

EXPORT OF RED MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS OF NON-RUMINANT ORIGIN TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

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 together with export certificate 7983EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7983EHC.

OVs AND EXPORTERS ARE ADVISED THAT CERTIFICATE 7983EHC HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY AGREED WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY.

Exporters are therefore 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. They should obtain an import permit and check this certificate against the requirements of the import permit.

If the health requirements do not match, the exporter may choose to proceed with the export using certificate 7983EHC, however this decision and any consequences thereof are taken strictly at the exporter's own risk.

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7983EHC may be used for the export of fresh/frozen red meat or meat products of non-ruminant origin (i.e. of porcine origin) from the United Kingdom to the Sultanate of Oman.

Exporters and certifying OVs must take particular note of the information on disclaimers at paragraph 9.

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, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

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 DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

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

In the case of meat/meat products confirmed to be solely of UK origin, OV's may certify paragraph IV(a) 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 from the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

Meat originating from other EU Member States - re. FMD, CSF, ASF, SVD, Rinderpest

For foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, African swine fever, swine vesicular disease and rinderpest, OV's should note that European Regulations as specified in Council Directive 2002/99/EC do not permit the importation into EU Member States of fresh meat from countries or regions where these notifiable diseases are present. Accordingly, fresh meat legally imported from other EU Member States will comply with these conditions and can be certified free from these diseases.

In the case of meat products originating from other EU Member States, OV's should note that European Regulations do not permit the importation into EU member states of meat products from countries or regions where these notifiable diseases are present unless the products have been treated according to certain standards.

Accordingly if the meat product has been imported from a country or region where these notifiable diseases are present, the OV must obtain certified evidence of such treatment to enable export from the UK.

Freedom from Aujeszky's disease

In the case of Aujeszky's disease, OV's will require additional evidence regarding country/zone of origin that the meat intended for export originates from an EU Member State or zone free from the disease.

Commission Decision 2008/185, as amended by Commission Implementing Decision 2012/701, lists the EU countries and zones free of Aujeszky's disease as follows: all regions of Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

For France, the departments of Ain, Aisne, Allier, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Alpes-Maritimes, Ardèche, Ardennes, Ariège, Aube, Aude, Aveyron, Bas-Rhin, Bouches-du-Rhône, Calvados, Cantal, Charente, Charente-Maritime, Cher, Corrèze, Côte-d'Or, Côtes-d'Armor, Creuse, Deux-Sèvres, Dordogne, Doubs, Drôme, Essonne, Eure, Eure-et-Loir, Finistère, Gard, Gers, Gironde, Hautes-Alpes, Hauts-de-Seine, Haute-Garonne, Haute-Loire, Haute-Marne, Hautes-Pyrénées, Haut-Rhin, Haute-Saône, Haute-Savoie, Haute-Vienne, Hérault, Indre, Ille-et-Vilaine, Indre-et-Loire, Isère, Jura, Landes, Loire, Loire-Atlantique, Loir-et-Cher, Loiret, Lot, Lot-et-Garonne, Lozère, Maine-et-Loire, Manche, Marne, Mayenne, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Morbihan, Moselle, Nièvre, Nord, Oise, Orne, Paris, Pas-de-Calais, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, Pyrénées-Orientales, Puy-de-Dôme, Réunion, Rhône, Sarthe, Saône-et-Loire, Savoie, Seine-et-Marne, Seine-Maritime, Seine-Saint-Denis, Somme, Tarn, Tarn-et-Garonne, Territoire de Belfort, Val-de-Marne, Val-d'Oise, Var, Vaucluse, Vendée, Vienne, Vosges, Yonne and Yvelines.

Meat verified to be imported from these countries and regions may therefore be considered to meet the conditions for freedom from Aujeszky's disease and may be certified accordingly.

4. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(b), IV(c) 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.

Paragraph IV(c) may be certified on the basis of the microbiological monitoring required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005.

5. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

Paragraph IV(e) may be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme (NSS), which implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC on veterinary residues to which all EU approved meat establishments are subject.

In addition, HACCP requirements described in Regulation (EC) 854/2004 place an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives.

The above Directives are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in Wales and Northern Ireland.

6. TRANSPORT AND LOADING CONDITIONS

Paragraph IV(f) may be certified on the basis of compliance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, which implements specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin including requirements for transport of meat and meat products.

7. PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS

In the case of export of processed meat products, paragraph IV(g) may be certified on the basis of examination of the records of heat treatments to which the processed meat products have been subjected.

Where times and treatments differ significantly from those in paragraph IV(g), OV's are advised to contact the Centre for International Trade in Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA for further guidance regarding the various options for heat treatment sufficient to inactivate the relevant pathogens.

8. MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM NON-EU COUNTRIES

In the case of meat imported from non-EU countries, OV's must carry out appropriate checks to ensure that the products were legally imported into the UK. These may include checks of health marks and Common Veterinary Entry Documents (CVEDs) produced by the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) for meat imported from third countries.

OVs must also note that any imported meat used in the manufacture of meat intended for export to the Sultanate of Oman must comply with all of the health conditions laid down in the certificate. It is likely that carrying out the checks necessary to certify these paragraphs will not be straightforward.

OVs are therefore advised not to certify these paragraphs in the case of imported meat or other raw materials unless they are in full possession of all the relevant details, backed up by written evidence (e.g. support certification), and are confident to do so.

9. **DISCLAIMER**

Whereas 7983EHC takes into account recommendations by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for trade in this commodity, exporters and certifying OVs are advised that the certificate has not been drafted in accordance with any specific import requirements of the importing country and has not been officially agreed with the authorities of the Sultanate of Oman.

Accordingly, use of 7983EHC for export of fresh/frozen meat or meat products to the Sultanate of Oman is at the exporter's risk. OVs must ensure that the exporter is aware of this.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country if these are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or an import permit provided, the exporter must copy these to the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle when applying for the certificate.

If the advice or the permit do not match the assurances provided on 7983EHC, the exporter should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle via the link below or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast for further advice.

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