

EXPORT OF BOVINE FRESH MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS TO FRENCH POLYNESIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

PLEASE NOTE: These notes for guidance (NFGs) are not intended to operate as a standalone document, but must be read in conjunction with export health certificate 7018EHC.

We would also strongly advise exporters to verify the requirements of the importing country by contacting the appropriate veterinary authorities, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. SCOPE

7018EHC may be used to accompany exports of fresh meat of bovine origin originating from the UK and certain other EU Member States to French Polynesia. Also included within the scope of the certificate are meat products of bovine origin and products containing tallow (other than deproteinated tallow), gelatine and collagen that have been manufactured subject to the conditions laid down in the certificate.

2. IMPORT PERMIT

Exporters are advised to contact the veterinary authorities of French Polynesia prior to export for the latest information on requirements for any import documentation.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

Any Local Veterinary Inspector (LVI) appointed to the appropriate panel for export purposes by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Scottish Government - Rural Affairs or the Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs may sign the export health certificate as an Official Veterinarian.

The 'Official Veterinarian' stamp should be affixed to the certificate in the normal manner.

4. EU REGULATIONS 852/2004, 853/2004 AND 854/2004

Paragraphs IV(a) and IV(b) may be certified on the basis of evidence that the slaughterhouse, cutting plant, meat products plant (if applicable) and cold store are officially approved and operating in accordance with the above Regulations and the Meat Hygiene Service Manual for Official Controls.

5. RESIDUES AND OTHER UNAUTHORISED SUBSTANCES

Paragraph IV(c) may be signed on the basis of the Official Veterinarian's own knowledge of the systems in place at the meat plant to prevent contamination of product and on results of sampling regimes in accordance with The Animals and Animal Products (Examinations for Residues and Maximum Limits) Regulations 1997. Official Veterinarians should note that no additional testing for the presence of unauthorised substances is required for consignments intended for export to French Polynesia.

Paragraph IV(d) may be certified for meat produced in the European Union on the basis of the statutory residues testing plan, which covers all licensed slaughterhouses in the European Union and implements Council Directives 96/22/EC, 96/23/EC and Regulation (EC) 854/2004.

6. ORIGIN OF THE BOVINE ANIMALS

In the case of animals of UK origin, paragraph IV(e) can be certified on the basis of a statement from the producers' veterinarian/s or on the basis of familiarity with procurement procedures and examination of appropriate records.

In the case of animals originating from other EU Member States, the Official Veterinarian must check health documents to ensure that only meat derived from animals originating from the EU Member States listed in paragraph 7 below is exported to French Polynesia.

7. EU MEMBER STATES WITH CONTROLLED AND NEGLIGIBLE BSE RISK

Paragraph IV(e) refers. In accordance with Chapter 11.6. of the OIE Terrestrial Code, EU Member States recognised as having a controlled BSE risk are as follows: *Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom.*

EU Member States recognised as having a negligible BSE risk are *Finland and Sweden.*

8. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE

Sub-paragraph IV(f) (i) refers. In the case of fresh meat derived from animals solely of UK origin, the certifying Official Veterinarian may certify country freedom for the diseases listed in this paragraph provided written authority to do so has been obtained on a valid form 618NDC issued by Animal Health.

In the case of fresh meat derived from animals not of UK origin, the Official Veterinarian must carry out the necessary checks to verify that the EU Member State of origin meets the requirements of this paragraph. Official Veterinarians may access the OIE Terrestrial Manual at the OIE website < www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm > and look under 'Health Standards' for the appropriate EU Member State of origin.

Alternatively they may wish to contact the Animal Health Central Operations for Export at Carlisle on 01228 403600 for further advice.

9. MEAT PRODUCTS - OTHER TREATMENTS

Sub-paragraph IV(f) (ii) refers. This paragraph offers various options for the sterilisation or heat treatment of meat products exported to French Polynesia. Both sub-sections of this sub-paragraph may be deleted in the case of export of fresh meat, or the appropriate sub-section deleted in the case of export of sterilised or heat treated meat products.

10. ANTHRAX CLEARANCE AND VACCINATION

Paragraph IV(g) refers. In the case of animals originating from Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), this paragraph may be signed on that basis that the last confirmed case of anthrax in GB occurred on 23 April 2006 and there have been no cases recorded since that date. Furthermore, no anthrax vaccine is currently authorised for use in Great Britain and, in the event that use of anthrax vaccine is authorised, the withdrawal period prior to slaughter is 42 days.

Official Veterinarians should verify the above information on the occurrence of anthrax from the Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk

In the case of animals imported from other EU Member States and Northern Ireland, the Official Veterinarian should carry out checks to verify that the conditions of this paragraph can be met. Official Veterinarians are advised that undertaking these checks may not be particularly straightforward.

11. STUNNING METHODS

Paragraph IV(h) refers. Official Veterinarians may certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of the stunning methods used in the slaughterhouse. In the case of meat derived from cattle slaughtered elsewhere in the EU, this paragraph may be certified on the basis that the stunning of cattle by injection of compressed air and the procedure of pithing cattle is prohibited under Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001.

12. NO PARAGRAPH IV(i)

The omission of a paragraph IV(i) is deliberate to avoid any confusion between the letter 'i' used alphabetically and 'i' used as a Roman numeral in sub-paragraphs.

13. SRM AND MSM

Paragraph IV(j) refers. In the case of fresh meat originating from the EU, absence of specified risk materials may be certified on the basis of compliance of the premises with the controls laid down in Regulation (EC) 999/2001 and the presence of an EU health or identification mark. In addition, the use of ruminant material for the production of mechanically separated meat is prohibited under Annex 6 of Regulation (EC) 999/2001.

14. PRODUCTS CONTAINING TALLOW, GELATINE AND COLLAGEN OF BOVINE ORIGIN

Paragraph IV(k) refers. Sub-paragraphs IV(k) (i) and (ii) describe the conditions under which products containing tallow, gelatine and collagen of bovine origin will be accepted into French Polynesia. In the case of fresh meat exports, these sub-paragraphs should not be deleted. In the case of products containing these materials, the certifying Official Veterinarian must carry out the appropriate checks to ensure that the conditions laid down in these sub-paragraphs are complied with.

15. COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE AND RETURN OF COPY TO ANIMAL HEALTH

The Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp the health certificate in an ink of any colour other than black. A copy of this certificate must be sent to Animal Health Central Operations for Export at Carlisle within 7 days of signing.

16. DISCLAIMER

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information. The 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 Global Animal Health Team via the appropriate address in the link given below.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/general/contacts.htm>