

EXPORT OF MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS OF BOVINE ORIGIN TO THAILAND - 7092EHC

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 7092EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7092EHC.

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 7092EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom (UK) to Thailand of boneless fresh/frozen meat or meat products of bovine origin derived from animals born and raised in the UK and/or the Republic of Ireland (ROI), or which were resident in the UK and/or ROI for not less than four months prior to the date of slaughter.

NB: Thailand does not accept bone-in beef from countries that have BSE Controlled Risk Status. Therefore, this certificate can only be used for the export of boneless beef from the UK to Thailand.

Important Change in Scope of Beef Exports

Exporters and OVs should note that a consignment of beef comprising meat derived from the heads of bovine animals has recently been refused entry into Thailand. This sudden change in import conditions has not been officially notified to the Department, which is investigating the matter.

In the meantime, exporters are advised not to dispatch any meat or offal derived from the heads of bovine animals to Thailand, owing to the likelihood of such consignments being regarded as unfit for importation and rejected.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

In Great Britain, this certificate 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, or who holds 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 any ink colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade at Carlisle within seven days of signing, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, 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. Current information indicates that an import permit is required for import of bovine meat into Thailand.

Exporters are therefore advised to contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle, or in the case of Northern Ireland to DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast for further advice on obtaining an import permit

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) staff provide expert international trade advice and practical support to UK-based companies who want to grow their business overseas. Exporters may access the UKTI website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment>

The following on-line publication 'Exporting to Thailand' may also be of assistance to exporters and provides links to the UKTI team located in the British Embassy in Bangkok:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exporting-to-thailand/exporting-to-thailand>

Details of the Import Permit must be entered onto the certificate where indicated (immediately above Part I - Identification of Consignment).

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(b) refer. OVs may certify these paragraphs 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 APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

For fresh bovine meat originating from the ROI, OVs must ensure that they have carried out sufficient research into the current disease situation in the ROI, for example via the websites of the OIE and the ROI competent veterinary authority, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, to enable them to certify these paragraphs.

5. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) DECLARATIONS

All the statements in paragraph IV(c) regarding BSE 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.

OVs should note that, together with the UK, the ROI is currently listed as a Member Country recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

6. ORIGIN AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Sub-paragraphs IV(d) (i) and (ii) refer. Certifying OVs should use their own knowledge of the operation and buying patterns of the exporting establishment(s) to certify these sub-paragraphs. OVs should also request support documents from the owner/exporter/agent of the exporter confirming that the animals from which the exported meat is derived meet the specified origin and/or residency requirements.

7. REGISTRATION OF FARMS OF ORIGIN

Sub-paragraph IV(d) (iii) may be certified on the condition that all farms of origin in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the ROI have been registered with the competent authority and have a registration number.

In Great Britain, the nine digit County Parish Holding (CPH) number is issued by the Rural Payments Agency; in Northern Ireland the Herd/Flock Keeper ID is issued by DAERA and in the ROI the Herd/Flock number is issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

OVs must ensure that all farms of origin are properly registered with the appropriate competent authority and may wish to obtain written evidence of farm registration prior to certifying this paragraph.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH EU HYGIENE REGULATIONS/FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(e), IV(f), IV(j) and IV(k) 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 the Food Standards Agency Manual for Official Controls.

9. APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENTS TO EXPORT TO THAILAND

Paragraph IV(f) refers. Other than approval under current EU Hygiene Regulations, there are no additional approval conditions or checklists required for establishments wishing to export to Thailand. However such establishments must first be notified to the Thai authorities and then included on an approved list prior to exports taking place.

Potential exporters should therefore contact the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA, Dundonald House, Belfast for further advice regarding inclusion on the list of establishments approved to export to Thailand.

10. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraphs IV(g) and IV(h) may be certified on the basis of the results of the national surveillance scheme for residues to which EU approved meat establishments are subjected.

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 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

11. **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:

<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.