

No: .....

**EXPORT OF CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS TO MOROCCO**

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

1. **Scope of the certificate.**

This certificate is for the export of hatching eggs of the domestic fowl species (*Gallus gallus*) to Morocco

2. **Official Signature**

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) or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland within seven days of signature. The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. **Type of Production**

Paragraph I, column 2 of the table, refers. This means grandparents, parent stock, commercial broilers, commercial layers, etc. (see also paragraph IV.(g) (iv) and (v))

4. **Registration Number of Flock of Origin**

Paragraph II (b) refers. The required number is the registration number for the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). (see also paragraph IV.(g) (vi))

5. **Notifiable Disease Clearance: Avian Influenza**

Paragraphs IV. (a)(i) or (a)(ii)(a), may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by SSC- Carlisle or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

Note that certification of the second option must comprise all 3 subparagraphs together: IV.(a)(ii)(a), IV.(a)(ii)(b) and IV.(a)(ii)(c). This option applies when a case of notifiable low pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in the country, but the flocks of origin are not located in the affected area. The OV himself/herself is responsible for certifying the information in subparagraphs (a)(ii)(b) and (a)(ii)(c), but he/she should consult SSC- Carlisle (or the relevant office in N. Ireland) about the area freedom assurance in (a)(ii)(c), as official clearance is needed for this part of the paragraph.

Note also that the tests for avian influenza in (a)(ii)(b) must be carried out by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Weybridge or Lasswade, or the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, Stormont and the **laboratory report(s) MUST be attached to the certificate.**

6. **National Monitoring Programme for Avian Influenza**

Paragraph IV (b) applies. The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2010 edition), chapter 1.4., provides guidelines for animal disease surveillance programmes.

The EU Directive 2005/94/EC requires member states to carry out surveillance for avian influenza, and the detailed methodology is laid down in Commission Decision 2006/437/EC and 2007/268/EC. The UK has carried out surveillance according to the EU requirements each year since 2002, and this paragraph may be certified on the basis that the UK programme conforms with EU requirements, which comply and go beyond the OIE guidelines.

7. **Notifiable Disease Clearance: Newcastle disease**

Paragraph IV. (c) may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by SSC, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

8. **Membership of a poultry health scheme**

In various places in these Notes for Guidance reference is to membership of either the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) in GB, or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) in Northern Ireland. Both of these schemes fully implement the conditions in the EU poultry trade Directive 2009/158/EC. Therefore membership of one of the schemes can be taken to confirm that the flock or hatchery complies with all the conditions of the Directive.

The OV may certify membership of either the PHS or NIPHAS on the basis of written confirmation (form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her within 10 before shipment by SSC Carlisle or the equivalent in Northern Ireland.

9. **Egg Disinfection and Marking**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. Both the conditions in this paragraph correspond to the terms of Directive 2009/158/EC. Sub-paragraph (i), Egg Marking. The UK is currently bound by the rules of EU Commission Regulation 617/2008.

The Regulation states that hatching eggs must be marked at the farm of origin with a printed identification number for that premises, in indelible black ink with letters at least 2mm high and 1 mm wide. However the member state may authorise a different form of identification provided that it is done in black indelible ink and at least 10 mm square. In the UK some producers prefer to use a selection of colours other than black in order to identify particular flocks or parental sub-groups, and this is acceptable provided that it is equally clear and legible. Another common alternative in the UK, introduced under Commission Regulation 1351/87 permits the eggs to be marked

with a black, indelible mark at least 10 mm squared, provided that the packs in which they are transported must bear the identification number of the producer establishment.

Sub-paragraph (ii), Disinfection. The UK follows the guidelines of the OIE for the disinfection of hatching eggs. The World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2010 Edition) lays down 3 possible procedures:

(a) fumigation with formaldehyde; or  
(b) spraying with or immersion in an egg shell disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions; or  
(c) made hygienic by another method approved by the veterinary authorities. With respect to this option, note that the UK authorities have not laid down a procedure or a legal requirement for approval of commercial products for egg disinfection.

10. **Flock Health statements**

Paragraph IV. (e) refers.

**Note concerning false positive laboratory results** affecting any of the subparagraphs below:

Certain tests, notably for Mycoplasmas, may produce a limited number of false positive results. In these cases further examinations are needed in order to eliminate the probability of genuine infection. Guidelines for these further examinations are given in the PHS instructions. If any doubtful or positive results have been subject to further investigation by an officially approved laboratory and the probability of genuine infection has been ruled out, the tests may be reported as negative.

**Note that the latest laboratory reports must be attached for subparagraphs (ii), (iii) and (iv).**

(i) Official health checks are a requirement of Directive 2009/158/EC, and this part of the paragraph may be certified on the basis of membership of the PHS or NIPHAS. Concerning freedom from the specific diseases listed: the OV (if not personally responsible for the flocks of origin), may certify freedom on the basis of a support certificate from the veterinarian responsible for the flock.

Note that the paragraph refers only to overt evidence of disease. For example the absence of clinical colibacillosis does not mean that the bacteria E.coli are not present. The paragraph may be certified provided that there is no evidence of any overt clinical outbreak of disease.

(ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) In order to certify these paragraphs the OV must receive a support certificate from the veterinarian responsible for the flocks of origin. The flock veterinarian is responsible for checking all relevant laboratory reports before providing the statement.

11. **Boxing and Marking for Export**

Paragraphs IV (f) and (g) refer. The OV must observe the boxes and markings in order to certify these paragraphs.

12. **Support certification**

Paragraphs IV (a)(ii)(b) & (c), IV (d) and (e) refer - When the certifying OV is not the same as the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for the flocks of origin, the flock veterinarian should complete 7103SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that all the requirements in the flocks of origin are complied with.

13. **Disclaimer**

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>