

EXPORT OF MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS OF OVINE ORIGIN TO THAILAND - 7091EHC

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 7091EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7091EHC.

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 7091EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom (UK) to Thailand of fresh/frozen meat or meat products of ovine origin derived from animals born and raised in the UK and/or the Republic of Ireland (ROI), or which were resident in the UK and/or ROI for not less than four months prior to the date of slaughter; the animals must be slaughtered and the meat processed in EU approved establishments situated either in the UK and/or the ROI provided they are also approved (listed) for export to Thailand.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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, or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

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 (DARD).

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 Plant and Health Agency (APHA) 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. Current information indicates that an import permit is required for import of ovine meat into Thailand.

Exporters are therefore advised to contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast for further advice on obtaining an import permit

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) staff provide expert international trade advice and practical support to UK-based companies who want to grow their business overseas. Exporters may access the UKTI website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment>

The following on-line publication 'Exporting to Thailand' may also be of assistance to exporters and provides links to the UKTI team located in the British Embassy in Bangkok:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exporting-to-thailand/exporting-to-thailand>

Details of the Import Permit must be entered onto the certificate where indicated (immediately above Part I - Identification of Consignment).

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(b) refer. OV's may certify paragraph IV(a) for ovine meat or meat products of UK origin (ie those animals born and raised or resident in the UK for at least 4 months) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland.

For animals or fresh ovine meat originating from the ROI, OV's must ensure that they have the required evidence to enable them to certify paragraph IV(a). If this evidence cannot be provided by support certification from the ROI competent veterinary authority, then the disease status can be checked by consulting the following systems:

EU ADNS: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/adns/index_en.htm

The status for the current year can be found by clicking on 'summary' and for the previous years by clicking 'page'.

OIE WAHID:

http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/status_detail. The status for the past 3 years can be found by selecting the country and disease (FMD) from the drop down menus and a period of at least 3 years.

In relation to paragraph IV(b), the EU Animal Health legislation, as transposed into national legislation, requires all susceptible animals on the holding/s to be slaughtered and their carcasses destroyed if any of the diseases mentioned in there are confirmed, as part of the 'stamping out' policy. Therefore, paragraph IV(b) can be certified on this basis.

5. ORIGIN AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Sub-paragraphs IV(c) (i) and (ii) refer. Certifying OV's should use their own knowledge (or obtain this from the FSA OV responsible for the slaughterhouse/s) of the operation and buying patterns of the

exporting establishment(s) to certify these sub-paragraphs. OVs should also request support documents from the owner/exporter/agent of the exporter confirming that the animals from which the exported meat is derived meet the specified origin and/or residency requirements.

6. REGISTRATION OF FARMS OF ORIGIN

Sub-paragraph IV(c) (iii) may be certified on the basis that all farms/holdings on which sheep/goats are kept are required to be registered under Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004, as transposed into national legislation. Thus, all holdings of origin in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the ROI would be registered with the competent authority and have a registration number.

In Great Britain, the nine digit County Parish Holding (CPH) number is issued by the Rural Payments Agency; in Northern Ireland the Herd/Flock Keeper ID is issued by DARDNI and in the ROI the Herd/Flock number is issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

7. COMPLIANCE WITH EU HYGIENE REGULATIONS/FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(d), IV(e), IV(h) and IV(j) 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 and, in the case of microbiological criteria, Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005. These Regulations are transposed into national legislation and the Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

8. APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPORT TO THAILAND

Paragraph IV(e) refers. Other than approval under current EU Hygiene Regulations, there are no additional approval conditions or checklists required for establishments wishing to export to Thailand. However such establishments must first be notified to the Thai authorities and then included on an approved list prior to exports taking place.

Potential exporters should therefore contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast for further advice regarding inclusion on the list of establishments approved to export to Thailand. If meat is obtained from ROI, then evidence that the establishment/s of origin is/are similarly listed by the competent authority in ROI is also required.

9. SCRAPIE DECLARATION

The first part of paragraph IV(f) regarding scrapie may be certified on the basis of compliance with the TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation), which go beyond the OIE recommendations; the latter recommends that lamb / sheep meat can be traded without any scrapie concerns or risks, and even allows 'specified risk material' as defined in the TSE legislation, to be used for human consumption as long as the following can be complied with:

For purposes other than ruminant feeding, Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that:

in the country or zone:

- i) the disease is compulsorily notifiable;
- ii) an awareness, surveillance and monitoring system as referred to in Article 14.8.2. is in place;
- iii) affected sheep and goats are killed and completely destroyed; the materials come from sheep and goats that showed no clinical sign of scrapie on the day of slaughter.

The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency) ensure compliance with the TSE legislation.

10. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

The second part of paragraph IV(f) and all of paragraph IV(g) 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.

11. 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 APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DARD at Dundonald House, Belfast.