

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF MEAT (SHEEP AND GOAT) AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO THE KSA - 8039EHC

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 8039EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8039EHC.

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

Following negotiations with Saudi Arabia, the related ban on the export of ovine and caprine meat being lifted and agreement of conditions for their export to Saudi Arabia. The meat/products must originate from establishments that Defra has recorded to the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) for approval, compliance with UK hygiene legislation. This list of establishments can be found on the SFDA website at the link below:

https://www.sfda.gov.sa/en/food/about/administration/mangement_food/Documents/United-Kingdom-Meat-Ovine.pdf

The agreed conditions are reflected in export certificate 8039EHC, which has been issued for use solely for exports of meat and meat products derived from the ovine and caprine species to Saudi Arabia.

2. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS: HALAL CERTIFICATE/HALAL SLAUGHTERING CERTIFICATE

Certificate 8039EHC must be accompanied by a certificate issued by an accredited (GCC) Islamic agency (society) of the country of origin, attesting that the animals has been slaughtered in accordance with the rules of Islamic Sharia.

Verification of the Halal certificate/Halal slaughtering certificate must be undertaken for all relevant consignments of food. In the case of meat and meat products, the Muslim agency (Societies and Islamic councils) in the exporting country that approved by the GCC will supervise the slaughter process and provide documentation according to GCC requirements.

For further advice on Halal certification, exporters should contact UKECP via the link below:

<http://www.ukecp.com/contact-ukecp>

3. 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, 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.

In GB, 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.

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

4. 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.

5. SCHEDULES

Section I.16 refers. A separate schedule may be used to identify the commodities certified. The schedule must contain the same information in the same order as in this section and the section must be annotated 'See attached schedule'. Each page of the schedule must bear a page number and the health certificate reference number and must be signed, dated and stamped by the OV.

The schedule must be stapled to the health certificate and the OV should "fan" and stamp over the pages of the schedule and certificate. The top stapled corner of the schedule and certificate should be folded over and stamped also. Any blank spaces in the schedule or certificate must be deleted with diagonal lines.

6. COMPLIANCE WITH UK HYGIENE REGULATIONS/FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of Section 1.17 may be certified on the basis of evidence that all establishments in the supply chain for the meat and/or meat product intended for export - slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store - are/were operating in accordance with UK food hygiene legislation. As a minimum, they must be officially approved by the UK competent authorities and listed for export to Saudi Arabia (see paragraph 1 above).

The meat/product must bear the oval mark confirming compliance with the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 together with Regulations (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004 and 854/2004 and 2073/2005 (The EU Hygiene Regulations), as transposed into UK law.

The primary food legislation providing the framework for all food legislation in England, Wales and Scotland is the Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended) and, in Northern Ireland, The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Enforcement of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the EU Hygiene Regulations is

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 sheep to the slaughterhouse

Through-chain supporting attestations to this effect (farmers' declaration, ECs, S ~~exporting Health Attestation - S~~ ~~As from the~~ supply chain) should be requested if the certifying OV is not familiar with the sourcing arrangement.

OVs may further certify that the livestock were officially registered with the competent authority of the exporting country on the basis that all livestock - in this case sheep and goats - must be officially identified in accordance with EU and UK legislation, namely Council Regulation (EC) No. 21/2004 (as amended), The S ~~sheep~~ and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement)(England) Order 2009 and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

10. TERRITORY WHERE THE ANIMALS WERE REARED

Paragraph 2 of the Additional Health Attestations refers. OVs should enter England, Wales, S ~~Scotland or Northern Ireland~~ after receiving appropriate confirmation of where the animals were reared prior to slaughter.

11. EQUIVALENCE OF EU AND SAUDI LEGISLATION

Background Information

As part of the effort to open trade to Saudi Arabia and other members of the GCC, a large questionnaire detailing official controls in place in the UK was submitted by the UK authorities. Official controls are carried out by the competent authorities in EU countries to verify business compliance with the requirements set out in Agri-food chain legislation.

Issues covered included the safety and quality of food and feed, plant health, animal health and welfare together with import controls on animals and goods entering the EU from non-EU countries.

Following detailed consideration, the GCC countries agreed that the questionnaire formed the basis for establishing trade in fresh meat from the UK. It was also agreed that the various legal controls in place in the UK on animal transport, food quality, microbiological standards in food, preparation, transportation, handling and storage of fresh meat and chilled and frozen foods may be regarded as equivalent in their scope and enforcement to those controls in place in the GCC countries.

Certification

Paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Additional Health Attestations refer. S ~~specific refers to G~~ ~~O (GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)~~ Standardisation Organisation) requirements are made in these paragraphs, namely:

GSO 714 - Transportation regulations of livestock by rail, road and ships - Part 1: transport of sheep and goats.

- GSO 1400** - Transportation regulations of livestock by rail, road, and ships - Part 2: Transport of cows and buffaloes (NB: not applicable for this certificate).
- GSO 996** - Basic requirements and quality factors for fresh beef, buffalo, mutton, goat and camel meat.
- GSO 1016** - Technical regulation concerned with microbiological limits for some foodstuffs intended for human consumption and for some food ingredients used in the food industry.
- GSO 815** - Code of hygienic practice for preparation, transportation, handling and storing of fresh meat.
- GSO 323** - Requirements for transportation and storage of chilled and frozen foods.

Accordingly, references to compliance with the GS O Regulations referred to in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Additional Health Attestations may be certified on the basis that GS O Regulations have been deemed equivalent to the relevant EU and UK legislation by the GCC authorities and specifically by the S FDA.

9. **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#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

or, in the case of export from Northern Ireland, from the DAERA Trade Administration Team for meat and dairy exports by e-mail at: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone 028 77442 060.