**No:**.............

**EXPORT OF GAME BIRD CARCASES TO HONG KONG - 517EHC**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER**

**Scope of the certificate.**

1. This certificate is for the export of wild game bird carcases, shot within the UK, and exported in chilled or frozen form, to Hong Kong.

**Official Signature**

2.

This certificate may be signed by a Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), The Scottish Government – Rural Directorate, Welsh Assembly Government, Department for Rural Affairs, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office (in GB, Animal Health, Specialist Service Centre (SSC)– Exports, Carlisle) within seven days of signature.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

 **Import Permit**

3. Exporters should be aware that the consignment must be accompanied by an official import permit from the government of Hong Kong. It is the responsibility of the importer to obtain the import permit well ahead of the shipment date, and the exporter is advised to confirm that this has been done before proceeding with the export. In the absence of an import permit, the Hong Kong authorities may return the consignment to the UK, or destroy it.

 **Transhipment and** **Sealing of containers**

4. Paragraph I(e)refers. If consignments are transhipped through a country other than the country of origin, two options are available:

1. Consignments conveyed in sealed refrigerated containers (temperature records, declarations and any other evidences as required by the import permit issued by the Hong-Kong authorities)- The seal number applied to the refrigerated container must be entered at paragraph I(e) of the certificate. In any other case this paragraph must be deleted.

b) Consignments conveyed other than in sealed refrigerated containers – a transhipment certificate issued by the competent health authority of the transit country must be obtain with the statements required at the import permit issued by the Hong-Kong authorities.

 **Origin of the Products**

5. Paragraph II refers.

 The game birds must have been shot in the wild in the United Kingdom. It is not necessary to state the precise location at which they were shot.

Then they must have been delivered to an FSA (Food Standards Agency)

supervised Game Handling Establishment, where they were plucked, eviscerated, inspected, and chilled. Details of the Game Handling Establishment must be given in sub-paragraph (b).

Sub-paragraph (c) is for details of the establishment at which the consignment is packed for export, and where the export health certificate is completed. This may or may not be the same address as in sub-paragraph (b). It is also advisable to enter the FSA UK/EU approval number of the establishments.

 **Post-mortem Inspection**

6. Paragraphs IV (a), (b) and (c) refer. Current food hygiene regulations in the EU and the UK require game bird carcases to be processed at an FSA-approved Game Handling Establishment, and inspected there by an FSA officer. They (or their packaging) will receive the oval health mark which confirms that they satisfied all the regulations, and were inspected and found fit for human

 consumption.

 **Notifiable disease clearance**

7. Paragraph IV (d) refers. This paragraph may be certified by the OV on the basis of written confirmation (form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by by the issuing office (in GB, Animal Health, Specialist Service Centre (SSC)– Exports, Carlisle) within 10 days before shipment.

If there have been no cases of either Newcastle disease or Notifiable Avian Influenza anywhere in the UK during the past 6 months, the certification is easy. At times when there has been a local outbreak, the OV will need to obtain full details about where all the birds in the consignment were shot, and then consult with the Specialist Service Centre (SSC)– Exports, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office in Northern Ireland about the notifiable disease clearance.

 **Disclaimer**

8.

The DEFRA disclaimer (Form 372DMR) will be issued to the exporter with this certificate for his/her information.  The certificate is provided on the basis of information available at the time and may not necessarily comply fully with the requirements of the importing country.  It is the exporter’s responsibility to check the certificate against any relevant import permit or any advice provided by the competent authority in the importing country.  If these do not match, the exporter should contact the issuing office (in GB, SSC Exports, Carlisle) via the link below:

      <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/centrops.htm>