

EXPORT OF MEAT/ MEAT PRODUCTS OF BOVINE ORIGIN PRODUCED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION FROM ANIMALS RESIDENT IN EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES TO GHANA

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 7057EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7057EHC.

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.

1. **SCOPE**

7057EHC can only be used for the export of fresh/ frozen meat or meat products of bovine origin produced in the European Union from animals resident in European Union Member States to Ghana

2. **IMPORT PERMIT**

Exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of Ghana prior to export for the latest information on requirements for any import documentation.

3. **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 the 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 Central Operations for Export 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.

4. **TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSEs)**

Paragraph IV a) 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 the UK competent authorities (Defra and the Devolved Administrations and the Food Standards Agency) ensure compliance with the legislation.

5. **SRM AND MSM**

Paragraphs IV b) and d) refer. In the case of fresh meat originating from the EU, absence of specified risk materials may be certified on the basis of compliance of the premises with the controls laid down in Regulation (EC) 999/2001 and the presence of an EU health or identification mark. In addition, the use of ruminant material for the production of mechanically separated meat is prohibited under Annex 6 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001.

6. **STUNNING METHODS**
Paragraph IV c) refers. Official Veterinarians may certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of the stunning methods used in the slaughterhouse. In the case of meat derived from cattle slaughtered elsewhere in the EU, this paragraph may be certified on the basis that the stunning of cattle by injection of compressed air and the procedure of pithing cattle is prohibited under Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001.
7. **FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**
Paragraphs IV 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.
8. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**
Paragraph g) may be certified on the basis of the microbiological monitoring required by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 and on basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues, which cover all EU approved meat establishments. The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directives 96/22/EC, 96/23/EC and Regulation (EC) 854/2004, which are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examinations for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997.
9. **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. The specific reference to transport conditions for red meat is Annex III, Section 1, Chapter VII.
10. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**
Paragraph IV j) (in the case of fresh meat) or IV k) i. (in the case of meat products) refers: OVs may certify either paragraph IV j) or IV k) i. on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the local Animal Health Divisional Office (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).
- Disclaimer**
11. 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, International Trade, Carlisle, via the link below:
<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contactus/tradeexports.html>