

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE/EXPORT DECLARATION FOR THE EXPORT OF
PORK/BEEF/MUTTON (MEAT/OFFAL) FROM ELIGIBLE EU MEMBER STATES TO HONG KONG

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and refer to the relevant Hong Kong health certificate/export declaration provided by the Trade Certification and Expert System (TRACES) platform.

These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with the TRACES health certificate/export declaration. A *health certificate* must be applied for if the meat is from animals slaughtered in the UK and an *export declaration* if the animals were slaughtered outside the UK (and the meat moved to the UK for onward shipment to Hong Kong). In either case, the animals must have been born and raised in eligible EU Member States (see below). Importers are required to apply for an import license if an *export declaration* is required. Meat needing a health certificate cannot be mixed with meat needing an export declaration i.e. the meat must be consigned separately, in separate means of transport (e.g. separate reefer containers).

Although the certificate/declaration also refers to 'Meat Products', the Hong Kong authorities (FEHD) have confirmed that there is no need for any official documentation to accompany meat products or indeed meat preparations (as defined under EU legislation) exported to Hong Kong. Exporters of meat products and meat preparations are advised to consult importers to establish what commercial paperwork and/or other certification are required for these. See below section 2: Scope for more details.

Exporters are strongly advised to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. BACKGROUND

Agreement of EU-wide export certification/declaration procedures to Hong Kong has now been concluded between the Hong Kong veterinary authorities and the EU Commission. Export health certificates/export declarations for the commodities listed above are now available to exporters via TRACES. In order to use TRACES, exporters, referred to as 'Economic Operators', must first register an account on the system.

For exporters in Great Britain, full instructions on how to register an account and complete an export certificate on TRACES are available from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Customer Service Centre (CSC) at Carlisle via the following link:

<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 export from Northern Ireland from DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

2. SCOPE OF HEALTH CERTIFICATION/EXPORT DECLARATION TO HONG KONG

The scope of exports to Hong Kong covers exports of fresh meat and offal derived from pigs, cattle and sheep that were born and raised in Member States of the European Union with established import protocols with Hong Kong for the species and commodity in question, so-called **eligible EU Member States**. These are listed by the Hong Kong Centre for Food Safety under:

http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_icfsg_04a.html

The current list of EU Member States (MS) eligible to export to Hong Kong and the species relevant to this certificate for which they are authorised is at **Annex A** to these notes.

Exporters and OVs should note that for the purposes of this certificate / declaration the term 'mutton' means meat derived from the ovine species of all ages.

The TRACES certificate/declaration should **not** be used for:

- Meat preparations: food products containing raw meat, but other ingredients have been added e.g. cereal rusk, spices, herbs etc.
- Meat products: food products which contain meat, but the meat has been processed or treated in some way so that it is no longer raw meat, and the cut surface shows that the product no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.

If a certificate is required for products or preparations, certificate 5604EHC may be used (or can be adapted) if necessary.

3. TRACES HEALTH CERTIFICATES/EXPORT DECLARATIONS TO HONG KONG

Two types of export documentation to Hong Kong are available on TRACES, as follows:

- **HK Health Certificate**
- **HK Export Declaration**

HK Health Certificate

The HK Health Certificate can only be issued where the exporting MS is also the place of slaughter of the animals from which the exported meat is derived.

Therefore, in the case of HK Health Certificates issued from the UK, the animals must have been slaughtered in the UK, although they may have originated from another eligible EU MS prior to slaughter in the UK (please see table below).

HK Export Declaration

The HK Export Declaration is issued where the place of slaughter of the animals from which the exported meat is derived is a different MS from where the export is taking place.

Additionally, where the HK Export Declaration is issued, the importer in Hong Kong must additionally obtain **permission in writing (Import License)** from the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and

Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Area.

Table of Correct Export Documentation to Hong Kong

	Eligible EU Member States	Eligible EU Member States	Eligible EU Member States	Eligible EU Member States
Animal born and/or raised	A	A	A	A
Animal slaughtered	A	B	B	A
Meat packed, processed, stored and shipped	A	B	C (or A)	C (or B)
Documentation required for Hong Kong Import	HK Health Certificate from A	HK Health Certificate from B	HK Export Declaration from C (or A) plus Permission in writing from CFS (Import License)	HK Export Declaration from C (or B) plus Permission in writing from CFS (Import License)

OVs and exporters should contact the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Customer Service Centre (CSC) in Carlisle or DAERA if they have further queries regarding the scope of the new export documentation.

HK Export Declaration - Application for Import License by the Importer

Importers in Hong Kong wishing to import meat under the conditions laid down by the HK Export Declaration must first apply to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Further details regarding the application process may be found on the CFS website using the following link:

http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/Guide_to_Import_of_Beef_Pork_and_Mutton_from_European_Union_Member_States_into_Hong_Kong.html

OVs and exporters in the UK may wish to have sight of the permission letter/import license issued by FEHD to the importer to confirm that the export health certificates / declarations being used are appropriate for the product being exported.

4. COMPLETION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate/declaration 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 and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

In Northern Ireland, this certificate/declaration 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/declaration with the OV stamp in ink of any colour other than black.

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

For export from Great Britain, a certified copy of the completed certificate/declaration must be sent to the APHA CSC at Carlisle **within one day of signing**. This is in order to have the document validated on the TRACES system. Please see paragraph 8 of these notes for further information regarding completion of the certificate/declaration and submitting it for validation by the APHA SCS in Carlisle.

Exporters in Northern Ireland are advised that a different system for the validation of TRACES certificates/declarations is operated by DAERA. They should contact DAERA in Belfast for further details.

5. FORMAT OF THE CERTIFICATE / DECLARATION

The layout and numbering of the certificate and declaration is similar and follow the usual template of Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificates (ITAHCs) produced by TRACES.

This guidance applies to both the HK Health Certificate and the HK Export Declaration.

6. COMPLETION OF PART I - DETAILS OF DISPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

I.3 - Central Competent Authority

Auto-populated by TRACES.

I.4 - Local Competent Authority

Auto-populated by TRACES.

I.6 - No of related original certificates

Intentionally blank

I.7 and 1.9 - Country of origin/destination and ISO Codes

The country of origin is the United Kingdom as the MS from where export is taking place.

ISO 3166 is the International Standard for country codes and codes for their subdivisions. The ISO Code for the whole of the United Kingdom is 'GB' and for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is 'HK'. These codes will be auto-populated by TRACES.

I.8 - Region of Origin

This paragraph is usually to be left blank.

However, if the UK and the product fall within the scope of emergency disease control legislation laid down by the importing authorities then this paragraph should be completed with the appropriate region names and ISO codes, if these are specified under such emergency legislation. In these cases, the APHA Customer Service Centre in Carlisle or DAERA in Northern Ireland should be consulted for further specific guidance.

I.10 - Region of Destination

Intentionally blank.

I.11 - Place of Origin

Enter the name and address of the dispatch establishment in the exporting country (i.e. the United Kingdom) in this box.

I.13 - Place of loading

Intentionally blank.

I.14 - Date and time of departure

Enter the date and the approximate/anticipated time of departure.

I.15 - Means of transport

The means of transport i.e. aircraft or ship must be indicated. The option 'Other' is not applicable to the movement of products and should **not** be selected. The flight number or name of the vessel is entered as the means of identification.

I.16 - Entry point

The point of entry into Hong Kong must be entered.

I.17 - CITES

Intentionally blank.

I.18 - Temperature of product

Indicate whether the transport/storage temperature is ambient, chilled or frozen.

I.19 - Format of net/gross weight

TRACES uses the EU convention of numbering, with a full stop "." As the thousand separator and a comma "," to indicate a decimal point. Weights must be entered in kilograms in the format, e.g. **1.500,5** meaning one thousand five hundred point five kilograms. If this number were to be entered in the UK convention as 1,500.5 it would display as one point five kilograms.

I.21 - Seal/container no.

The seal or container number of consignment are entered here (if appropriate).

I.22 - Commodities certified for

This certificate is specifically for human consumption, so this option should be checked. If the product is not for human consumption an alternative model certificate should be used.

I.23 - Transit through 3rd Country

Intentionally blank.

I.25 - Identification of the Commodities - (HS) Code

Part I of the Notes section of the certificate refers to the Harmonised System (HS) Codes for the various commodities eligible for export to Hong Kong.

The HS is a commodity classification system in which articles are grouped into various categories. It is used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

A description of products to which the HS Codes referred to in Part I of the Notes section of the certificate is as follows:

HS Code	Description
02.01	Meat of bovine animals; fresh or chilled
02.02	Meat of bovine animals; frozen
02.03	Meat of swine; fresh, chilled or frozen
02.04	Meat of sheep; fresh, chilled or frozen
02.06	Edible offal of bovine animals, swine, sheep; fresh, chilled or frozen
02.09	Pig fat, free of lean meat, not rendered or otherwise extracted, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
05.04	Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals (other than fish), whole and pieces thereof, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine, dried or smoked
15.01	Pig fat (including lard), other than that of heading 02.09
15.02	Fats of bovine animals, sheep or goats (other than lard stearin, lard oil, oleostearin, oleo-oil and tallow oil, not emulsified or mixed or otherwise prepared)

Further advice on use of HS Codes can be found from the website www.hscode.org or by contacting the APHA CSC at Carlisle.

Product description: Indicate the nature of cuts.

Date of freezing: Indicate month(s) and year(s) when frozen.

Slaughterhouse, cold store, packing plant and cutting plant:
Indicate the establishment approval number.

7. **COMPLETION OF PART II - CERTIFICATION / DECLARATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION**

Exporters (Economic Operators) and OVs should note that there are seven places on the TRACES validation screen as indicated by the [] for the input of manual options. **There are no deletable options in the attestation.**

Therefore, for exports of pork, lamb and their products, the three manual options for beef in paragraph II(6) must be left in their entirety and not deleted.

Origin Of animals from which the exported meat is derived

Paragraph II(1) refers. Meat intended for export to Hong Kong must be derived from animals born and reared in, or from raw materials imported from, eligible Member States (see Annex A of these notes).

OVs must obtain details of the MSs in which the animals were born, reared and slaughtered and enter these details. Health or other identification marks and commercial documentation for meat originating from other Member States of the European Union should provide some of this information, as well as TRACES documentation accompanying imports of live animals.

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.

Compliance with EU Hygiene Regulations/fitness for human consumption

Paragraphs II(2), II(3) and II(4) 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 enforced by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland. The FSA/FSS Manual for Official Controls provides further detail.

Residues and other Unauthorised Substances

Paragraph V(3) may also be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues, to which all EU approved meat establishments are subjected. In the UK, the national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC. The HACCP requirements in Regulation (EC) 854/2004 also places 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 the devolved administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland.

Sourcing of food animals and meat for export to Hong Kong

Paragraph II(5) refers. Please see paragraph 2 and Annex A to these notes for the meaning of eligible EU Member States.

Additional Health Attestations for beef

BSE Risk Status - leave these blank for export of pork and mutton

Paragraphs II(6) refers. The United Kingdom now comprises two separate zones in respect of BSE status in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code. England and Wales remain controlled BSE risk whereas Scotland and Northern Ireland are now recognised as having negligible BSE risk. However, unless it is intended to export intestines or tongues with tonsils (neither of which are considered SRM in negligible BSE risk MSs/zones), it is acceptable (and advisable) to mention UK as the country in which the animals have been born and raised, a country with a controlled risk, for all bovine meat obtained from animals slaughtered in the UK.

For meat derived from animals born and raised in other EU Member States eligible to export meat of bovine origin to Hong Kong, the OV must carry out appropriate checks to establish the BSE risk status of the source country. The link to the OIE website to obtain this information is as follows:

<http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/bse/list-of-bse-risk-status/>

Meat from animals born and raised in Ireland (a controlled risk country) and in Northern Ireland (a negligible risk zone of the UK) but slaughtered in Northern Ireland (a negligible risk zone of the

UK) could be certified together as having been from animals born in Ireland and the UK and raised in Ireland and the UK, countries with a controlled risk status.

Trade in Beef products

Paragraph II(7) may be certified on the basis of compliance with TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation).

For UK animals, the UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation.

For products originating from other eligible EU Member States, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of the EU oval mark.

The EU currently requires EU Member States / zones with negligible BSE risk to dispose of skull (including brain/eyes but excluding the mandible) and spinal cord from over 12 months old cattle as specified risk material.

8. GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING THE TRACES EXPORT DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURE

The following guidance applies only to export from Great Britain. Different arrangements are in place for Northern Ireland for the validation of TRACES certificates.

1. The exporter (Economic Operator) completes the application on TRACES, choosing which of the health certificate or export declaration is required. The certificate/declaration number is generated when application is saved;
2. The Economic Operator provides APHA Carlisle with the health certificate or export declaration number and states whether a health certificate or export declaration will be required for the export.
3. The Economic Operator provides APHA Carlisle with details of certifying OV and proposed date of inspection and completion of the health certificate/export declaration so that exports can be prioritised;
4. On the following working day, APHA Carlisle e-mails the health certificate/export declaration to the certifying OV;
5. The OV prints the health certificate/export declaration onto plain paper (ideally duplexed onto one sheet of paper);
N.B. The hard copy of Part I of the certificate /declaration will be overprinted diagonally with the words 'IN PROGRESS'. This is a normal consequence of printing a TRACES document that has not yet been electronically validated and has no effect on the validity of the paper copy.
6. The OV amends health certificate/export declaration in manuscript with the final details of the consignment (weights, no. of packages, container number etc.). Exporters should ensure that the information provided upon application is as correct and complete as possible to minimise amendments required;
7. The OV signs, stamps and dates the amended health certificate/export declaration, takes certified copies as necessary and gives the final amended and signed original document to the exporter;

8. The OV sends a certified copy of the completed health certificate/export declaration to APHA Carlisle on same day as date of signature;
9. APHA Carlisle updates TRACES and electronically validates the health certificate/export declaration, ensuring the electronic version matches the amended hard copy of the original. Validation is done within 24 hours of OV signature.

9. **DISCLAIMER**

This health certificate/export declaration 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/declaration against any relevant import license or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.

If these do not match, the exporter should contact the APHA CSC 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, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

LIST OF EU MEMBER STATES ELIGIBLE TO EXPORT TO HONG KONG AND SPECIES FOR WHICH THEY ARE APPROVED FOR EXPORT USING THE HARMONISED TRACES CERTIFICATES

MEMBER STATE	SPECIES
Austria	All Species
Belgium	All Species
Denmark	All Species
Finland	Bovine and Porcine species only
France	All Species
Germany	All Species
Greece	Porcine species only
Hungary	Bovine and Porcine species only
Republic of Ireland	All Species
Italy	Bovine and Porcine species only
Spain	All Species
Netherlands	All Species
Portugal	Porcine only
Poland	All Species
Sweden	Bovine and Porcine species only
United Kingdom	All Species