



Animal & Plant Health Agency

APHA Briefing Note 02/26

Export Certification of Meat to South Africa

Date issued: 14 January 2026

Purpose

1. To inform certifiers Official Veterinarians (OV) of certification requirements for the export of meat from Great Britain (GB) to South Africa.

Background

2. Several recent export consignments of meat to South Africa have been detained on arrival due to multiple slaughterhouses and/or cutting plants being listed on the accompanying certified Export Health Certificate (EHC).
3. South African import requirements state that 'health certification must be obtained from each separate sourcing abattoir and/or cutting plant'. This is a longstanding requirement for meat imports into South Africa.
4. As an example, if a consignment originates from one cutting plant supplied by two slaughterhouses, two EHCs would need to be certified:
 - One EHC for the cutting plant and slaughterhouse A
 - One EHC for the cutting plant and slaughterhouse B.
5. The following Notes for Guidance for meat exports from GB to South Africa have been updated with the information regarding this process:
 - [7278EHC](#) – export of deboned beef and beef offal in recognised cuts
 - [7319EHC](#) – export of pigmeat
 - [7579EHC](#) – export of raw frozen pig meat for unrestricted sale.

Action for Official Veterinarians

6. Where consignments that originate from more than one slaughterhouse/cutting plant are being exported, OVs must certify a separate EHC for each combination of slaughterhouse and cutting plant.
7. If you have recently certified an EHC with multiple slaughterhouses and/or cutting plants listed on a single EHC that is yet to arrive in South Africa, please contact the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) providing the details of the EHC.

Further Information

- Any queries relating to this Briefing Note should be directed to: exports@apha.gov.uk
- CITC Telephone: 0300 0300 201

Issued: 14 January 2026