

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8055EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8055EHC.

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 CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 8055EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to the Philippines of chilled/frozen beef derived from cattle of any age which were born and raised in the United Kingdom only.

Exporters should note that the Philippines import conditions specify that the exported beef must be 'as part of carcase'. Accordingly, bovine offal is excluded from the scope of the certificate, as are processed fats or oils.

Export of Beef Fat

The Philippine authorities have now agreed that export of beef fat from the UK is permitted provided that the exported beef fat is sourced solely from prime cuts.

Whereas fat sourced from prime cut carcase trim is now considered as eligible for export to the Philippines, exporters and OVs must note that fat taken from around the kidneys is classified as offal and therefore not eligible for export.

The box label must specify that the material is fat trimmings sourced from prime cuts and this information must also be entered in Section I(a) of certificate 8055EHC.

Please refer to Paragraph 6 of these notes for further details on labelling requirements for export to the Philippines.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Prior to making arrangements to export beef to the Philippines exporters should contact the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines for up to date information on requirements for import permits, SPS import clearance and other documentation.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

In Great Britain, this certificate may be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an 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 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 ink of any colour other than black.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the relevant office, please refer to Paragraph 7 of these notes for further details.

The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate for his/her own records.

**4. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED**

The certifying OV must carry out the necessary checks to verify paragraph IV(a). This may be on the basis of their knowledge of the operational conditions at the slaughterhouse as regards the farms of origin of the animals from which the exported meat is derived and the checking and verification of documentation accompanying the cattle to the slaughterhouse.

The OV may also wish to obtain written declarations from the food business operator as additional support documents confirming that the cattle from which the meat intended for export is derived were born and raised solely in the United Kingdom.

**5. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND HEALTH MARKING**

The UK has been inspected/audited by the Philippines Department of Agriculture Inspection Mission and found to comply with Philippine quarantine and meat inspection standards.

Accordingly, paragraphs IV(b) - IV(e) of the certificate may be signed by the certifying OV on the basis that the meat intended for export to the Philippines bears the EU oval mark on the packaging.

**6. LABELLING OF MEAT FOR EXPORT TO THE PHILIPPINES**

The requirements for the labelling of meat for export to the Philippines are many and detailed. The following information is taken from the official Philippines Department of Agriculture Administrative Circular confirming that the UK meets the requirements for export of beef to the Philippines and laying down import conditions:

The meat for export shall bear the official inspection mark on the primary, secondary, and/or shipper packaging showing proof that the meat has been certified inspected and passed by the Competent Authority in compliance to the national food regulation of the exporting country. The meat shall be packed in plastic packs and cartons printed with the date of slaughter, batch number and other information as prescribed below:

### The Label

- shall be in the form of stamp or stick-on the immediate container (if it is plastic lined) and also on the outer portion of the box;
- shall be rectangular in shape with the dimension of 3 inches width by 5 inches length (3"x 5");
- shall be printed in **BOLD** letters and with a font size of **#18**;
- shall not be easily defaceable by any solution;
- shall be written in English or Filipino.

### The Packaging

The packaging shall meet the minimum labelling requirements - as follows:

- Cartons or the outermost shipper's package shall be stamped with '**FOR EXPORT TO THE PHILIPPINES**' and the following information:
- Registered trade name of the exporter or brand name of the product;
- Business name and address of exporter;
- Meat establishment/slaughtering facility name, number and address;
- Country of origin;
- Lot identification;
- Product description and list of ingredients;
- Net quantity of contents, in terms of weight, measure or numerical count rounded to the nearest tenths (expressed in metric system);
- Date of manufacture and date of packaging;
- Date of minimum durability ('best before') or expiration date;
- Handling and storage instructions.

## **7. PRE-NOTIFICATION OF EXPORT**

The authorities in the Philippines have requested that electronic copies of the original certificates accompanying consignments to the Philippines must be sent on or prior to dispatch of consignments from ports of the United Kingdom.

The UK Competent Authority shall send electronic copies of the approved export health or veterinary certificates of wholesomeness addressed to the Philippine Competent Veterinary Officer of the Bureau of Animal Industry at the following address:

[baiquarantineph@gmail.com](mailto:baiquarantineph@gmail.com)

In GB, OV's should forward a certified copy of the original completed certificate to [plt@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plt@apha.gsi.gov.uk) (CSC Carlisle) **within 24 hours of signature** of the certificate and in any case, before departure of the consignment from the UK. CSC Carlisle would make the notification as necessary.

In NI, OV's employed by DAERA should send the notification directly to the Philippines at the point of certification.

## **8. AGE OF PRODUCT ON ARRIVAL**

The meat to be exported shall arrive in the Philippine port not later than six months from the production date as shown in the label, Bill of Lading/Airway Bill and International Veterinary Certificate.

9. **CONSOLIDATION OF EXPORTED CONSIGNMENTS**

On the basis that the UK has undergone a satisfactory National system approval as opposed to individual establishment approval, it is acceptable for consignments exported to the Philippines to be made up of product originating from more than one approved UK establishment and therefore bearing different health marks.

On arrival of the shipment, the foreign meat establishment (FME) approval numbers in the SPS Import Clearance must be the same FME numbers as appear in 8055EHC.

Exporters are urged to advise the APHA CSC immediately via the following link (or contact DAERA in N. Ireland) if it appears that this guidance appears to be contrary to information received during the application process to the BAI for import clearance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

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 APHA CSC at Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

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