

EXPORT OF MEAT/MEAT PREPARATIONS/MEAT PRODUCTS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS OF NON-BOVINE ORIGIN TO SINGAPORE - 482EHC.

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 482EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 482EHC.

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 OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate 482EHC may be used for the export of frozen/chilled or processed mutton or frozen/ processed frozen pork and their products from the United Kingdom to Singapore.

482EHC may also be used for the export of **chilled pork and pork preparation** (e.g. bacon, sausages) from the United Kingdom to Singapore. However, Singapore requires additional assurances for chilled pork meat which are not fully covered by the current Export Health Certificate (EHC), as follows:

- Chilled pork has been derived from gilts and castrates; and the products do not contain any harmful residues.
- Chilled pork has not been treated with chemical decontamination.
- Chilled pork has been produced under strict hygienic condition, vacuum packed and have a shelf life of over 6 weeks.

It is therefore the responsibility of the exporter/agent to obtain a valid import permit from the Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) and guarantee that chilled pork and pork preparations will be accepted under the current EHC.

The most up to date import health requirements and the list of the countries that are approved to export meat to Singapore, may be found on the links below:

<http://www.ava.gov.sg/explore-by-sections/food/bri>

and

<https://www.ava.gov.sg/docs/default-source/tools-and-resources/resources-for-businesses/approved-countries.pdf>

Note also paragraph 14 of these notes for guidance regarding pig meat produced from pigs born and reared in the Republic of Ireland.

2. **CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA).

OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office (in GB - the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle) within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland, to DARD, Dundonald House, Belfast.

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

3. **OBTAINING IMPORT PERMIT**

It is the responsibility of the exporter/agent to obtain a valid import permit from the Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) in Singapore. The import permit should be compared with the certificate 482EHC and, if there are any discrepancies, exporters are advised to contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast. The permit may be cancelled at any time depending on the current disease status of the United Kingdom.

4. **APPROVAL OF PREMISES BY AVA**

Paragraph IV. h) refers: The Director General of the Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Services (AVA) recognizes the approval of the premises by the competent authority in the United Kingdom, operating through the Food Standard Agency (FSA). Any premises that is authorized to place the oval EU mark on its products or store EU oval marked products is, therefore, recognised as approved.

Defra is required to provide AVA with a list of such premises approved for export to Singapore. This is done by reference to the UK Food Standards Agency website.

5. **EC OVAL HEALTH MARK**

The Singapore authorities require that consignments of meat/meat preparations/ meat products intended for export to Singapore must be produced in EU approved plants and bear the EC oval mark.

6. **DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT**

Paragraph I. refers: As required by the Singapore authorities, a full description of the packaging must be given and must fully describe the consignments such that substitution with product which has not been inspected is not possible. Provided that the consignment is identified by batch codes, serial numbers or shipping marks, for example, then it is not necessary for the OV to be present at the time of loading.

7. **DATE OF SLAUGHTER OF ANIMAL**

Paragraphs 2(d) and IV (a) refer: These paragraphs can be certified on the basis of evidence contained in commercial documents, internal movement certificates, or statements from OVVs at slaughterhouses and/or cutting plants.

8. **PARAGRAPHS IV. b), c) and d)**

Paragraph IV. b), c) and d) can be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with EU Regulations (EC) 853/2004 and 854/2004.

9. **DISEASE CLEARANCE - 618NDC**

Paragraphs IV. e) and IV. f) refer: OVVs may certify paragraphs IV. e) and IV. f) 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 issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland).

Please note that in paragraph IV. f), freedom from trichinellosis in domestic pigs on UK holdings is based on negative results from all tests performed nationally since 1979.

If the consignment of products for export includes products that contain or may contain meat from pigs from the Republic of Ireland, the Official Veterinarian should take the following steps to confirm that similar certification can be provided for those pigs:

In the case of conjoined premises, the certifying Official Veterinarian should make the necessary checks on the OIE World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) website:

[http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home]

to check that the ROI is free from Rinderpest and foot and mouth disease and for the previous 6 (six) months for classical and African swine fever and swine vesicular disease and trichinellosis in swine. The OIE website provides both historical information and reports of recent outbreaks. If in doubt the OV should contact APHA Carlisle or DAERA. If APHA or DAERA are aware of confirmed outbreaks of these diseases in ROI, OVs will be informed.

Where the production facility is remote from the slaughterhouse where the pigs from which the meat product was derived were slaughtered, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a declaration from the Official Veterinarian at the slaughterhouse(s) that the pig meat meets the requirements for export to Singapore. The Official Veterinarian at the slaughterhouse(s) involved will need to make the necessary checks regarding disease freedom as described above.

10. **EXPORT OF SAUSAGE CASINGS MANUFACTURED USING COLLAGEN OF BOVINE HIDES**

Paragraph IV. g) ii) refers: This paragraph can be signed if the casings are made from beef collagen because, under UK and EU law, beef collagen can only be derived from bovine hides and skins or tendons and is permitted for export.

11. **NO PARAGRAPH IV. i)**

Note that paragraph notation in the certificate reads IV. h) to IV. j), with paragraph IV. i) omitted.

This is intentional as roman numeral 'i' is often used to number indented paragraphs.

Use of both the letter and the roman numeral 'i' could potentially lead to confusion where advice is related to specific paragraphs given in these Notes for Guidance.

12. **PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL PRESERVATIVES OR FOREIGN SUBSTANCES INJURIOUS TO HEALTH**

Paragraph IV(j) refers: In the case of conjoined premises, OVs may certify the lack of use of chemical preservatives based on familiarity with procurement arrangements, production procedures and the examination of producer / slaughterhouse records. Freedom from foreign substances injurious to health can be certified on the basis that under Regulation (EC) 178/2002, which set out the general principles and requirements of food law in the EU, it is illegal to export food stuffs which are injurious to human health to another ('Third') country without the express permission of the importing country. In this instance, such permission has not been provided.

In the case where the production facility is remote from the slaughterhouse where the pigs from which the meat product was derived were slaughtered, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of a declaration from the Official Veterinarian at the slaughterhouse(s) that the pig meat meets the requirements for export to Singapore. The Official Veterinarian at the slaughterhouse(s) involved will need to make the necessary checks regarding preservatives as described above.

13. **PROHIBITION ON SWILL FEEDING**

Paragraph IV(k) may be signed on the basis that the feeding of swill to domestic pigs is prohibited by Article 9 of The Animal By-Products Regulations 2003 and by equivalent legislation in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Paragraph IV(k) may also be signed for meat products made from pigs produced in ROI on the basis that the covering EU By-Products Regulation (Regulation (EC) 1069/2009) which prohibits the feeding of swill to domestic pigs is directly applicable in all EU member states.

14. **ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED PORK IS DERIVED**

Paragraph IV(l) refers. Pigs slaughtered in establishments in the United Kingdom of Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland must have been born and raised in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of Ireland.

Official Veterinarians should note that the derogation for animals from the ROI only applies to pigs and pig meat and **NOT** to sheep.

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) have agreed the derogation that pigs killed in the United Kingdom may be born and raised either in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland (ROI) due to the pattern of trade in pigs between ROI and Northern Ireland and takes into account that the ROI is approved for the export of pork cuts directly to Singapore in accordance with the same import requirements as the UK.

Exported pork must be derived from pigs that meet the origin requirements as described in paragraph 1 above.

Support documentation is required to enable this paragraph to be signed, i.e. that the meat was from pigs that were born/raised in the United Kingdom and/or the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

The certifying OV must carry out the necessary checks to verify this statement. 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 pigs to the slaughterhouse.

For pigs originating from farms located in the ROI, OVs must be completely satisfied that the pigs were born and raised in the ROI and have been legally traded into the UK.

OVs are advised to obtain written confirmation from the farms of origin verifying that the requirement of this paragraph has been met. OVs should also check that the pigs traded from the ROI are accompanied by the appropriate Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificates (ITAHCs) issued by TRACES.

Further advice may be obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle via the following link:

<http://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, Dundonald House, Belfast:

e-mail - tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk . Phone - 0289 0520989

15. **LABELLING OF PACKAGING AND CARTONS**

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore requires that every basic packaging unit and every carton of meat and meat product imported into Singapore must be labelled with the following particulars to conform to their regulations:

- i. Description of meat product;
- ii. Country of origin of meat product;
- iii. Brand name of meat product (if any);
- iv. In the case of processed meat, name or designation number of the processing establishment in which and the date the meat was processed (if applicable);
- v. In the case of frozen/chilled meat products, the name or designation number of the slaughter-house in which the animals used in production of such meat were slaughtered and the date of slaughter;
- vi. The name or designation number of the establishment in which, and the date on which the meat was packed;
- vii. The batch number, where the meat was canned (location) and the canning code; and
- viii. The net weight of the meat product as contained in each basic packaging unit and the outer carton thereof.

16. **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 Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, via the link below:

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

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:

e-mail - tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk . Phone - 0289 0520989