To: All Parties Intending to Export Dairy Products.

Subject: Gaining and Maintaining Approval for Access to the Online Dairy Export Application System - Dairy Produce Certification System (DPCS).

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) wishes to inform all parties who have, or who are seeking, access to its online dairy export application system - Dairy Produce Certification System (DPCS) of the following conditions required to gain and maintain approval for access to the system.

Applicants/users should familiarise themselves with the requirements of the relevant legislation of the Republic of Ireland, EU and the certification requirements of the destination country in relation to the dairy product to be exported.

**Legislative Requirements**

- **Food Business Operators in the Republic of Ireland**

  Food Business Operators who manufacture, purchase or take legal ownership of food for sale or supply including to other businesses, whether they may or may not take physical possession of food, must be registered and where appropriate, approved under Article 4 of Regulation 853/2004 and require supervision by the appropriate agency.

  In Ireland, the implementing hygiene legislation is the European Communities (Food and Feed Hygiene) Regulations 2009, S.I. 432 of 2009. - This legislation also requires Traders to be registered with the relevant competent authority.

  Further information on registration/approval is available through the following contact points:

  Milk Hygiene Section,
  ☏ 353-57-8694355 or
  ✉ dairyhygiene@agriculture.gov.ie

- **Food Business Operators in Other EU Member States**

  Traders who do not operate in the Republic of Ireland but who operate in other EU Member States must provide a copy of their registration under Food and Feed law, issued by the appropriate competent authorities, to this Department at the time of application for access to the DPCS.
**Food Business Operators in Non-EU Member States (“Third Country”)**

If a trader does not have premises in an EU member state, a letter/certificate of registration, issued by the competent authority of the country in which the trader is based, should be made available to this Department at the time of application for access to the DPCS.

The following is a list of some of the regulations and guidelines pertaining to the export certification of dairy products. This list should not be considered as exhaustive:

- Directive 96/93/EC on the certification of animals and animal products.
- EU Regulation 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, as amended.
- Veterinary Practice Act 2005 as amended.
- Specific third Country food hygiene legislation which is applicable to Irish FBOs exporting to that Country.

**General Conditions.**

Applications for certificates which have been agreed with Third Country competent authorities will require the assurance of the manufacturer that the product to be certified conforms to the standards of that Third Country. If the product cannot be demonstrated as compliant with the certification requirements of the particular Third Country, that product will be deemed ineligible for certification.

The associated standards and traceability of the product must be satisfied at ingredient, manufacturer, packer, storage and transport stage and all supporting documentation should be available for inspection in a timely manner.

Fully complete and accurate certificate applications must be submitted. Incomplete or inaccurate applications will lead to inevitable and significant delays.

Depending on various factors associated with a certificate application, certification will be provided either by centrally or locally based dairy and/or veterinary inspectors.
All applications for certificates should be submitted in sufficient time to allow the Department to process the applications in full.

Applications that can be certified centrally will generally be processed within 5 working days. This certification process will be facilitated by DAFM in-house inspectors.

Local certificates generally take up to 10 working days to process and occasionally longer depending on the need for supporting documentation. Such certificates might contain statements including, but not confined to the following:

a) Origin of Milk / Milk Product /Product of Animal Origin (when in combination with a dairy product).

b) Heat Treatment.

c) Contaminants.

d) Composition/Analysis.

e) Specific test results in units as specified by the import requirements.

Each applicant should ensure the availability and provision of all relevant documentation to support any statement requiring certification by a dairy or veterinary inspector.

Certificates can only issue in respect of product that was prepared for shipment in the Republic of Ireland and that product must be available for inspection.

The product must be under the control of the competent authority (DAFM) and available for inspection up to the point of shipment.

DAFM certification will only apply to the destination country stated on the certificate in question. DAFM cannot guarantee onward certification to a subsequent destination if the dairy product has left the Republic of Ireland’s jurisdiction.

Traders will be required to sign an undertaking to comply with all the conditions that pertain to access to DPCS and which are subject to change from time to time.

Failure to comply with any of the conditions above may result in revocation of access.

For further information or to proceed with an application for access to the DPCS, please contact the Dairy Export Certification Unit
☎️ 353-1-6072853
✉️ dairyexportcerts@agriculture.gov.ie

Meat & Milk Policy Division.
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