

## Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

### Trader Notice MH 01/2024

**To: All Food Business Operators exporting Meat and Meat Products to Great Britain**

**Subject: Requirements for the Export of Fresh Meat, Meat Preparations and Meat Products to Great Britain<sup>1</sup>**

#### Background

The UK published its [Border Target Operating Model \(TOM\)](#) in August 2023 and this outlines the import certification requirements for products moving from the EU and elsewhere to the Great Britain (GB) mainland. Live animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products have been classified into three categories based on risk.

Raw, chilled, frozen meat, meat preparations and meat products have been classified as medium risk. This means that these products will require export veterinary certification if consigned to GB on and after **31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

#### Scope

This Trader Notice applies to Food Business Operators producing and storing **fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and related commodities<sup>2</sup>** for export to the GB, or elsewhere using Great Britain as a [land bridge](#).

FBOs may use agents or logistics companies to generate Part 1 of the TRACES certificate but must notify their local DAFM team that they will be doing so.

For the purposes of this Trader Notice the definitions of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and other related commodities are as per Annex I of [Regulation 853/2004](#).

The PDF versions of all certificates that will be used to certify fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and related commodities are available on the [DEFRA Website](#).

#### Approval of Plants

All plants approved under SI 22/2020 are eligible to export fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and related commodities to GB.

#### Role of the Food Business Operator

FBOs involved in the production or storage of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and related commodities, and who require certification, must have a **GB specific SOP** in place that describes how they intend to ensure compliance with conditions of certification for such products to GB.

#### Minimum Requirements for a GB Specific SOP

The FBO's GB Specific SOP must contain at least the following information:

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<sup>1</sup> Great Britain is that part of the United Kingdom that excludes Northern Ireland, but includes the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands

<sup>2</sup> Related commodities include other certifiable products such as equine fresh meat, casings, and deer meat (including fur-on)

1. How the product presented for certification to GB will be eligible for that market by
  - a. Verification of on-site production compliance.
  - b. Presence of EU ID mark for product received from other DAFM Plants, Local Authority Plants, or other EU Member States
  - c. Presence of Import Health Certificate and CHED for product imported from Third Countries
2. How notification of certification requirements will be made to DAFM VI in advance of certification.
3. How persons involved in notification and generation of Part 1 of TRACES Certificates will be registered with [TRACES NT](#) and trained in the completion of Part 1 of TRACES certificates. This will also apply to any agents or logistics companies delegated to generate Part 1 of the TRACES certificate. The names of such agents or logistics companies will be notified to the local DAFM team.
4. How completed Part 1 of TRACES certificates will be notified to certifying VIs.
5. How background documents as described below will be collected and uploaded to TRACES or otherwise sent to certifying VIs.
6. How DAFM risk-based inspection of loading will be facilitated.

When the FBO or their agent has created a certificate on TRACES the number of that certificate should be e-mailed to the VI assigned to certification duties for that plant so that they can locate that certificate on TRACES for validation and signature.

### **Background Documents**

For VIs to be able certify exports of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and other related commodities, it will be necessary for FBOs to supply certain supporting documents. These are described in detail in [Annex I](#) and include:

- Commercial document (CMR) containing the consignment details.
  - Slaughter dates – required to certify beef (including minced beef).
  - Traceability Information- batch number, etc.
  - Abattoirs of slaughter for fresh meat, meat preparations and meat products.
  - Import EHC
  - CHED
- } In the case where of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and other related commodities are imported from a Third Country

### **Certification Process Flow**

The process of certification of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and related commodities requires a streamlined approach to giving notice of certification requirements, application for certificates and supply of supporting documentation. This envisaged process and the role of DAFM and FBO staff is summarized in [Annex II](#).

### **Pre-Export Certification**

There is no requirement for Pre-Export certification for product moving from one EU approved premises to another where compliance with EU regulations is the only requirement. Therefore, as GB requirements are predominantly compliance with EU Regulations, there is no need to request that Pre-Export Certificates be signed for GB-eligible product moving between sites.

## Multiple Drops in Great Britain

It will be necessary to complete at least one certificate per consignee when certifying loads of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and related commodities to the GB. To reduce the number of certificates DAFM recommends that FBOs use a central distribution hub in GB from which product can be distributed to individual destinations.

## Sealing of Export Loads

In contrast to most Third Countries, it is not mandatory to seal containers of meat and meat products destined for GB. DAFM has taken a decision not to apply official seals to containers of these commodities. FBOs may apply commercial seals if desired, but these seals may not be recorded on the TRACES certificate.

Please note that the sealing of transit loads is a requirement, but this is not an official seal. This FBO seal should be recorded on the Commercial Document and not on TRACES

## FBO pallet sealing for linear groupage loads.

At this time there is no requirement for either official or FBO pallet seals on pallets being picked up as part of a groupage arrangement. In general, the principal requirement for certification of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and other related commodities to GB is compliance with EU Regulations, with a few exceptions.

## Land bridge

In circumstances where of fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and other related commodities is crossing GB en route to the EU (or elsewhere), it is a UK requirement that the consignment be accompanied by a transit certificate. Only the Animal Health requirements need to be certified so it is clear that minced beef crossing the land bridge does not need to be frozen.

### Origin

It is critical that FBOs are aware of the origin of all products of animal origin that they are applying for certificates for, as this will affect the statements that should be selected by the VI. This particularly applies to Animal Health status, treatments (heat or fermentation) of meat products, and BSE status of the country of origin.

This information is available in the UK retained (former EU) legislation pertinent to the particular commodity.

## Meat Hygiene Section

January 2024

## **Annex I**

### **Accompanying Documentation.**

This Annex briefly outlines the typical supporting documentation that may be required by the certifying officer to ensure the robustness, security and authenticity of the certificate and the certification process. It also brings into focus the requirements on business that do not directly trade with GB but may now too have to amend their way of doing business so that their customers who do trade with GB may continue to do so.

Note1: The list of documents / document types described is non-exhaustive and non-prescriptive. Each exporting FBO is required to establish and agree with their certifying officer the precise information and how it is transmitted in documented form.

Note2: There is no limit to the number of accompanying documents that may be added to Part 1 of the TRACES application, however, please be aware that the maximum file size of each document is 2MB. Files > 2MB must be transferred to the certifying officer / DAFM office via another mechanism e.g., attached to the email containing the URL link to the certificate as a means of notifying DAFM.

### **Commercial Document**

For all certificates regardless of species, commodity, final or transit must be accompanied by a commercial document in most cases a CMR that will contain a Trader Reference Number (sometimes called Shipment No, Order No. etc.) that will be quoted on the EHC. This reference links the EHC to the product and also is the starting point for any backward traceability documentation. It is not necessary to have this reference appear on all documents within the traceability chain as long as the chain is maintained as one move from Trader References to Batch Numbers to Carcass Numbers to animal tag numbers, for example.

The Trader Reference is to be recorded in Box I.2a. It is DAFM policy to make this a mandatory field for this purpose.

### **Slaughter dates**

Slaughter date is mandatory information for fresh meat certificates both destination and in transit, and meat preparations in transit. For fresh meat originating in slaughter and or slaughter / cutting plants FBOs must provide reports containing the batch numbers that comprise the consignment with the respective carcass numbers and slaughter dates. Standalone cutting plants and meat preparations manufacturers must obtain this information from their suppliers and maintain this information along the traceability chain during intake, storage, mincing and other processes.

### **Approval Number of Slaughterhouse, Cutting plant and Manufacturing plant.**

For fresh meat, meat preparations and meat product certificates the approval number of the slaughterhouse must be recorded. Meat product and preparation manufacturers that may source their raw materials from intermediary processors e.g., curing establishments or slaughter / cutting plants who cut product from third party slaughterhouses must obtain the slaughterhouse information from their supplier and pass this information to the manufacturing sites. This may necessitate a change in the specification of the suite of documentation that accompanies a consignment of raw material.

Where more than one slaughterhouse supplies a cutting plant or a slaughterhouse with attached cutting plant obtains carcass quarters from a third-party slaughterhouse, the identity of both slaughterhouses must be supplied.

Similarly, and particularly when a consignment is made up of product from several sister sites, the identity of all slaughter plants and cutting / manufacturing plants must be supplied.

### **Consignment Quantities, Gross and Net Weights**

This data should be readily available on CMR, commercial invoices, delivery notes etc.

Note: For certification purposes, it is not necessary that DAFM is sent any financial data relating to the consignment.

### **Country of Origin**

- **Importation of Live Animal**

To attest the animal health territory and residency requirement for fresh meat, the country of origin and movement history of the animals from which the meat derived from must be furnished to the certifying officer. For plants that slaughter imported animals, full traceability must be furnished to the certifying officer linking batch numbers, carcass numbers, tag numbers to the INTRA import health certificate indicating the date of import. Plants that use this meat to manufacture Meat Products must obtain this country-of-origin information. Intermediary plants such as stand along boning halls must obtain this information and pass it to their meat product manufacturing customers.

- **Importation of Product of Animal Origin**

Taking Brazilian poultry meat as the example, poultry meat products exported to Great Britain derived from Brazilian poultry meat must have undergone treatment D prior to importation into the EU or must undergo treatment D prior to export to GB. To onward certify Brazilian poultry meat products to GB, the certifying officer must be presented with the import Health certificate from Brazil indicating that the product has undergone **treatment D**<sup>3</sup> along with the relevant batch traceability information e.g., recipe records etc.

### **Heat Treatment**

Raw poultry, for example, from Brazil may be imported to the EU. However, if this poultry meat is transformed into a meat product, it must also undergo **treatment D** (heat treatment > 70°C). This may be satisfied by the meat product manufacturer's heat treatment CCP records. These may need to be presented to the certifying officer prior to certification.

Note: In the course of carrying out their official controls the certifying officer may be satisfied that CCPs remain in control within the establishment or when not in control that the establishment takes the necessary corrective / preventative action including disposition / diversion of the affected product. In this case, the certifying officer may not seek to have heat treatment records furnished for every batch within each certificate application.

### **Summary**

1. Certifying Office / FBO to familiarise themselves with the certificate applicable to their product type (Fresh, Minced, Product or Preparation) and market (Transit v Final Destination).
2. Certifying Office and FBO work in collaboration.
3. Analyse the requirements and content of each certificate
4. Establish what accompanying information is required to guarantee the security of the certification process.

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<sup>3</sup> As per Annex II, Part 4 of UK's [Retained Commission Decision 777/2007](#)

5. FBOs will have to review and amend current information furnished by suppliers. This is particularly important where meat products / preps are supplied and slaughter dates, origin etc may not be directly known to the supplier who may in turn have to review and amend the information that is currently supplied to them. FBOs that do not directly trade with GB will also have to amend their way of doing business considering the certification imperatives mandated on their customers who do wish to trade with GB.
6. Findings and outcomes should be incorporated into the establishment's Brexit SOP.
7. The responsibility to obtain and supply accompanying information rests with the FBO.
8. Incoming Health Certificates for both live animals and POAO are critically important.
9. CHEDs do not always carry the required information.
10. Practice

## Annex II

# TRACES MEAT CERTIFICATION PROCESS

<b>Original submission by FBO contains finalised information in Part 1 of Certificate</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Actor</b>
	FBO submits a certification schedule for any given week to local VI/SAO on the Thursday of the previous week	FBO
1.	FBO completes Part I TRACES EHC with consignment details and attaches relevant documentation. Draft cert on TRACES E.g., CHED, CMR, Third Country EHC, Traceability information; heat treatment details; production dates; slaughter dates etc.	FBO
2.	FBO submits Part I application for certification <b>12 – 24 hours</b> in advance of certification requirement – NEW Cert on TRACES	FBO
3.	Applicant e-mails Local DAFM team VI/SAO notifying DAFM of the application The email must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The URL link or TRACES certificate number.</li> <li>b. Establishment of dispatch.</li> <li>c. Support documentation e.g., CHED, CMR, Traceability info</li> <li>d. Estimated date &amp; time of departure.</li> </ul>	FBO
4.	VI/Tech Team monitor TRACES &/or e mails for notification of GB EHC applications at predetermined intervals	VI/Tech Team
5.	Inspectors carry out the necessary technical and regulatory checks and review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support documentation</li> <li>• Traceability information</li> <li>• Checks may involve consultation with DAFM staff at plant of Production/Dispatch</li> <li>• FBOs may be consulted directly to supply additional information</li> </ul>	Tech Team
6 a.	When verification checks are satisfactory the certificate may be moved to ‘IN PROGRESS’ by the technical officer	Tech Team
6 b.	Alternatively, verification checks may be completed in full by the certifying VI	VI
7.	VI performs final checks as necessary – Physical, ID checks, VI completes the attestations and validates certificate on TRACES VALID cert on TRACES EHC is digitally signed	VI
8.	Digitally signed document is then available to be transmitted to IPAFFS.	FBO