

Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 03/2024

To: All Food Business Operators

Subject: Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Fresh, Vacuum-Refrigerated, or Frozen Sheepmeat to Algeria

Background

An agreement has been reached with the Algerian authorities on a veterinary health certificate (VHC), for the export of fresh, vacuum-refrigerated, or frozen sheepmeat to Algeria. Trade can commence immediately.

Scope

The VHC covers Fresh, Vacuum-Refrigerated, or Frozen Sheepmeat. Meat and meat products must be derived from animals born, continuously raised, and slaughtered in the European Union and which have been produced in full compliance with European Parliament and Council Regulations (EC) No. 999/2001 and (EC) No. 1069/2009 as applicable.

Eligibility

All DAFM-approved slaughter, cutting and processing ovine establishments, which are supervised by an official veterinarian of the Department, are eligible to produce sheepmeat for export to Algeria.

Role of the Food Business Operator (FBO)

If plant management wish to export sheepmeat to Algeria, they must first draw up a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in consultation with the Veterinary Inspector. The SOP must set out how the FBO will produce meat of ovine origin which meets the certification conditions and the measures the FBO will take to ensure that the export criteria are met.

Labelling requirements

Carton labels for cuts of meats must state the approval number of the abattoir and the cutting plant, the **names of the importer** and exporter, as well as the date of slaughter. FBOs should take particular notice to that fact that the name of the importer must also be included on carton labels.

Veterinary Health Certificates

VHCs will be available on request to Veterinary Inspectors at eligible plants through the usual channels.

The text of the certificate will be published concurrently with this Trader Notice on the DAFM website.

Meat Market Access Section

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