

**EXPORT OF DAY OLD BIRDS OF POULTRY SPECIES OTHER THAN RATITES TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

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

Associated Documents: 6376EHC, 6376CON, 6376SUP and 618NDC.

**IMPORTANT**

**"Avian influenza in the UK: due to recent outbreaks of avian influenza in the UK and given that this certificate requires assurances and official clearances in connection with avian influenza, consignments originating from establishments inside affected counties may not be eligible for export until such a time required to regain the free status for this disease as stipulated in this certificate".**

**1. Scope of the certificate**

This certificate covers the export of day old chickens, turkeys and ducks to Turkey.

Please note that it is a requirement that the 6376EHC 6376SUP certificates must be signed by the same certifying OV within 24 hours of the intended time of export. Exporters should also be aware that although the certificate's validity is for 10 days, the Turkish authorities may refuse your consignment if the consignment does not arrive within the 48 hours after signature of the certificate. Therefore exporters are advised to make the necessary arrangements in order to comply with this timeline.

**2. Official Signature**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, 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 and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade in Carlisle (CITC)), within seven days of issue.

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

**3. Central Competent Authority**

In box I.3 enter the name of the appropriate Department for England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland (DEFRA, SG, WG or DARDNI).  
In box I.4 for 'local competent authority' enter the APHAoffice location (town).

**4. Country of Origin**

In box I.7 the country of origin is pre-printed as United Kingdom, and the ISO code is pre-printed as GB. This is NOT a mistake. The International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) specifies a 2-letter

code for each country, and the letters for the entire United Kingdom are GB.

Throughout this certificate the place of origin is considered to be the hatchery. If the chicks were hatched in the UK from eggs which were imported from flocks of origin in another country, the place of origin should still be regarded as the UK.

5. **Region of Origin**

Under I.8 for the region of origin enter the **county** in which the **hatchery** is located (corresponding to the hatchery address in box I.11) (see also paragraph 10 below).

6. **Approval number of Place of origin**

Box I.11 refers. The number required is the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) membership number of the hatchery. If the hatchery manager cannot supply this number the OV should apply to CITC in GB, or the relevant office in N. Ireland. CITC or the relevant office in N. Ireland will also confirm on form 618NDC that the hatchery is currently a member of the Scheme.

7. **CITES permit number**

Box I.17 refers. This does not apply in the case of domestic poultry, and the box is pre-printed 'not applicable'.

8. **Commodity code**

Box I.19 refers. This refers to customs codes for day old chicks (of any poultry species).

For day old poultry (birds of up to 72 hours of age) of domestic fowl (Gallus gallus) Turkeys, Ducks, Geese and Guinea Fowls the four digit code

"01.05" needs to be entered in this section as explained in the footnotes of the certificate

For other species, the six digit code

"01.06.39" needs to be entered in this section as per footnotes of the certificate.

9. **Directive 90/539/EEC and Poultry Health Scheme membership**

Box I.11 and Paragraphs II.1.1., and II. 1. 6.(except sub-paragraph (c)), and II. 1. 7. (a)(except assurance about 6 week residence) refer.

In Great Britain Directive 90/539/EEC (now revoked and superseded by EU Directive 2009/158/EC - References to any of these Directives should be considered equivalent to each other for certification purposes) is implemented by the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). Flocks and hatcheries which are members of the Scheme therefore conform with the provisions of the Directive. The CITC (or the equivalent in Northern Ireland) will confirm on form 618NDC that the flock(s) and the hatchery are currently members of the Scheme.

With reference to paragraph II. 1. 6., the CITC or the relevant office in N. Ireland will authorise the certification of the following points relating to PHS or NIPHAS conditions:

Preamble, and subparagraphs (a) and (b).

Sub-paragraph (c) relating to area freedom from notifiable avian disease will be covered by a separate authorisation from the issuing office (see paragraph 10 below).

With reference to paragraph II. 1. 7. (a), the CITC or the relevant office in N. Ireland will authorise certification that the flocks

are officially approved, being PHS or NIPHAS members, and that the approval has not been suspended or withdrawn. This leaves one point which the OV must certify on the basis of his/her personal knowledge and enquiries, namely that the flock has been held on the premises for at least 6 weeks.

**10. Hatching Territory**

Paragraphs II.1.2 and II.1.3 refer. The location of the hatchery is the required information in both of these paragraphs. It is very **important** that the OV should write the country code 'GB', which **must** be followed by the **county** name (which must be the same as the county given in box I.8).

The reason for specifying the county is that, when there is a local outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease in a part of the UK, Turkey may agree to regionalise the UK so that exports from unaffected counties may be continued.

If the flocks have been imported from another member state of the EU, they must have been accompanied by the appropriate health certificate under Directive 2009/158/EC, and the OV must check the documents.

If they are imported from a Third Country, they must have been accompanied by the appropriate EU health certification, as laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) 798/2008 (as amended) which is in accordance with Directive 2009/158/EC. The OV should check both the import health certificate and the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED).

**11. Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs II.1.3, II.1.4.1 and II. 1. 6. (c) refer. Note that freedom from notifiable disease is being certified only for the region or territory of origin, and not for the UK as a whole. The region or territory is defined as the **county** in which the flock or hatchery is located. The county may be certified as free if no part of a protection, surveillance or restriction zone, imposed under EU legislation for the control of avian influenza or Newcastle disease, intrudes into the county. The OV may certify this on the basis of written authorisation which will be sent to him/her by the CITC or the relevant office in N. Ireland within 10 days prior to export.

**12. Clinical inspection of chicks**

Paragraphs III (b) (ii) of 6376CON refers. The inspection of the day old birds must be carried out within 24 hours of the intended time of shipment. The statement about contact of the chicks with other poultry or wild birds must be completed by the certifying OV on the basis of his/her own observation and enquiry.

**13. Clinical inspection of flocks and day-old birds**

Paragraph II. 1. 7. (e) and III (b) (ii) refer. The examination of the flock(s) of origin for signs of Mycoplasma synoviae (or clinical signs of any other disease) must be carried out within 24 hours of the intended time of export. The examination should follow the procedure set down in EU legislation (Directive 2009/158/EC), which offers 2 alternatives:

- (i) Either the certifying OV, or another veterinarian who provides a written statement to the certifying OV, must examine each flock of origin within 24 hours prior to export to confirm that

the flock is free from clinical signs or suspicion of infectious disease.

- (ii) Or the certifying OV, or another veterinarian who provides a written statement to the certifying OV, must have carried out a monthly health visit to inspect the flock of origin, the last of which was not more than 31 days prior to the export of the eggs, and the certifying OV must be satisfied, on the basis of the monthly examinations AND of up to date information on the flock's current health status provided by the person in charge within 24 hours prior to the export, that there is no sign or suspicion of disease in the flock of origin.

The OV must personally examine the health of the day-old chicks for export at the hatchery at the time of signature of the certificate.

**14. Flock disease surveillance**

Paragraphs II. 1. 7. (c) and (d) refer. These surveillance requirements are those which are laid down in the PHS and NIPHAS, and exactly correspond to the requirements in Directive 2009/158/EC. If the flocks have been tested with negative results according to the requirements of the PHS or NIPHAS, this paragraph may be certified. The OV should check all the relevant laboratory reports.

Paragraph II.1.6 (e) refers - Salmonella Kentucky: flocks of origin should be certified free from this salmonella on the basis of a voluntary routine monitoring (with a minimum of frequency of quarterly testing) or pre-export testing with negative laboratory results being dated a maximum of three months prior to the intended date of export. The testing should be carried out at a laboratory officially approved for testing of salmonella under the Poultry health Scheme (or NIPHAS) or the National Control Plan for salmonella, provided the test is accredited for salmonella spp which it is fit for purpose for detecting S. Kentucky. The OV should check all relevant laboratory reports.

**15. Use of Vaccines**

Approved vaccines:

Any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA or the equivalent licensing body in another EU Member State. The use of vaccines imported under a VMD issued Special Import Certificate (SIC) or, of autogenous vaccines manufactured and used with the approval of the VMD, can be considered to have the equivalent of a marketing authorisation in the UK.

Paragraphs II. 1. 7. (f), and II. 1. 7. (g), and II. 1. 9 refer. II. 1. 7. (f) There is no compulsion to either use or not use Newcastle disease vaccine. However, whichever choice is followed, the information must be given in case it becomes necessary to monitor the imported birds in the event of an outbreak of Newcastle disease.

II. 1. 7. (g) This refers to vaccination of the flocks of origin. Vaccines must have a marketing authorisation as described above. Where the space in paragraph (g) is insufficient, the OV may write 'see attached schedule' and must staple a schedule to the health certificate. The schedule must be signed, stamped and dated in ink other than black.

II. 1. 9. This refers to vaccination of the chicks, and the same comments apply as above.

**16. Egg Marking**

Paragraph II. 1. 8. (a) refers. All hatching eggs must be marked prior to despatch in accordance with Directive 90/539/EEC, Article 7, which refers to an earlier Commission Regulation 1868/77. Marking must consist of an identification number of the place of origin, and the figures must appear in indelible black ink at least 2mm high by 1 mm wide. Alternatively, eggs may be marked with a black, indelible mark at least 10 mm squared, and the packs in which they are transported must bear the identification number of the producer establishment. This number may be the Poultry Health Scheme registration number.

**17. Disinfection of the eggs**

Paragraph II. 1. 8. (b) refers. The eggs must be disinfected as soon as possible after collection and in any case before being placed in the incubators at the hatchery. Appropriate standards are laid down in the Office International d'Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The recommendations are:

(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 in the country of origin.

**18. Sealing of containers**

Paragraph II. 4. 1. (c) refers. The OV has to be satisfied (by carrying out an inspection of the consignment) that the boxes used for the transport are sealed in such a way as to avoid any possibility of the substitution of the contents once the boxes are sealed. The seal should be of a type which would need to be broken or torn if the boxes were opened.

**19. Disinfection of Vehicles**

Paragraph II. 4. 1. refers. Vehicles must be disinfected before the crates are loaded for transport, using a DEFRA/DARD approved disinfectant. Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended) and the equivalent legislation in Devolved Administrations. The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant approved for use with poultry, on the basis of their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses. DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

**20. Support certification**

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian, he/she must complete form 6376SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying compliance with those paragraphs which relate to matters within the competence of the flock veterinarian. The completed and signed support health certificate must be provided to the certifying OV.

**21. Disclaimer**

This 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 CITC, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

## **22. Welfare of Animals**

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation EC 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Further information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

### England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

### Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

DARD Helpline number 0300 200 7852.

DARD Helpline email [dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:dardhelpline@dardni.gov.uk)

DARD Textphone 028 9052 4420