.....  
**Name in block letters**

**Date** .....

**Address** .....  
.....  
.....

**Plant Approval Stamp:**

