

No:.....

**EXPORT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO OF MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS OF BOVINE ORIGIN PRODUCED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION FROM ANIMALS RESIDENT IN EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES**

**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 7173EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7173EHC.

**CERTIFICATE 7173EHC 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 7173EHC BUT STRICTLY AT EXPORTERS RISK.**

**1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 7173EHC may be used for the export of fresh/frozen meat or meat products of bovine origin from the United Kingdom to The Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must take particular note of the information on disclaimers at paragraph 10.**

**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 Assembly Government Department for Rural Affairs or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, 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 Animal Health 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. 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.

4. **TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSE's)**

Paragraphs IV (a), (c) and (d) refer: Paragraphs IV (a), (c) and (d) may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of the TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001, as transposed into national legislation), and that the UK competent authorities (Defra, the Devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency) ensure compliance with the legislation.

5. **FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Paragraphs IV (b), (e) and (f) refer: Paragraphs IV (b), (e) and (f) 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 (e) may be certified on the basis of the microbiological monitoring required by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005.

6. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV (g) refers: Paragraph IV (g) 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.

7. **TRANSPORT AND LOADING CONDITIONS**

Paragraph IV (h) refers: Official Veterinarians must be conversant with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 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.

8. **OMISSION OF PARAGRAPH "i"**

The omission of paragraph IV (i) is deliberate, to avoid confusion between "i" in use as a Roman numeral and "i" in purely alphabetical employment.

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

Paragraphs IV (j) and IV (k) i. refer: OVs may certify either paragraph IV (j) or paragraph IV (k) i. for bovine meat or meat products of UK origin on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle (or issuing office of DARD in Northern Ireland). Official Veterinarians should note that European Regulations do not permit the importation into EU member states of meat or meat products from countries or regions where these notifiable diseases are present. Accordingly meat or meat products legally imported from third countries or other EU member states will comply with these conditions and can be certified accordingly.

10. **DISCLAIMER**

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must be aware that this export health certificate, 7173EHC, takes into account the important recommendations by the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) for trade in this commodity. Exporters and certifying official veterinarians must be aware that 7173EHC has not been officially agreed with The Democratic Republic of the Congo. Accordingly the exporter and the Official Veterinarian must note that use of 7173EHC for export of fresh/frozen meat or meat products of bovine origin from the United Kingdom to The Democratic Republic of the Congo is used at the exporter's risk. Official veterinarians should ensure that the exporter is aware of this.

The exporter should therefore be aware that 7173EHC does not take the requirements of the importing country into account. 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 are available. If official advice is provided by authorities in the importing country or if an import permit is provided, the exporter must copy these to the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle. If the advice or the permit do not match the assurances provided on 7173EHC, the exporter should contact the Animal Health Specialist Service Centre - Exports - at Carlisle via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>

SPECIMEN