Animal & Plant Health Agency

APHA Briefing Note 32/26

Export of Meat and Meat Products to Canada – Updated Guidance and Checklists

Date issued: 27 October 2026

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OV) of amendments to the Notes for guidance (NFG) of Export Health Certificates (EHC) for meat and meat product to Canada following the 2024 audit by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Background

2. Following actions arising from the 2024 CFIA audit and the recent notification of additional requirements relating to the trimming of beef aortas, Defra has reviewed and updated the Notes for Guidance (NFGs), advisory guidance, and verification checklists associated with the following EHCs:

    - 7068EHC - Export lamb, goat, pork, beef and bird meat and products containing these meats to Canada
    - 7833EHC - Export of Fresh Beef to Canada
    - 7644EHC - Export fresh pig meat or preparations to Canada.

3. The revisions include:

    - The removal of duplicate wording from all NFG
    - 7833NFG:
        - Checklist - an extra clause in the Canada checklists relating to the trimming of the aorta

- Advisory on meat exports – additional wording relating to water retention, allergen control procedures, critical prohibition, and enhanced inspection requirements sections

- 7644NFG:
  - Advisory on meat exports – additional wording relating to water retention, allergen control procedures, critical prohibition, and enhanced inspection requirements sections

- 7068NFG:
  - Advisory on meat exports - additional wording relating to water retention, allergen control procedures, critical prohibition, and enhanced inspection requirements sections. Also dressing requirements for poultry including the head, feet and uropygial gland to be removed prior to or post evisceration

- A new advisory guidance document for 7644EHC

- Additional requirement within the verification checklists for 7068EHC and 7833EHC.

Actions

4. OVs must familiarise themselves with the revised documents and ensure they are aware of any new requirements before certifying products covered by these EHCs.

Further Information

- Any queries relating to this briefing note should be sent to CITC by telephone: 03000 200 301 or by using the APHA online contact form.

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