

EXPORT OF DAY-OLD CHICKS AND CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS TO SAUDI ARABIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

1. **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.

2. **Scope of the certificate**

This certificate may be used for the export of day-old chicks and hatchings eggs of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) to Saudi Arabia.

3. **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.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink 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
aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates 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.

4. **Legalisation**

Certain importing companies in Saudi Arabia need to get the export health certificate 'legalised', by submitting it to the Saudi Arabian consulate in the UK for stamping and countersigning. In some cases, this may be done by the Chamber of Commerce at Heathrow. It is not necessary for all importers, and exporters should check with their importing customer whether this is necessary in each particular case.

It is the responsibility of the exporter to make these arrangements in the UK. In order to allow sufficient time for the procedures, the exporter may request a 'pre-export certificate' to be issued by the APHA in Carlisle, or by DAERA in Northern Ireland.

5. **Clinical inspection**

Paragraph IV a) refers. An inspection of the flock(s) of origin must be carried out within one month prior to export.

If the certifying OV is not normally responsible for the flock(s) of origin, he/she might certify this paragraph on the basis of a signed support document (1100SUP) which will be issued by APHA or DAERA at the same time as the main certificate.

6. **Flock Health Statement**

At paragraph IV b) 'evidence' shall be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock production and mortality records, laboratory test records and pathological reports.

7. **Marek's Vaccination**

Paragraph IV c) refers. All chicks for Saudi Arabia must be vaccinated against the Rispens and HVT strains of Marek's disease using either a bivalent vaccine or two monovalent vaccines. The written declaration from the owner/exporter must not be attached to the certificate but should be retained by the certifying OV for record purposes.

8. **Treatment and feeding with hormones and other additives**

Paragraph IV d) refers.

The OV must certify this paragraph in respect of the day old chicks on the basis of his/her personal knowledge of procedures at the hatchery. In respect of the flocks of origin the OV must certify on the basis of a written statement (on certificate 1100SUP) from the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for the flocks of origin.

Regarding the possibility of any antibiotic treatment of the flocks of origin: Use of antibiotics for therapeutic purposes in the flocks of origin is permitted and should not preclude the certification of this paragraph, provided that it was administered to the flocks sufficiently long ago for the officially permitted withdrawal periods

to expire before egg collection began. The flock veterinarian should confirm by checking the medicines record book that all treatments have been administered within the permitted withdrawal periods.

Concerning toxic or harmful substances in general, an annual surveillance plan is operated by the VMD under the EU Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC; and implemented in The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 (and respective pieces of regulations in Wales and NI). Samples are analysed from food producing animals for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances and various contaminants. On the basis of this testing plan it can be considered that the flesh of the flocks of origin does not exceed the permitted levels of any veterinary medicinal product, pesticides, heavy metal contaminant, and prohibited substances, including beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally in the meat.

9. **Poultry Health Scheme Membership**

Paragraph IV e) may be certified provided that the OV has received written confirmation from APHA/DAERA that the flock(s) of origin and the hatchery are current members of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS).

The OV or the flock veterinarian are personally responsible for checking that the Salmonella testing has taken place with negative results.

10. **Notifiable Disease Clearance.**

Paragraphs IV g) and h) may be certified provided the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her before shipment.

For g), the establishment is considered 'free' of HPAI if either no outbreak has been confirmed at the establishment, or any outbreak at that establishment has been resolved in the line with UK disease control procedures and any official restrictions by the UK competent authority due to HPAI outbreak in that establishment had been lifted.

For h), one part from (i), (ii) or (iii) should be certified as permitted in the written authority, with the other paragraphs to be deleted.

For (iii), the premises [farm(s) of origin/ hatchery(ies)] must not be located in a zone subject to disease control restrictions, as per UK domestic regulations for the control of either HPAI or ND, at the time of collection of the eggs and at the time of certification. The reference to the WOA Code is related to poultry definition, HPAI outbreaks not in poultry according to the WOA definition are not subject to this restriction.

If the option (iii) is being certified, the exporter must provide a list showing the distances in km (straight line measurement) between all flock(s) and the hatchery(ies) of origin to their nearest confirmed case of highly pathogenic avian influenza. This can be prepared using data on HPAI outbreaks where disease control zones currently apply, this information is available on the relevant government website. <https://www.gov.uk/animal-disease-cases-england> contains links to information for each nation in the UK. The OV must ensure this list is attached to the completed certificate.

11. **Laboratory Tests**

Paragraph IV f) requires the flock(s) of origin to be tested twice during the past 6 months for HPAI.

The samples shall either be sent to APHA Weybridge / Lasswade, AFBI Stormont or another Government (UKAS) accredited veterinary laboratory. The exporter should make arrangements in advance with the laboratory to obtain the necessary data about the materials for the avian influenza test. Samples shall be submitted to allow for the necessary turnaround time of the testing.

Flock(s) of origin should be sampled in accordance with the guidance in the WOAHS terrestrial manual using statistical sample size (95/10), with paired sampling for each tested bird. (Cloacal or oropharyngeal swabs to be taken for PCR test and blood samples for ELISA test)

The last of the two tests is needed in 6 months within 30 days of export. *(It would be recommended to use the tests prescribed in the certificate every 6 months, otherwise there is a risk of needing an additional testing done within 30 days of export even if they were already tested with other method within that period.)*

The sampling should take place at least 14 days apart, and the last sampling/test results should be available within 30 days prior to export. Exporter to manage the logistics of scheduling the sampling dates and to ensure that the results of last test are available prior to the certification for export.

The test results must be attached to the export health certificate.

12. **Disinfection of Eggs & Packing Materials**

Paragraphs IV (j) (k) and (l) refers.

The certifying veterinarian must personally observe and check the packing materials, and consequently the certificate cannot be completed until after the eggs have been packed. Note the difference from some certificates for export to third countries, where it is permissible for the OV to obtain a written declaration from the exporter that the packing materials will meet given standards.

Disinfection of Eggs - WOAHS lays down 3 possible methods for disinfection: (a) fumigation with formaldehyde; (b) spraying with or immersion in an eggshell disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; or (c) made hygienic by any other method approved by the veterinary authorities.

Note that the disinfection must be carried out at the premises of origin, which means the flock farm where they were collected.

13. **Transport Conditions**

Paragraphs (m) refer.

The vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading. An officially approved disinfectant must be used. Disinfectants are approved under The Disease of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant, and there is a sub-group specifically approved for use with poultry, based on their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses. Officially approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

The seal on the cargo compartment must be of a type that would be destroyed when the compartment is opened.

14. **Support certification**

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian, he/she should complete form 1100SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in the flocks of origin are complied with.

15. **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: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk

16. **Welfare of Animals**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team

Centre for International Trade

Eden Bridge House

Lowther Street, Carlisle

CA3 8DX

Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.