

EXPORT OF LAMB MEAT TO INDIA - 7866EHC

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 7866EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7866EHC.

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 7866EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to India of meat derived from the ovine species of any age **that were born and reared in the UK only.**

Exporters are advised that meat intended for export to India using this certificate must be solely derived from the ovine species and must not contain any other meat or protein derived from any other species.

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 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.

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.

4. ORIGIN OF ANIMALS FROM WHICH THE EXPORTED MEAT IS DERIVED

Paragraph IV(b) refers. OVs may certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of purchasing and operational patterns of the food business operator (FBO) and exporter. OVs may also wish to obtain written declarations from the FBO and/or exporter confirming that the exported meat was derived solely from animals that were born, raised and slaughtered in the United Kingdom.

In the case of export to India, the information confirming UK residency is supplied through the document **7866FCISupplementary**, which is completed by the owner/manager of the sheep flock of origin for every batch of sheep entering the slaughterhouse. Please refer to paragraph 7 below for further information on farm assurance documents.

5. **RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV(d) may be certified on the basis of the results of the National Surveillance Scheme (NSS), which implements Council Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC on veterinary residues and to which all EU approved meat establishments are subject. The above Directives are transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in Wales and Northern Ireland.

In addition, HACCP requirements described in Regulation (EC) 852/2004 place an obligation on all EU approved meat establishments to ensure compliance with these Directives.

Paragraph IV (f) refers. This may be certified based on the application of the health/identification mark.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE (FORM 618NDC)**

Freedom from the notifiable diseases referred to in paragraph IV(e)(i) of the certificate may be certified on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained on form 618NDC from the APHA CSC at Carlisle or via disease clearance procedures in DAERA.

7. **FARM ASSURANCE - DECLARATIONS OF DISEASE FREEDOM OF PREMISES OF ORIGIN**

Paragraph IV(e)(ii) refers to freedom from clinical evidence of a total of 15 diseases in the establishment of origin during the two years prior to the date of slaughter - as follows:

The consignment comes from animals which were kept in an establishment free from Nairobi sheep disease, border disease, tuberculosis, sheep and goat pox, blue tongue, peste des petits ruminants, ovine epididymitis, caprine and ovine brucellosis, anthrax, black-leg, leptospirosis, contagious agalactia, caprine arthritis/encephalitis, maedi-visna and ovine chlamydiosis during the last 2 years.

In order to comply with the above conditions and to provide a robust means of certification of freedom of the flock of origin from a large number of notifiable and non-notifiable diseases, a system of support certification has been developed for use by on-farm veterinarians and owners/managers of flocks supplying animals to slaughterhouses. The declarations are as follows:

- **7866VetCert** - Quarterly Veterinary Food Chain Information Certificate
- **7866Support** - Owner/Manager Support Declaration to Veterinarian
- **7866FCISupplementary** - Owner/Manager FCI Supplementary Declaration to Slaughterhouse Operator

Certifying veterinarians should also refer to paragraph 8 below for additional guidance regarding the occurrence of tuberculosis on holdings on which more than one TB-susceptible species is kept.

7866VetCert - Quarterly Veterinary Food Chain Information (FCI) Declaration

Veterinary certification that sheep flocks of origin meet the conditions of paragraph IV(e)(ii) of 7866EHC is required approximately every three months. Intervals between certification should not be more than four months. Veterinarians providing supporting FCI certification for the flocks of origin do not need to be Official Veterinarians (OVs). Certification for this purpose may be provided using the certificate **7866VetCert**.

7866VetCert is not issued by APHA and should be downloaded from the United Kingdom Export Certification Partnership (UKECP) website: www.ukecp.com The form should be sent to the operator of the slaughterhouse. The owner and the veterinarian should keep a copy for their records.

When completing **7866VetCert**, veterinarians should take into account their personal knowledge of the disease status of the premises of origin supported by the owner/manager support declaration **7866Support** confirming freedom from these diseases. If necessary, certifying veterinarians should also carry out appropriate checks of the flock records including use of medicines, fertility and birth records as appropriate.

Veterinarians should note that authority to sign clearance from notifiable and reportable diseases of sheep using 618NDC procedures from APHA or DAERA is not required. If necessary, the veterinarian in Great Britain should contact the APHA CSC in Carlisle for advice. In Northern Ireland the Veterinarian should contact DAERA.

For the purposes of this certification, disease does not have to be recorded as present unless it is confirmed - i.e. the presence of certain clinical signs alone should not necessarily be taken to be proof of the presence of disease. However if official suspicion has been recorded, disease cannot be recorded as absent until any investigations have been completed and the presence of disease has been excluded.

When certifying freedom from the various notifiable and non-notifiable diseases mentioned, the following guidance may be of assistance:

Diseases not present in the United Kingdom

- Nairobi sheep disease;
- Sheep and goat pox;
- Peste de petits ruminants;
- Ovine epididymitis (contagious epididymitis) caused by *Brucella ovis*;
- Caprine and ovine brucellosis caused by *Brucella melitensis*;
- Contagious agalactia.

OVs in GB may wish to confirm the above with the APHA CSC in Carlisle.

7866Support - Owner/Manager Declaration for Veterinarians

7866Support is a support document intended for use by the owner or manager of the flock of origin. Its purpose is to confirm to the veterinarian that, to the best of the knowledge of the owner or manager, that the conditions specified in paragraph IV(e)(ii) of 7866EHC are being met on the flock of origin. The document is for the sole information of the farm veterinarian and does not need to accompany the sheep to the slaughterhouse or be provided to slaughterhouse FBOs.

7866FCISupplementary - Owner/Manager FCI Supplementary Declaration for Slaughterhouse Operator

In addition to the standard electronic FCI information for sheep, a signed hard copy of **7866FCISupplementary**, or wording exactly equivalent, is required from the owner or manager of the flock of origin to accompany each consignment of sheep sent to the establishment slaughtering sheep for export to India.

The wording of **7866FCISupplementary** is to confirm to the slaughterhouse operator and OV that, to the best of the knowledge of the owner or manager that the conditions specified in paragraph IV(e)(ii) of 7866EHC have been met on the farm of origin. In addition the owner/manager confirms through **7866FCISupplementary** that the sheep are solely of UK origin.

The standard electronic FCI form also confirms that the sheep from that farm of origin are not under any movement restrictions for animal disease or public health reasons (excluding a 6 day standstill). Alternatively, notification of compliance of the sheep flock of origin can be made by completing a box/section on the electronic FCI form.

The FBO at the slaughterhouse must ensure that sheep slaughtered for export to India are kept separate from sheep of a lower health status.

Notification of Disease Breakdown

If any of the diseases specified in paragraph IV(e)(ii) of 7866EHC occurs at the flock of origin or official restrictions are imposed on the flock, the owner or manager must immediately notify the slaughterhouse involved so that (providing slaughter for human consumption is still possible) sheep from the affected flock can be slaughtered separately from those from unaffected farms.

Once the declaration of the presence of disease or the notification that the flock has been placed under official restrictions has been made, no further declarations are required until the specified diseases have not occurred for the period required (2 years) or until the flock regains its eligibility for slaughter for export to India (e.g. until official restrictions on the flock are lifted) whichever is later. From that time the veterinarian and the owner can complete forms again to enable the meat to be exported.

8. TUBERCULOSIS

Paragraph IV(e)(ii) requires that the sheep from which the exported meat is derived must originate from establishments that were free from tuberculosis for the two years prior to the date of slaughter.

In addition, sheep flocks of origin must not be under official restrictions due to notifiable diseases (including TB) at the time of dispatch of sheep for slaughter in order for their meat to be eligible for export to India.

These requirements must be addressed in a practical and trade-friendly manner but without compromising the integrity of veterinary certification.

For the purpose of certification, the term 'establishment' - where only sheep are resident - should be understood as the CPH number in GB or the APHIS sheep flock number in Northern Ireland. Establishments may be either single species sheep flocks or the sheep may be co-located with other TB-susceptible species under the same CPH or APHIS number/location.

In summary, sheep meat is eligible for export to India if it is derived from sheep meeting the following conditions with regard to TB:

- no confirmation of TB on the establishment of origin (CPH in GB; APHIS flock number or location in Northern Ireland) for two years prior to slaughter and the flock is not under current TB or other official animal health restrictions.
- if TB is confirmed in a sheep only establishment; no further confirmation of TB for two years prior to slaughter and the flock not under current TB or other official animal health restrictions, whichever is later.
- if TB is confirmed in TB-susceptible species other than sheep resident on the same establishment (e.g. co-located cattle);
either
 - (i) the sheep flock must be excluded from current TB or other official animal health restrictions (irrespective of CPH number or location in Northern Ireland); **or**
 - (ii) if the flock cannot be excluded on veterinary grounds, no further confirmation of TB on the entire establishment for two years prior to slaughter and the establishment is not under current TB or other official animal health restrictions, whichever is later.

The final decision on this matter rests with TB disease control policies.

Further advice may be obtained from 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.

9. **TSE AND ANIMAL FEEDS STATEMENTS**

The TSE statements and footnotes in paragraphs IV(e)(i) and IV(e)(iii) may be certified on the basis that these are requirements of 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. Paragraph IV (e)(iv) may be certified based on the application of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and the IMCs issued by the abattoir OV.

10. USE OF INTERNAL MOVEMENT CERTIFICATES (IMCs) FOR MOVEMENTS BETWEEN PREMISES OF INDIA EXPORT ELIGIBLE MEAT:

The OV at the slaughterhouse or cutting plant must complete a copy of an Internal Movement Certificate (IMC) for downstream movement of each consignment of meat intended for export to India. Form **7866IMC** can be used for this purpose. Individual IMCs are not issued by the APHA or DAERA and may be downloaded as required from the UKECP website as described above.

The OV at the slaughterhouse must keep electronic records or, if paper copies are used, OVs must make copies of issued certificates. The OV at the slaughterhouse must give each IMC a unique reference number which should consist of the plant approval number followed by the date of slaughter and a sequential number - UK2345/24.06.11/03.

If the slaughterhouse is co-located with a cutting plant the reference number should include the date of production at the cutting plant.

The paper copy of the IMC can be handwritten - information does not have to be typed but the details must be clearly legible and unambiguous.

The IMC can be completed and signed on the basis of personal knowledge of the procedures at the slaughterhouse / slaughterhouse and combined cutting plant and on the basis of production records support documents.

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.