



EPA Product Certification Service (Certificates of Radioactivity Measurement)

Terms and Conditions

Effective from 1 January 2027

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1. Product Certification Service

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a product certification service (certificates of radioactivity measurement) under section 8(i) of the Radiological Protection Act 1991 to exporters of Irish foodstuffs and agriculture produce to non-EU markets to certify that products meet radioactive caesium thresholds. This service was introduced following the Chernobyl accident in 1986 which resulted in low levels of radioactive material including radioactive caesium being deposited across the northern hemisphere.

There are no reference levels for radioactivity in individual foodstuffs in Ireland or the EU. Currently, standard certificates of radioactivity measurement confirm that the total radio-caesium concentrations in milk, milk products and food for infants and young children are less than 370 Bq/kg and that the total radio-caesium concentrations in all other products are less than 600 Bq/kg. These are the maximum permitted levels for imports of food and feed originating in third countries into the European Union as set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1158. These concentrations are used in the absence of any equivalent concentrations for exports.

Due to the time that has elapsed since the Chernobyl accident in 1986 and the relatively short half-life (2.1 years) of caesium-134 (Cs-134), the only caesium radionuclide of concern is caesium-137 (Cs-137) which has a half-life of 30 years. EPA monitoring data shows that radioactivity concentrations, including Cs-137 activity concentrations, in Irish food and agricultural produce are very low and stable. Therefore, certificates for products included in the EPA's radioactivity in food monitoring programme can be issued based on monitoring data alone, eliminating the requirement for customers to pay for the analysis of representative samples of these products. These products are:

- Beef
- Casein (and variants)
- Cheese (all)
- Fish (cod, haddock, mackerel, plaice, ray, whiting)
- Grain (barley, oats, wheat)
- Infant formula
- Lamb
- Liquid milk (fresh and UHT)
- Milk powder
- Pork
- Shellfish (lobster, mussels, oysters, prawns, winkles)
- Skimmed milk powder
- Whey (and variants)

The above list includes six sample types for which certificates are most frequently requested (casein, cheese, infant formula, milk powder, skimmed milk powder and whey). To facilitate this, customers will be asked to supply these samples to the EPA (maximum of six samples from a single customer in one year). There will be no charge for the analysis of these samples, but customers are asked to provide them free of charge. The results from the analysis will be reported on the EPA website annually with other monitoring data (company names will not be included). Test reports will not be issued unless specifically requested. The EPA appreciates customers' support with this. By providing these samples, this ensures that we can issue certificates for these products without customers having to pay for analysis of representative samples.

2. Requirement for Sample Analysis

If the product being exported is not covered by the EPA's monitoring programmes, then a sample of the produce must have been analysed for radio-caesium in the past 12 months before a certificate can be issued. Analysis can be performed by the EPA (charges available on the EPA website) or another accredited laboratory and the results shared with the EPA.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of products that are not covered by the EPA's monitoring programmes:

- Additives and supplements (food and animal feed)
- Butter
- Buttermilk and buttermilk powder
- Chicken
- Concentrates
- Confectionery
- Cream (fresh and UHT)
- Creamer
- Flavourings
- Lactose
- Oil (Rapeseed and other)
- Pea protein
- Peat moss (including casing)
- Sodium caseinate (NaCas)
- Yoghurt powder

If a certificate is required for a product not listed above or not included in the list in section

1, please contact the product certification service (contact details provided at the end of this document) to find out if sample analysis is required before a certificate can be issued.

2.1 Certification to Lower levels

Where certification to radio-caesium levels less than 50 Bq/kg is required, the customer must arrange for one sample of that product type to be analysed for radio-caesium at least once every 12 months.

2.2 Other Radionuclides

Where certificates are required for other radionuclides apart from radio-caesium e.g. radio-strontium, a sample of the produce must be analysed for that radionuclide prior to the issue of a product certificate.

3. Application Process

All applications for product certificates must be made [online](#) through the EPA website. The following information must be supplied as part of the application process:

- Company name
- Contact email address
- Product description
- Batch numbers
- Quantity
- Manufacturer
- Consignor
- Consignee
- Destination
- Additional information (if required, for further specific information regarding the shipment)

4. Certificates of Radioactivity Measurement

Certificates are issued with a unique EPA reference number in the format YY.MM.XX where XX is a sequential number which starts at 1 for the first certificate issued each month. It includes the issue date and the information supplied at the application stage.

Certificates include the following text:

The Environmental Protection Agency, under the Radiological Protection Acts 1991 to 2018, Section 8(i), as amended, hereby certifies on the basis of officially established information and ongoing national monitoring during the period of production to shipment of this consignment, that the product detailed below contains total radio-caesium concentrations less than 370 Bq/kg for milk, milk products and food for infants and young children and less than 600 Bq/kg for all other products.

Certificates are issued to the email address supplied at the time of application. However, hard-copy certificates may be issued upon request.

5. Turnaround Time

Certificates of radioactivity measurement will be issued within three working days from the receipt of a valid, fully completed application request, where sample analysis is not required.

Where sample analysis is included, the turnaround time of three working days does not include the time to perform analytical work. This time is dependent on laboratory resources and the analysis to be performed. Please allow a minimum of ten working days for the sample analysis in addition to the certificate processing time.

6. Payment

A valid purchase order number must be provided at the time of application. Customers may provide a purchase order number to cover a batch of certificates.

All invoices must be paid within 30 days. Certificates of radioactivity measurement will only be issued where the customer account is up to date, and all due invoices have been paid.

Certificates of radioactivity measurement shall be charged for in accordance with the current EPA price list. All charges are subject to annual review. Any changes to the price list shall be posted on the EPA website.

7. Review of the Terms and Conditions

The conditions for issue of certificates of radioactivity measurement set out in this document are subject to ongoing review and relate to the radiological conditions pertaining to the island of Ireland at the time of writing. The conditions specified here, for example, would not necessarily be valid in the aftermath of any future radiological or nuclear incident impacting

the Irish environment. The EPA, therefore, reserves the right to amend the conditions with immediate effect in response to such an incident. Any changes to these conditions shall be posted on the EPA website.

No amendment or addition to these Terms and Conditions shall be binding upon the Service unless acceptance thereof has been confirmed in writing by the Manager of the Service.

8. Liability

EPA shall not be liable to the customer, whether in contract, tort (including negligence), breach of statutory duty or otherwise, arising under or in connection with this agreement for loss of profits, loss of sales or business, loss of agreements or contracts, loss of anticipated savings, loss of or damage to goodwill or any indirect, special or consequential loss.

The EPA's total liability, and subject always to the exclusions of liability referred to above, to the customer whether in contract, tort (including negligence), for breach of statutory duty or otherwise, arising under or in connection with this agreement shall be limited to the amount paid by the customer to the EPA for the order the subject of the claim in question.

The terms implied by the Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act 1980 are, to the fullest extent permitted by law, excluded from this agreement.

9. Complaints

Any complaints regarding the service may be submitted to the

Manager of the Radiation Monitoring Laboratory
McCumiskey House, Richview
Clonskeagh
Dublin 14
D14 YR62

All complaints will be dealt with promptly in accordance with the EPA's ISO 17025:2017 Quality System.

10. Further Information

For further information or advice, please contact the EPA's Product Certification Service using the following email address RadCertification@epa.ie.