

EXPORT OF BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS TO ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES - 8526EHC
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 8526EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8526EHC.

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 8526EHC may be used for the export from the United Kingdom to St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) of fresh meat (chilled or frozen), meat preparations and meat products derived from animals of the bovine species that were born, reared, slaughtered and processed solely in the United Kingdom.

2. OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT - 24HR NOTICE OF ARRIVAL OF CONSIGNMENTS

The exporter/agent should be aware of the requirements of the importing country particularly with respect to any import documentation.

Exporters should also note the requirement of the SVG veterinary authorities that a minimum of 24 hours notice must be given before the arrival of the exported products into SVG.

Exporters should contact the Animal Health and Production Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of SVG well in advance of the date of export to determine the procedure for the provision of the required notice period.

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 their own records.

4. SCHEDULES

Part I of 8526EHC 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.

5. ORIGIN OF THE MEAT/MEAT PRODUCTS

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(d) refer. Meat and meat preparations exported from the United Kingdom to SVG must be of **UK origin only**, i.e. the animals were slaughtered, and the meat cut and, where applicable, processed solely in the UK.

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 animals to the slaughterhouse

Through-chain supporting attestations to this effect (owner declaration, FCI, Supporting Health Attestation from the supply chain) should be requested if the certifying OV is not familiar with the sourcing arrangement.

6. FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Paragraphs IV(b) - IV(d) 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 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).

In the UK, 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.

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

Paragraph IV(f) 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.

8. **EXPORT OF BEEF PRODUCTS - BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)**

Paragraphs IV(g) and, in the case of beef products, IV(h) may be certified on the basis of compliance with European TSE legislation (Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 (as amended)). The Regulation sets out the requirements for TSE monitoring, animal feeding and the removal of specified risk material and is enforced in all MSs of the EU.

In the UK, enforcement of the above Regulation takes place through the following national legislation:

- **England:** The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018;
- **Wales:** The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Wales) Regulations 2018;
- **Scotland:** The TSEs Regulations (Scotland) 2010 amended by The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2019;
- **Northern Ireland:** The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2018.

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

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.