

**EXPORT TO ICELAND OF FRESH MEAT PRODUCED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION FROM ANIMALS  
RESIDENT IN EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES**

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

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**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7396EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7396EHC.

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 7396EHC may be used for the export of fresh meat derived from the bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species from the United Kingdom to Iceland.

**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 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 - 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. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Paragraphs IV(a), IV(b) and IV(d) 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.

4. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV(c) 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.

5. **FREEDOM FROM SALMONELLA SPECIES**

Paragraph IV(e) refers; In order to certify paragraph IV(e) for meat of porcine and bovine origin, testing for *Salmonella* species must be carried out according to Annex I of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1688/2005. In effect, Iceland requires additional guarantees that a few MSs like Sweden continue to enjoy.

For meat of ovine and caprine origin, paragraph IV(e) may be certified on the basis of satisfactory results for microbiological monitoring as required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 and in particular absence of *Salmonella* spp.

6. **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

With regards to Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1688/2005, the Icelandic authorities have confirmed that because the official health certificate 7396EHC provides the information required in the commercial document, it will **not** be necessary for exporters to provide the trade document specified in Article 6 in addition to the export health certificate.

7. **ADDITIONAL FREEZING AND STORAGE TIME REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraph IV(f) refers: Exporters and certifying OV's should note the temperature and storage time requirements required in this paragraph.

8. **TRANSPORT AND LOADING CONDITIONS**

Paragraph IV(g) refers: Official Veterinarians should be conversant with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin which inter-alia lays down the requirements for transport of meat and meat products.

9. **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>

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