BACKGROUND CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO GB & EU

GUIDANCE FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN and EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Guidance should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate BACKGROUND CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO GB and EU FOR ONWARD EXPORT TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Background Certificate for Export of Dairy Products to GB & EU for onward export to Third Countries provides support certification to exporters in GB and EU to facilitate trade to Third Countries.
This certificate may be used as requested by the importer in GB or EU for export from NI of dairy products and processed intermediate ingredients or products e.g. skim, whey, cream that are ultimately destined for a Third Country.
It is not to be used for the export of raw milk from NI.

CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an official veterinarian employed by DAERA NI. OVs should affix the OV stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with the OV stamp in ink other than black.
DAERA CSB will upload a copy of the final signed certificate to DECOL which is integrated with CM.

1. Paragraph I (c) (f) and (h) may be deleted if the product is travelling by tanker. However, the exporter may enter alternative traceability information here appropriate to the exporter`s traceability system for bulk ingredients as requested by the certifying officer.

2. Paragraph I (f): This must be completed if the exporter wants the option of later exporting to Republic of South Africa. Otherwise, this paragraph may be deleted depending on the exporter`s traceability system. This needs to be completed or deleted by the exporter.

3. Paragraph I (g): This may also be used to insert a date range for export of dairy products by tanker to ROI for further processing.
4. Paragraph IV (a) and (b) should be completed by the exporter and should match the information on the Exporter Declaration as applicable.

5. Paragraph IV (a) This may be certified based on information presented by the exporter and verified with spot checks on intake records. Where the exporter differs from the manufacturer, the exporter should provide any supporting information as requested by the certifying officer.

6. Paragraph (b) may be certified based on the OVs knowledge of heat treatments for the products being exported and regular checks to verify these. The treatments listed should comply with the pasteurisation requirements in Reg (EC) 853/2004 and (EC) 2074/2005 and OCR Implementing Reg (EU) 2019/627. Certifying officers can find further guidance in Dairy SI on this.

   The application of the identification mark assures compliance.
   However, some Third Country certificates require attestations for specific heat treatments without equivalence. This is particularly important for cream-based products as these may have received treatment above 72ºC but for a shorter period than 15 seconds.
   For product manufactured outside the certifying officer`s area, the exporter should supply independently verified evidence of heat treatments whether in the form of a veterinary certificate or statement endorsed by the relevant Competent Authority. The certifying vet should decide which is appropriate; knowledge of operations at premises related to the NI manufacturer may give confidence that might not be present if dealing with product from a factory not related to the manufacturing premises.

7. Para IV (c): Certifying officers may be familiar with the exporting premises and so be able to certify this. If not, the vet may verify EU approval on FSA NI website or via the local EHO.

8. Para IV (d) (e) and (f) This may be certified after carrying out disease checks as detailed in SI Certification Notifiable Disease Status Checks on DAERA website under Topics→Animal Health→Trade→Veterinary Service Trade→Exports.

   Rinderpest has been eradicated worldwide. For FMD, the paragraph may be signed based on UK legislation for the control of FMD which prevents the sale or supply of milk from a holding on which the disease is suspected or confirmed. Currently, FMD vaccination is not carried out in the UK or ROI.

   Jembrana Disease Virus naturally infects Bali cattle and buffalo in Indonesia.

9. Paragraph (g) may be certified on the basis that the EU/UK Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Regulations prohibit the sale or supply for human or animal consumption of milk from animals affected with or suspected of suffering from BSE.
10. Paragraph (h) The following allows for the certification of this paragraph: -
    Raw milk must come from farms that are registered under Regulation (EC) 852/2004.
    Regulation (EC) 853/2004 requires that raw milk must come from animals: (a) That do not show any symptoms of infectious diseases communicable to humans through milk;
    (b) that are in a good general state of health, present no sign of disease that might result in the contamination of milk and, in particular, are not suffering from any infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, or a recognisable inflammation of the udder;
    Also, milk from tuberculin/brucellosis reactors cannot be used for human consumption and must be disposed of.
    Regulation of the production of raw milk is carried out by Milk Inspectorate Branch, AfIB, VSAHG on behalf of the FSA.
    OV verification of Reg 853/2004 Annex III Section IX is carried out to confirm compliance in accordance with Article 49 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 (implementing Official Controls Regulations).
    The certifying officer may ask AfIB for copies of their records to verify these statements.

11. Paragraph (i) may be certified based on residues surveillance tests for dioxin-like compounds in meat and milk that show levels in compliance with the legislation.

    The link below gives the most recent FSA study:
    https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/research-reporttotal-diet-study.pdf

    For the regulated contaminants, PCDD/Fs, PCBs, and PAHs, the limits are consistent with the requirements of EU regulations, but for all reported contaminants, the limits are generally either better than or similar to those reported in current literature.
    Detected concentrations are comfortably below the regulatory limits (European Commission 2011B) for PCDD/F and dioxin-like PCB TEQ, and the ICES-6 PCBs.

    With respect to the individual compounds that are regulated, contaminant concentrations were comfortably below the regulatory maximum levels, and would thus indicate no risk to public health.

12. Paragraph (j) refers to the BSE (No2) Order 1988 and the Diseases of Animals (Feeding Stuffs) Order (Northern Ireland) 1989. Whilst these Orders are no longer in force, EU/UK Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Regulations continue the prohibition on the feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants in the EU.

13. Paragraph (k**)** may be certified based on the following: The Animals & Animal Products (Examination for Residues & Maximum Residue Limits) Regs (NI) 2016 implements EU legislation that regulates the national surveillance programme and other residue testing in the UK and covers all these categories. The statement may therefore be certified on this basis.

14. Paragraph (l) may be certified based on the advice received from FSA NI. FSA, in association with FSS and the UK environment agencies, publish an annual report: – Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE), which summarises the results of radiation monitoring in food and the environment in the UK.

    The results demonstrate that even the most exposed members of the public received radiation doses from consumption of food and exposure to environmental radioactivity due to discharges and direct radiation that were below the statutory UK and EU annual personal dose limit of 1 mSv (millisievert).

    The UK's monitoring programme and statutory dose limit complies with the Basic Safety Standards for radiation exposure to members of the public set by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

    https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-theenvironment-rife-reports

15. Paragraph (m) This paragraph should be deleted if the consignment for export contains any product of animal origin other than milk or milk-based products. Guidance on additives can be found at: http://www.food.gov.uk

16. Paragraph (n) this should be deleted if the product was manufactured using animal-derived rennet. FSA guidance is that animal-derived rennet is a product of animal origin but not a milk-based one. Therefore, for cheese production, the exporter must declare on the Exporter`s Declaration whether animal derived rennet has been used in its manufacture and supply information to the certifying officer as required. The certifying officer can verify this with checks on producer`s records and by consulting with EHO.

17. Paragraph (o) should be deleted if cheese is not being exported or if cheese that was made without using animal-derived rennet is being exported.

If cheese that contains animal-derived rennet is being exported and the exporter wants to keep open the option of export to India, the packaging must be labelled to indicate that it contains animal rennet. The CO should be familiar with the manufacturer`s processing procedures and conduct spot checks after packaging and labelling to verify this.

18. Paragraph (p) may be certified provided the certifying officer has evidence of the ingredients of the product/s.

DISCLAIMER

The certificate is provided based on 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 dairy.export@daera-ni.gov.uk