

EXPORT OF FRESH POULTRY MEAT AND POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS TO THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS - 5834EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to the Official Veterinarian (OV) and the exporter. The NFG should have been issued to you together with its related export health certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate. We strongly suggest that exporters obtain full details of the importing country's requirements from the veterinary authorities in the country concerned, or their representatives in the UK, in advance of each consignment.

1. Scope of the certificate

This certificate may be used for the export of poultry meat and poultry meat products from the United Kingdom to the British Virgin Islands.

"Fresh" poultry meat includes both chilled and frozen meat.

2. Official signature

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address:
certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: provision of certified copies

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certificate System (DECS) produced EHCs must return a legible,

scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the Department where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. **Origin of the birds and their health status**

This certificate may be issued for birds hatched, reared and slaughtered in the United Kingdom.

Paragraph IV a) may be signed on the basis of veterinary support documents from premises of origin or producer reports received from premises under veterinary supervision in accordance with the relevant hygiene regulations. These reports must include hatchery details.

Paragraph IV b) may be certified based on addition of the identification mark confirming compliance with meat hygiene regulations. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) in Scotland, are responsible for ensuring that all poultry intended for human consumption is subject to ante mortem inspection (which may be largely based on observations at the farm of origin and farm production records), and post mortem inspection at an approved slaughterhouse. This is to ensure that only healthy birds are slaughtered. All meat which has passed these inspections will carry the oval health mark, as laid down in the meat hygiene Regulations. The term "Regulations in force in Great Britain" can in this instance be applied equally to Northern Ireland as the intention is to ensure compliance with regulations applicable at the place of origin.

Paragraph IV c) may be certified on the same basis, as the same legislation requires that the slaughterhouse and production premises are approved and supervised by 'the Competent Veterinary Authority': FSA/FSS or the Local Authority for preparation premises.

Paragraph IV e) can be certified for oval marked poultry meat and poultry meat products which have been processed and handled in accordance with UK food hygiene legislation and did not come into contact with meat of a lower hygiene status.

4. **Notifiable disease status**

Paragraph IV d) refers. The certifying OV may certify this paragraph provided written authority to do so has been obtained on a valid form 618NDC issued by the APHA, or equivalent in Northern Ireland.

Authority will be based on source premises as included within the EHC application. OVs must ensure that the origin locations of the final consignment do not include any places of origin for which they have not been given authority to certify.

Farms of origin must not have been within a disease control zone in place due to an outbreak of Newcastle disease or High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (previously referred to as 'fowl plague') at the time of slaughter of the birds.

5. **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 APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>
DAERA - Email: DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk