

IMPORTANT NOTE

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8122EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8122EHC.

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 CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 8122EHC may be used for export to Japan of sheep meat, including offal, but excluding minced meat, products using minced meat and cooked products.

The certificate permits export of sheep meat derived from sheep imported into the UK from certain eligible countries and/or zones approved by the Japanese authorities for export to Japan and then raised in the UK until slaughter or for direct slaughter. Please refer to paragraph 4 below for further details of these establishments and countries.

The scope excludes sheep meat that has been imported into the UK.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Prior to making arrangements to export sheep meat to Japan, exporters are advised to contact the Japanese Ministry for Forestry and Fisheries (JMAFF) or their representatives in the United Kingdom for up to date information on requirements for any import permits or other documentation.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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 Official Veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA).

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

In GB, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle within seven days of signing.

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

4. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE CERTIFICATE

Designated Facilities

The term Designated Facilities means slaughterhouses, cutting facilities, processing facilities and storage facilities which are designated by the competent authority of the United Kingdom (or the government authority of the third free countries listed below) as fulfilling the requirements for slaughter, cutting, processing and storage of sheep meat intended for export to Japan.

Third Free Countries

The Japanese authorities have drawn up a list of countries, regions or zones approved by JMAFF as free from rinderpest, FMD and BSE and from which JMAFF authorises the import of cloven-hoofed animals and meat. Such countries are referred to in the certificate as 'third free countries'. This term should not be confused with the term 'third country' (a country which is not a member of the EU)

The current list (as of 27 Jun 2018) of third free countries approved for import into Japan of cloven-hoofed animals and meat (other than cervid animals, pigs, deer meat and pig meat) is as follows:

Iceland
Croatia
San Marino
Hungary
Lithuania
Argentina (Province of Santa Cruz, Chubut, Tierra Del Fuego, Neuquen, Buenos Aires (District of Patagones only) and Rio Negro only)
El Salvador
Guatemala
Costa Rica
Chile
Dominican Republic
Nicaragua
Panama
Belize
Honduras
Mexico
Australia
Northern-Mariana Islands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Vanuatu

The up to date list of third free countries can be found on the JMAFF website via this link:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

Specified Countries

Specified countries are countries approved by JMAFF for the export of sheep and goat meat to Japan **other than** the third free countries listed above. The current list of specified countries (as of 29 September 2017) is as follows:

USA (continental part of America
the Hawaiian Islands and Guam only)
Canada
France
The Netherlands
Ireland
Poland
Norway
Denmark
Sweden
Italy (excluding Sardinia)
Switzerland
Liechtenstein
Austria.

The up to date list of specified countries can be found on the JMAFF website via this link:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/eligible-bse-country.html>

NOTE: Exporters and OVs are advised that the lists of third free countries and specified countries may be updated without prior notice according to the changing health situation in the relevant countries. They should therefore be referred to as a matter of course prior to completing the certificate.

The exported meat to Japan

This term means the sheep meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the United Kingdom.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

OVs may certify paragraphs IV(a) and IV(b) of the certificate on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CSC at Carlisle or from the issuing office of DAERA.

6. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) AND SCRAPIE STATEMENTS

Paragraphs IV(c) and IV(d) may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of the TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No 999/2001), which is enforced in the UK through The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and parallel legislation in the devolved administrations.

The UK competent authorities (Defra, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland) ensure compliance with the legislation.

7. APPROVAL OF PREMISES FOR EXPORT TO JAPAN

Section II, paragraphs IV(e), IV(g), IV (k) and IV (n) refer. All EU-approved UK slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants and cold stores must have received prior approval from JMAFF as designated facilities before exports can take place.

Establishments wishing to become approved for export to Japan must first be audited by the FSA for compliance with the agreed export conditions and then recommended to JMAFF for approval. Exports from the establishment may commence only after JMAFF has confirmed that it appears on the list of designated facilities.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure prior to export that **all** establishments included in Section II of the certificate are listed as designated facilities.

Further advice regarding approval of existing premises and new approvals may be obtained from the APHA CSC at Carlisle via the following link:

<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 telephone 028 77442 060.

8. **ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED**

Paragraphs IV(f) refers. The certifying OV must carry out the necessary checks to verify these statements. This may be on the basis of their knowledge of the operational conditions at the slaughterhouse as regards the UK 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.

OVs must be completely satisfied that sheep originating from outside the United Kingdom were directly and legally imported into the UK, accompanied by the appropriate import documentation and originate only from those specified countries or third free countries referred to in paragraph 4 above. More than 1 option may apply.

Further advice may be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Customer Service Centre (CSC) at Carlisle via the following link:

<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.

9. **FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND FREEDOM FROM DISEASES**

Paragraphs IV(g), IV(h), IV(i) and IV (j) may be certified on the basis of the EU 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). Similar legislation applies in Northern Ireland.

Enforcement of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002 and implementation and enforcement of the EU Hygiene Regulations is provided through secondary legislation in England by The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and parallel legislation in Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland it is provided by The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

10. SEALING OF CONTAINERS - APPROVED SEALS

Paragraph IV(m) refers. All containers must be officially sealed with a seal of the type specifically approved for use for exports to Japan (metal bar with the orange cap). It needs to be clear that it was sealed by a UK authority.



Physical verification checks of some boxes will have to be carried out by the certifying OV at cold store before the container is sealed. The percentage of boxes to be open will be dependent on the OV criteria.

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 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.