

EXPORT OF FRESH MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - 7351EHC
NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7351EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7351EHC.

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 7351EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to the Dominican Republic (DR) of frozen meat or meat products of bovine, porcine, ovine and caprine origin derived from animals born and reared in the United Kingdom only.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an authorised 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. In Northern Ireland, this certificate may be signed by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed as an OV to the appropriate export 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 any ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Centre for International Trade 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. 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. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

Paragraph IV(a) refers. Only meat and meat products derived from animals born and reared in the UK are eligible for export to the DR. OVs may certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of purchasing and operational patterns of the food business operator (FBO) and exporter. OVs may also wish to obtain written

declarations from the FBO and/or exporter confirming that the conditions of this paragraph have been met for the exported goods.

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

Paragraph IV (b) refers. The diseases of relevance are the *epizootic* OIE listed diseases which are notifiable in the UK and which are transmissible through meat, namely Foot and Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, Rift Valley fever, Peste des Petits Ruminants, African Swine fever and Classical Swine fever. If any of these diseases were to be confirmed, a stamping out policy will be applied which will essentially mean that the holding will not be able to restock within 40 days.

6. **FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION/COMPLIANCE WITH MICROBIOLOGICAL CRITERIA**

Paragraphs IV(c), IV(e), IV(f) and IV(j) refer. Paragraphs IV(c), IV(j) and the first parts of paragraph IV(e) and IV(f) (re. HACCP) 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.

The second parts of paragraph IV(e) and IV(f) may be certified on the basis of compliance with the microbiological monitoring criteria required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005. EU monitoring for Enterobacteriaceae and Total Viable Count (TVC) can be considered equivalent to generic *E. coli* monitoring.

7. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV(h) may be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues to which EU approved meat establishments are subjected.

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 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

8. **REMOVAL OF MAIN LYMPH NODES FROM EXPORTED MEAT**

Paragraph IV(d) refers. OVs should ensure that the FBO is made aware of this requirement and should carry out appropriate checks to ensure that all exposed lymph nodes are removed during the cutting process prior to packaging of the meat for export.

9. **TRICHINELLA TESTING OF EXPORTED MEAT**

Paragraph IV(k) refers. Under Community legislation (Commission Regulation (EC) 2075/2005 laying down specific rules on official controls for *Trichinella* in meat) all fresh meat from fattening pigs must be tested for trichinellosis unless the pigs come from either a holding that is considered officially free of trichinellosis by the competent authority of the Member State, or from a region that is

considered 'negligible risk' by the Commission. Currently, the United Kingdom, as a whole is seeking recognition from the Commission of the entire region as being 'negligible risk'.

In the meantime, Defra and the other devolved administrations recognises all holdings in the United Kingdom as 'officially free' of *Trichinella* in accordance with the above Regulation.

This means that, under the regulations currently in force on the UK testing of fattening pigs for *Trichinella* is not required. However testing of slaughtered breeding boars and sows for *Trichinella* is required under UK regulations.

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

Paragraphs IV(l), IV(m) and IV(n) and IV(o) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of the TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation), and that the UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency) ensure compliance with the legislation.

10. **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 Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/imports-exports/international-trade/>