

FAQ - Meat & Meat Products

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1. Pre-movement certification requirements

Question 1.1: Site A (slaughter plant) to Site B (boning hall) with final product going to GB. Is a pre-movement cert needed here?

Answer: In general, no pre-export certificates is required, unless meat imported from Third Countries is involved. In this case pre-export certification may be required for animal health issues.

Question 1.2: Consignments collected from multiple plants and truck then goes directly to GB

Answer: Each consignment will require its own Export Health Certificate(s). In general, no pre-export certificates required.

Question 1.3: Consignments collected from multiple sites, brought to distribution centre – where load is compiled & leaves from there to GB. Is a pre-export certificate needed? Where does the final export cert issue from?

Answer: Generally, the Export Health Certificate will issue from the point of loading & no pre-export certificates required.

In the case of non-DAFM distribution centres, each consignment will have to receive its final export certificate from its plant of origin, provided that pallets in question are sealed. If any manipulation of loads/pallets is carried out, VIs at plants of origin will not certify the product from there.

Question 1.4: Will GB need to be listed on a pre-movement certificate for product moving to the cold store with the final destination being GB?

Answer: A pre-export certificate may not be required, provided all requirements are within EU law and there are no origin issues (e.g. meat imported from outside EU). However, the new version of the pre-export certificate has a box for the UK.

Question 1.5: In scenarios where a pre-export cert is needed, must it state the UK as one of the third countries?

Answer: Yes, as we will only need a GB pre-export certificate in circumstances where support information is required on imported raw materials.

Question 1.6: Are there any particular situations here where pre-export health certificates will be required for products of animal origin (POAO) exported to GB?

Answer: In general, we consider that no pre-export certificates will be required for movements between DAFM approved premises, if there are no requirements over and above EU regulations. However, occasional pre-export certificates may be required where certain requirements are not implied by the oval ID mark, e.g. compliance with import rules for beef imported from outside the EU.

Question 1.7: Will GB need to be listed on a pre-movement certificate for product moving to the cold store with the final destination being GB?

Answer: GB pre-export certificates for product moving between DAFM approved premises will generally not be required. However, if product is moving to a cold store that may have different market options and a pre-export certificate is being completed, there will be a space to mark "UK/GB".

Question 1.8: Site A (slaughter plant) sends carcasses to Site B (boning-hall). VL then sent to a secondary processor where it may be mixed with VL from other sites. What documentation is necessary for the secondary processor to get an EHC for GB?

Answer: If there are no additional animal health (Third Country) considerations, this product can be certified on an EHC from the final plant based on traceability documentation – labels, CMR. It should be noted that slaughter date range is a requirement on all UK fresh meat certificates. Therefore, this information must pass from the slaughter plant to all subsequent processing establishments and must be verifiable

Question 1.9: GB raw material shipped to Irish plant, deboned, or further processed and re-exported to GB.

What will be the certification requirements?

Answer: Import will be covered by incoming EU EHC and CHED. Re-export to GB is catered for in the current GB fresh meat certificates.

Question 1.10: In the case of burger/meat prep manufacture for GB, what will the certifying vet need for the non-meat ingredients?

Answer: As the VI will usually be familiar with the plant, they will only need to know that non-meat ingredients/components comply with FBO's supplier conformance requirements and any relevant EU regulations on additives, etc. So, in summary, EU compliance is sufficient.

Question 1.11: Consignments collected from 2-3 sites within a group to consolidate a full load. At the final site, can 1 EHC be done for the load (on the basis that it will be imported to one point in GB)? If so, does there need to be pre-export certs from the previous sites?

Answer: DAFMs policy on Groupage has not been finalised. There are two models under consideration:

- i. *Linear Model – here each individual consignment receives a final EHC at its pick-up point –this may require pallet sealing.*
- ii. *Consolidation Model – here EHCs are only issued at the final pick-up. In general, there is no need for pre-export certificates from one pick-up to the other, except under the conditions at (Question 1.11 i) above.*

2. Pre-notification requirements

Question 2.1: IPAFFS pre-notification

- i. What detail must be entered?
- ii. If similar to the DAFM INIS portal – then it will need details (e.g. CHED no., ROI Customs – MRN, UK Customs documentation) which cannot be generated without having the certificate first (thereby meaning 24-hour notification not possible)

Answer: Currently liaising with DEFRA on this

3. Questions on the Certificate

Question 3.1: Process to get a certificate

- i. FBO starts the process on TRACES Classic (consignment details) ?
Answer: Correct FBO applies for Export Health Certificate through TRACES Classic.
- ii. How does VI get notified? E.g. email notification?
Answer: FBO notifies veterinary office of upcoming export via email.
- iii. Next step after VI approves the cert? Do they print and sign/stamp it OR does the FBO print it & get VI to sign/stamp
Answer: VI prints and signs the Export Health Certificate
- iv. Provision for out of hours certification
Answer: Yes, provision for out of hours certification has been made.

Question 3.2: How does DAFM intend to handle the certification (including the pre-export certification), loading and shipment of:

- i. Full loads from a central consolidation site or external sites and;
- ii. Groupage shipments

Answer: As outlined in Question 1.11 groupage is still under consideration

Question 3.3: Clarity of exact format in which certs will be printed off TRACES (pre-deletions, or with strikeouts).

Answer: Export Health Certificates will be printed with strikeouts only.

Question 3.4: Is this certificate to be used for offal products as well as fresh meat products?

Answer: Yes, raw beef offal products are included in the definition of fresh meat.

Question 3.5: Should this certificate be used for products i.e., frozen burgers? It covers Chilled, Frozen and Ambient as per 1.21 on cert.

Answer: This certificate can be used for frozen beef, offal or minced beef. Only minced beef must be frozen before it can be certified to GB.

In relation to burgers it is important to know the constituents: If burgers contain no added ingredients and less than 1% salt, they can be considered as minced beef and included on this

certificate. They must be frozen to -18oC. If burgers contain >1% salt or contain any added ingredients then they must be categorised as meat preparations and certified on the UK Meat Preparations Certificate, provided they are frozen to -18oC.

Question 3.6: Ref. 1.6 & 1.12 & 1.26: what details should be inserted in these boxes?

Answer:

Box 1.6 – This box is struck out on this certificate. This indicates that no information is required

Box 1.12 - This box is struck out on this certificate. This indicates that no information is required.

Box 1.26 - This box is struck out on this certificate. This indicates that no information is required.

(1.12 and 1.26 relate to transit in other certificates)

Question 3.7: Ref. 1.15 Means of transport What does ‘identification and document references’ refer to here?

Answer: Regarding Box 1.15 the certificate notes state: “Registration number (railway wagons or container and lorries), flight number (aircraft) or name (ship) is to be provided. In case of unloading and reloading, the consignor must inform the BCP of entry into Great Britain”

Question 3.8: Ref. 1.21: Temperature of products Should this refer to the product storage temperature instead?

Answer: The Guidance states “Temperature of the product: only for products of animal origin: please tick the appropriate temperature for transport/storage of the product”. In general the product in the same temperature state (chilled, frozen) as it is expected to be stored at.

Question 3.9: Ref. 1.28 Identification of the commodity

‘Nature of commodity’ clarification is needed on what details are required here.

I.28. Identification of the commodity	
Species (Scientific Name)	Nature of commodity

Is it detail on the tariff description or the product description that is required here? Is a list available which could be referenced?

Answer: The notes in the certificate state: “Box reference 1.28:

Nature of commodity: Indicate "carcass-whole", "carcass-side", "carcass- quarters", "cuts", "offal" or "minced meat".

Treatment type: If appropriate, indicate "deboned"; "bone in"; "matured"

So a physical description of the meat that is required.

Question 3.10: Ref.1.28 Approval number of the Establishment clarification is needed on what details are required here e.g., for boneless beef, is it the cutting plant and the abattoir? For boned-in beef, is it the abattoir?

In the scenario where product from 2 abattoirs is to be boned in 1 cutting plant, on the related veterinary certificate is it correct to list the 2 abattoirs and the 1 boning hall

Answer: The table on the certificate indicates that the FBO must enter all establishments in the chain where appropriate – abattoir, cutting plant, Cold Storage.

I.28. Identification of the commodities				Approval Number of Establishments			
Species (Scientific Name)	Nature of commodity	Treatment Type	Abattoir	Cutting Plant	Cold Store	Number of Packages	Net Weight

Question 3.11: Ref. 1.28 *Treatment type* Clarification required on what details are being requested here?

Answer: 12. Box reference 1.28: Treatment type: If appropriate, indicate "deboned"; "bone in"; "matured"

A simple description of the process that the meat has undergone that is required.

Question 3.12: Export health cert requirements for poultry products destined for the GB market.

The business processes the poultry products in one facility e.g. in Cork. The products are then moved to a cold store e.g. in Portlaoise. The consignment is then broken down depending on customer requirements resulting in a number of different consignments of the product leaving the cold store for the UK.

i. Who/where is the cert generated from?

Answer: The Certificate will be generated at the Cold Store in Portlaoise i.e. Final point of dispatch

ii. At what stage, i.e. in Cork or in Portlaoise, does the business complete the consignment details on TRACES?

Answer: The consignment details will be completed at the Cold Store in Portlaoise before the consignment is ready for dispatch from the Cold Store.

iii. Finally, groupage is going to be an issue for this member as the consignments will be shipped out on lorries containing other loads.

Answer: If the mixed consignments are all being loaded at the Cold Store, then the Cold Store will generate a separate EHC for each commodity and for each consignor. The groupage consignment will then be accompanied by many EHCs so that each individual consignment and each meat commodity is covered by at least one certificate.

Question 3.13: Third country poultry meat to use in meat products manufactured here in Ireland. Owing to rules of origin which will be effective from 1st April, can you clarify the following:

i. Product involves substantial transformation of meats and other ingredients, through grinding, emulsifying, forming, coating, frying, cooking, and freezing. As these activities are all undertaken here in Ireland, does this in any way qualify the products / meat preparations as Originating in Ireland?

Answer: No – the transformations referred to cannot be used to justify originating in Ireland on the certificate.

Each separate meat ingredient must be tabulated in the following manner:

A – Species	B –Origin (ISO Code)
And	
does it	
affect	

their claim for Preferential origin under the trade agreement between the EU and the UK?

Answer: Rules of Origin is a matter for Revenue

It is essential that this exporter has classified their exports correctly – If some of these are “meat products”, the certificate has a three-column table of origin:

Species (A)	Treatment(B)	Origin(C)

- ii. Meat preparations may contain meats from EU, GB and third countries. The origin of meats can vary within and between production runs. Referencing the Model Health certificates that DEFRA have published, it appears that the origin of the relevant meat constituents for meat products/meat preparations need to be detailed.

Will this require a full breakdown of each product for which the health certificate is being issued?

Answer: Yes –but only qualitatively, not quantitatively, as in the tables above.

- iii. If the amount of meat from a third country is below 15% in the finished product, we understand that the product will be exempt from a customs tariff. How in practice would this be calculated e.g. Is it for each individual batch manufactured (recipe) or based on usage across the production run (blending 15% third country meat with 75% EU) ? How would this be detailed on the Health Certificate?

Answer: The certificates only require qualitative tabulation of the origin of meats used.

Question 3.14: Going forward what type of documentation is the FBO to upload on TRACES as a minimum to allow certification be provided? As a routine would the CMR and pallet summary suffice (assuming that full traceability checks when performed are satisfactory?)

Is there a requirement for satellite product plants to upload full traceability checks in all cases including incoming meat certification etc:

Answer: This would be a matter between the certifying VI and the FBO looking for the certificate. At a minimum, the CMR will give details of the consignment.

A traceability summary would be useful, particularly to demonstrate the origin of the products of animal origin used. If Third Country products of animal origin are used a VI will need sight of a copy of the EHC for EU import and the CHED, to verify the compliance of the origin. In the case of meat products and composite products the FBO will need to supply information on the heat treatments used, in particular to ensure that any products of animal origin receive the appropriate heat treatment in accordance with the EU Regulation.

Question 3.15: At a minimum should we now expect all certification requests to include an excel file format?

Answer: No, the excel file is solely for the FBO's use to be able to upload and auto fill the identification and quantity table in the certificate, e.g. In the Meat Products Certificate this resembles the below:

I.28. Identification of the commodity							
Species (Scientific Name)	Nature of commodity	Abattoir	Manufacturing plant	Cold store	Type of packaging	Net weight (kg)	Number of packages

Support documents will be in the form of PDFs or scans.

Question 3.16: Queries regarding Fresh Ovine Meat Export Health certificate:

- i. Can frozen product be inputted on this cert given that it states 'fresh' meat? Can different commodity codes for the same species can be inputted if applicable to the specific cert?

Answer: Yes, fresh meat as defined in EU Regulation 853 includes frozen meat. Different CN codes for different cuts or offal of fresh lamb can be included in the one certificate

- ii. In the instance of cross docking where, for example, Camolin receives product from Navan, is the Navan product certified by the Navan VI there and not the VI in Camolin?

Answer: Under the Certification SOP 1/2016 and the EU Potsdam agreement, there is no requirement for pre-export certification from one EU approved plant into another if the certification statements are for EU compliance only. Therefore, it is possible for Navan to send product to Camolin for loading onto a container mixed with Camolin product and the whole consignment certified by you as VI in Camolin

TRACES may not be able to accommodate the possibility of the product from Navan being certified from Navan as not all the details will be known, e.g. final container number, etc.

- iii. Can multiple abattoirs and cutting plants be included on the one cert including lambs slaughtered in the UK where applicable?

Answer: Yes

- iv. Treatment type---can this be left blank for raw product?

Answer: The notes for this box say that the FBO must indicate 'deboned'; 'bone in'; 'matured' and/or 'minced'. If frozen, indicate the date of freezing (mm/yy) of the cuts/pieces.

- v. Transport--is the registration plate, or the ATP plate inputted here?

Answer: Registration number of the tractor unit

- vi. Can the codes for the region of origin and destination be left blank and if not what codes are inputted and where are these found?

Answer: Regions of origin can be left blank unless a country has been regionalised to allow lamb to be exported from unaffected regions. Under the UK's retained version of EU Regulation 206/2010, Ireland is not regionalised for ungulates.

IE - Ireland	IE-0	Whole country	BOV, OVI, POR, EQU, RUF, RUW, SUF, SUW, EQW	K			
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- 8) Will the certs for ovine product be sufficiently broad to provide for the certification of fresh and frozen meat and offal to be certified on the one cert or will they be worded as per the attached, whereby frozen and offal will have to be certified separately?

Answer: All CN Codes for fresh lamb, offal and minced lamb can be accommodated on this certificate. By the way, minced lamb can only be dispatched to the UK if frozen to -18oC

4. Transit

Question 4.1: What is the process for getting a Transit certificate – same as above?

Answer: The process for obtaining a transit certificate is the same as for an export health certificated. These certificates will be applied for using the TRACES Classic System.

Question 4.2: Business process flow (for transit requirements) – Certificate / Customs / pre-notify on IPAFFS / close IPAFFS

Answer: Currently being drafted.

Question 4.3: Certification on TRACES versus notification to Continental EU of transit

- i. TRACES Classic will presumably be used to create the Transit EHC

Answer: TRACES Classic will be used to create Transit EHCs.

- ii. Will exporters have to notify authorities in France/Netherlands etc. of the transit separately (or will the process of generating the cert also trigger this notification?)

Answer: Exporters can notify BE and NL through the NCTS. However, French Customs will have to be notified through TRACES NT.

- iii. If exporters need to notify French/Netherlands' authorities separately – is this done via TRACES Classic or TRACES NT?

Answer: Exporters can notify BE and NL through the NCTS. However, French Customs will have to be notified through TRACES NT

- iv. If a load transiting the UK has several consignments, will a single Transit certificate for the load be suffice (truck will not be opened in UK).

Answer: Yes, if the commodities can go on one cert, and there is one pick up and drop off point. One transit cert per commodity type.

- v. What is position for a groupage load?

Answer: Transit certs can only be issued at pick-up point if non-manipulation of load is guaranteed.

Question 4.4: Is the trailer number required on the EHC and if so at what stage must this information be loaded – when the entry is first opened on TRACES or near the end?

Answer: The container number is required on the EHC. This must be added before the EHC is printed and signed

Question 4.5: In a scenario where the load transiting the UK has several consignments—i.e. would a single transit cert (or GB EHC, in the absence of a transit cert) for the truck suffice, or would multiple transit certs be required?

Answer: Our understanding is that consignee-specific transit certificates are not required. However, there are different transit certificates for different commodities – fresh meat, poultry, meat preparations, meat products, composite products.

Question 4.6. In a scenario where the load transiting the UK has several consignments would a single transit cert (or GB EHC, in the absence of a transit cert) for the truck suffice, or would multiple transit certs be required?

Answer: Consignee-specific transit certificates are not required. However, there are different transit certificates for different commodities – fresh meat, poultry, meat preparations, meat products, composite products.

5. Groupage

Question 5.1: Groupage – DAFM considerations

Answer: As outlined in Question 1.11 groupage is still under consideration

Question 5.2: With a mixed load of fresh and frozen beef – will this require just 1 EHC or 2, on the basis that the attestation paragraphs may differ?

Answer: It will be necessary to have separate temperature-controlled compartments on containers carrying mixed chilled and frozen beef. All the beef may be certified on the one EHC, but the check will be if each is correctly transported on the container as per Statement II.1.8 on the Beef Export Health Certificate.

Question 5.3: In terms of groupage loads – has consideration been given to the personnel responsible for completing this information as loads would be mixed?

Answer: This is being considered, but no decisions have been taken as to which groupage model will be implemented. If a linear model is used, then each establishment of pick-up would be responsible for generating their own documentation. As outlined in Question 1.11 groupage is still under consideration.

Question 5.4: Has consideration been given to the certification procedure of any groupage scenarios?

Answer: This will depend on the Groupage model agreed – either linear, where each establishment of loading generates their own certificate on TRACES, or consolidation, where the certificate is generated at the last loading establishment. As outlined in Question 1.11 groupage is still under consideration.

6. Other

Question 6.1: Helpline - Similar to DAFM 24/7 import helpline established in January – a 24/7 export (SPS) helpline will be necessary in the initial weeks –to cover certification issues that arise either here or at UK port of entry.

Answer: Will be taken under consideration, however there was very little take up in January.

Question 6.2: SPS checks (if any) at Dublin / Rosslare on the way out?

Answer: Not applicable for meat. A seal check for APB.

Question 6.3: In relation to chilled / frozen product which is produced / packed before the 1st April and is due to be shipped to GB after that date. Will there be any issue in getting certificates for this product from 1st April onwards, or will some additional documentation / certification be required?

Answer: No, all eligible stock from any production date before April 1st can receive an EHC to GB. There will be no additional requirements as long as all traceability information, including slaughter dates is available.

Question 6.4: Do vegan products require veterinary certification?

Answer: No, it is not possible to issue a veterinary certificate for product containing no products of animal origin

Question 6.5: Do vegan/vegetable products require phytosanitary certification?

Answer: The UK government has published a list of exempt products on the page, ["Import plants and plant products from non-EU countries to Great Britain and Northern Ireland"](#). Depending on the composition of your products the UK government may have certification requirements.