**VETERINARY SUPPORT HEALTH ATTESTATION (SHA) FOR THE MOVEMENT, WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM, OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS\***

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN**

**THE SHA REFERRED TO IN THIS NFG IS NOT AN OFFICIAL EXPORT DOCUMENT OR AN EXPORT CERTIFICATE. THIS SHA CAN ONLY BE USED TO ACCOMPANY ANIMAL PRODUCTS\* FOR MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

\* excluding germinal products

**General Notes for Guidance.**

1. **SCOPE**

This SHA is designed to facilitate the eventual export certification of animal products (excluding germinal products) from the United Kingdom to other countries[[1]](#footnote-1). It may be used to support official export certification by Official Veterinarians (OVs) in approved meat premises.

The SHA **must** be certified by an official veterinarian and stamped with the plant Approval stamp. FSS Official veterinarians must only use this version, and are not permitted to sign Food Business Operator (FBO) versions as an MRCVS. However, the FBO is able to pre-fill the SHA for signing.

SHAs are designed to be signed daily, each time animal products\* are consigned from one establishment to another within the United Kingdom. The SHA should be certified before the products are moved and not signed retrospectively.

There is one SHA per species, as there are differing requirements in each species EHC.

**IMPORTANT:** This document must **not** be used as a substitute for official certification. For example:

* For the internal movement of animal products destined for export to certain countries for which a specific, “bespoke” official attestation is required

[e.g. China – pig meat (7006EHC, 1734IMC); Eurasian Customs Union – poultry meat (7459EHC/IMC,7468EHC/IMC), sheep and goat meat (7537EHC/IMC), bovine meat (7538EHC/IMC), milk and milk products (6409EHC/IMC); India – Pig meat (7534EHC/IMC), Poultry meat (7514EHC/IMC); Australia - cooked pig meat imported from an approved country that has undergone further preparation in GB (8021EHC/IMC); Canada – fresh beef (7833EHC/IMC)]; and/or

* In place of any official certification required for movements of animal products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Protocol.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. **SIGNATURE**

This SHA can only be signed by an Official Veterinarian who holds the appropriate designation for the premises being certified, and who has the relevant, knowledge of, and familiarity with, the processes carried out in the establishment from which it is issued, or is in possession of veterinary declarations attesting to the facts required in order to sign the attestation, for example from the primary producer’s veterinary surgeon or the FBO.

Some export health certificates require detailed understanding of complex requirements. Official Veterinarian in Approved Meat premises should work with the final Certifying Official Veterinarian to agree the information required to be provided in the SHA and ensure that they strictly adhere to the RCVS’s 10 Principles of Certification (link below).

[*http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification*](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification)

Where paper documents are used, the Official Veterinarian signing the SHA should stamp it with the approval stamp of the establishment of origin. The signature and stamp on the SHA must be in a colour **other than the printed text**.

With the agreement of the export Certifying Veterinarian or Certifying Officer (CO), SHA’s may also be issued electronically, subject to sufficient safeguards and security and in accordance with RCVS guidance (linked above). For example, colour scanned copies of original signed SHAs may be sent electronically directly from the OV to the CO in such a way that document tampering by a third party is not possible – for example as a pdf file.

**This SHA is not an official document issued under the control of APHA/Defra/DAERA. This is an FSS document to support export health certification. Veterinarians certifying this SHA do not need to be APHA export designated Official Veterinarians (OVs) and, where veterinarians are also designated as APHA export OVs, they should not sign this SHA in this capacity or using their APHA OV stamp.**

After completion, OVs in Approved Meat Establishments signing the SHA should retain a copy of the SHA alongside any relevant support attestations and/or copies of other relevant documents. This is for reference and audit purposes in order to assist with queries that may arise post-movement or when SHAs are being used to support export health certification procedures. OVs must determine their own document retention period after which time these documents may be disposed of – but in general at least 6 months from certification.

There is no need to return copies to the APHA Centre for International Trade. However, copies that have been used for export certification may be requested by APHA or DAERA for audit purposes.

1. **AVAILABILITY OF SHAs**

Blank SHAs and templates are available on [FSS SharePoint](http://sgsharepoint16/sites/FSS/ops/Shared%20Documents/Administration/Exports). SHAs may be printed on durable plain paper.

1. **SHA NUMBER**

The OV signing the health attestation must identify each SHA with a unique serial number made up of (Year/Month/Day/ Establishment number/sequential number [e.g. 2021/01/03/GB1234/05]. To avoid the risk of duplication and assist traceability, the OV should keep in their establishment a record of these sequential numbers.

**Section Guidance – All species**

**I. ORIGIN OF THE PRODUCT**

OV’s signing should satisfy themselves that the intended destination of the product is an approved premises within GB.

**II. IDENTIFICATION OF PRODUCT**

Paragraph II (a) refers. A description of the products produced by the premises for export should be provided including species of animal, fresh or processed, and a description relevant to the type of product(s) – e.g. whole or half carcases / cuts / type of meat preparation or product, nature of packaging, average/ expected weight of packages where applicable.

Paragraph II (b) refers. The identification will vary according to the nature of the animal product(s). Any markings applied to the product(s) which help to link the consigned goods to the SHA should be used here. This may include stamps on carcases, batch numbers, product codes, production dates etc as well as a seal number (if used). However when signing on a daily basis, the markings may be limited to the unique approval number and date of slaughter/production/processing/freezing.

**EHC attestation guidance – all species:**

1. **Section II.1.**

The OV should read all references to Regulation EC 854/2004 as being replaced by Regulation EU 2017/625. Application of the health/ID mark indicates compliance with all applicable legislation.

**Sections II.1.1 – II.1.8** may all be signed on the basis of the Approval documents, and are not required on the SHA, unless frozen mince is being exported.

**Section II.1.9 (Bovine and Ovine)**

This is not required in the SHA as gas brain-stem killing or pithing are not permitted. As an approved premises it is not permitted to be non-compliant with Regulation 999/2001 and 1760/2000, therefore meat from an approved premises will not contain or be derived from SRM, or the carcases do not contain SRM other than the vertebral column (<30m) or if > 30m must be identified by a red stripe label.

**Section II.1.10** only applicable if exporting to Finland or Sweden

**Section II.1.3 (Porcine)**

The selection will depend upon the Trichinella status of the animal.

Currently, only meat from porcine animals that have been tested Trichinella negative or the meat has been subjected to a freezing treatment are eligible for export to the EU.

Animals from controlled housing conditions are only ineligible for Trichinella testing if unweaned pigs under 5 weeks of age.

**III. HEALTH ATTESTATION**

**Any** **specific import health requirements of the destination country should be entered here.**

**Section II.2.1**

GB territory code GB0 from [Annex to Regulation EU 2020/2204](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R2204&from=EN)

**Section II.2.1 a) and b)** Any statements regarding **country or area freedom from notifiable diseases** which may be required in the final EHC do not need to be certified in the SHAs. They will be covered by an authority to certify notifiable disease clearance issued to, or obtainable by, the Certifying Official Veterinarian/Certifying Officer (e.g. via form 618NDC).

**Section II.2.2** Proof of residency since birth or for the previous 3 months is required. For advice on imported animals, please contact APHA Carlisle. Non-EU imported animals may require additional attestations.

**Section II.2.4** There is a legal requirement to comply with[The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (legislation.gov.uk)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2005/653/regulation/2/made) However OVs should be satisfied that there is adherence to this and if unclear, a declaration from the producer or FBO is required, and the OV may request evidence if necessary.

If the declaration is from the FBO, evidence of a verification program should be requested.

**Section II.2.5 d)** The negative intradermal test is not required

**Section II.2.6** Evidence from the FBO in regard to separation of animals and meat intended for export will be required.

OVs must agree which specific health requirements to include in the SHA with the Certifying Officer due to sign the official export certificate(s). This may not be possible, in which event the OV should discuss with the FBO the destination of the product and use professional judgement.

**General Guidance**

In some cases, health conditions can be complex and it is essential that the OV signing the SHA is fully aware of the conditions required to be certified. OVs must not certify compliance with the requirements from the destination country unless they fully understand these requirements and are in possession of a specimen copy of the current version of the relevant EHC, its Notes for Guidance (NFG) and any other associated documents.

Specimen copies of EHCs and NFGs can be obtained from APHA form finder: <https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

The reference number(s) for the relevant Export Health Certificate(s) (EHCs) for the destination country of final destination should be stated (including version number/date agreed found at the footer left of each page of an EHC).

Relevant import health requirements should be clearly stated by reference to the relevant sections/paragraphs of the EHC(s).

OVs should note that in attesting compliance with the conditions from a destination country in paragraph III(a), they are also endorsing that any establishments which have handled the animal products prior to that point in the supply chain have:

* 1. the necessary approvals to export to the destination country (where this is required); and,
  2. have undertaken any specific measures required by the destination country, i.e. such as testing or segregation of the product.

OVs must therefore satisfy themselves that this is the case from available SHAs or other documents as necessary.

**Approval to export to specific IMPORTING Countries**.

Some importing countries require that establishments are specifically approved for exports to that country in addition to being approved under UK national legislation. Different importing countries may require:

1. Only national approval
2. Importing country approval of all establishments in the supply chain, e.g. from slaughterhouse through to cold storage and dispatch;
3. Importing country approval only up to a certain point in the supply chain.

If required, OVs signing the SHA must check the relevant EHC, NFG and where necessary, an import permit obtained by the exporter, so that necessary approval numbers are included in paragraph III(b). If in doubt, OVs should contact APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle for advice.

1. This scope includes Products of Animal Origin (POAO) for human consumption and animal-by products but excludes germinal products and live animals. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For products moving within the UK (e.g. between GB and NI) an SHA may be used *in addition* to official certification requirements where needed to support onward export to other countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)