

EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF DOMESTIC DUCKS (*Anas platyrhynchos*) TO AUSTRALIA FROM SOURCE FLOCKS WHICH HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST NEWCASTLE DISEASE

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

Associated Documents: 3622EHCA, 3622EHCB, 3622EHCC, 3622EHCD, 3622NFG, 618NDC

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scope of the certificate

1. This set of certificates is for the export of hatching eggs of domestic ducks to Australia from flocks vaccinated against Newcastle disease.

The certificates A, B and C together with a copy of the first page of the import permit must accompany the consignment to Australia. All documents must be provided to an officer of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) at the port of entry. Certificate D must be sent by airmail to the DAFF officer at the post-arrival quarantine station in Australia as soon as possible after the post-despatch test results are available. In any case of doubt the exporter should contact the DAFF Live Animal Import section (tel. 0061 02 6272 4454).

Obtaining Import permit

2. A "Permit to Import" must be obtained from the Director of Quarantine at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) (tel. 0061 02 6272 4454).

Official Signatories

3. The owner or the responsible manager of the source flock(s) must sign certificates 3622EHCA and 3622EHCD where indicated.

All 4 certificates must be signed where indicated by an 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**.

If a Certificate of Equivalence is attached, it must be countersigned by a Government Veterinary Officer. See paragraph 4 below.

A certified copy of the completed certificates 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.

Certificates of Equivalence

4. If the exporter is not able to meet certain conditions in the health certificate, DAFF is willing to consider alternative, equivalent conditions. The exporter must apply to the Director of Quarantine at

DAFF giving the reasons why they consider the alternative conditions to provide equivalent assurances. If DAFF agrees they will provide the exporter with a 'Certificate of Equivalence'.

The OV must delete the relevant paragraphs and write "*This consignment is certified in compliance with the alternative assurances in the certificate of equivalence attached to this certificate*" against the relevant paragraph on the health certificate and confirm this by applying the OV stamp and his/her initials. The OV must sign, stamp and date each page of the certificate of equivalence **in ink of any colour other than black** to confirm that the alternative conditions have been met.

DAFF requires the certificate of equivalence to be countersigned by a Government Veterinary Officer. They define this as 'a full-time veterinary officer of the Government of the exporting country'. This means that the exporter must arrange that, after all the health certificates and the certificate of equivalence have been signed by the OV, they must be delivered to the local animal health office of AHVLA (or equivalent in Northern Ireland). It is necessary to make a prior arrangement with the animal health office in order to make sure that a veterinary officer will be available, and will understand the requirements.

The government Veterinary Officer must endorse the CoE either at the bottom of the text, or if there is insufficient space, on the reverse of the final page, by writing in clear handwriting:

' I confirm that (name) is an Official Veterinarian authorised by the UK competent authority to certify this certificate'.

The Veterinary Officer must then add his/her signature, official stamp and date. The writing and stamp must be **in ink of any colour other than black**.

Finally the certificate of equivalence must be stapled to the health certificate to which it relates.

OFFICIAL STAMP ON EVERY PAGE

5. **Each separate page of each certificate, and each page on any other attachments such as vaccination schedules or laboratory reports must be SIGNED, STAMPED and DATED by the OV, using ink of any colour other than black.**

Definition of 'Flock of Origin'

6. In the context of this export, a 'flock' may be interpreted as 'a group of poultry of the same health and vaccination status kept on the same premises and constituting a single epidemiological unit'. This would normally mean that a 'farm' can be regarded as a single 'flock'.

Transport

7. Unless written authority is received from DAFF prior to export, the consignment must travel on a direct flight to Australia without transshipment. The eggs may be accompanied in transit by other eggs or birds only with the approval of DAFF. The eggs must be packed in such a way there will be no leakage in the event of the eggs breaking during transport.

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE INSTRUCTIONS

First Veterinary Certificate, Part A [3622EHCA]

Vaccination History

8. Paragraph IV (5) refers. If preferred, a schedule may be attached. The signatory should write 'see attached schedule' in the table. The schedule must contain the same information as listed on the table. It must be stamped, signed and dated by the OV, and firmly stapled to the certificate.

OV countersignature

9. The OV should be aware that, by countersigning the statements by the owner/manager, he/she is making him or herself responsible for the accuracy of those statements. He/she should ask for whatever supporting evidence that may seem appropriate.

First Veterinary Certificate, Part B [3622EHCB]

Notifiable Disease Clearance

10. Paragraphs IV. (1), (2) and (3) refer. These paragraphs may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by the issuing office [in GB, Animal Health, Specialist Service Centre (SSC)-Exports, Carlisle; or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland] within 10 days before shipment.

The option of whole country freedom at sections 1(a) and 2(a) can currently be used and certified. The OV must delete the options which are not applicable. In the case of outbreaks of notifiable avian influenza and/or Newcastle disease being present in the UK, options 1 (b) or (c) and 2 (b) or (c) should be used. If option (c) of section 1 and/or 2 is used, the certificate issuing office may require declarations from the exporter or the OV with regards to the "associated" flocks.

Premises disease clearance

11. Paragraph IV (4)(a) refers. Evidence of disease should be interpreted as clinical signs as well as information from production and mortality records, laboratory reports and pathological examinations. Note that the statement refers only to frank outbreaks of clinical disease, and not to agents which are routinely or effectively controlled by vaccination.

Paragraph IV (b) refers. Duck Viral Hepatitis (DVH) types II and III are not notifiable in the UK, and authorisation to certify cannot therefore be given on the 618NDC form issued by AHVLA. The OV should contact the avian virology laboratory at the AHVLA laboratory, Weybridge to find out if they have confirmed the presence of either disease in the past 6 months (Telephone number 01932 357349). AHVLA also issue an annual report of the Veterinary Investigation Surveillance Service (VIDA) which lists any diagnoses which have been recorded by VLA, but these reports may not contain the most up to date information. The VIDA reports may be found on the website at:

http://vla.defra.gov.uk/reports/rep_vida.htm

The OV may certify on the basis of the AHVLA laboratory's most up to date negative report information.

First Veterinary Certificate, Part C [3622EHCC]

Biosecurity Programme

12. Paragraph II (2) refers.

'Dedicated staff' means that staff routinely working with the source flock must not also work with any other flocks during the prescribed pre-export isolation period (90 days). Company staff that normally work elsewhere, such as the company veterinarian or specialised blood sampling teams, may enter the source flock premises provided that they observe the company's prescribed interval since visiting any other premises, and undergo the full showering and clothing change procedures before entry.

'Movement control and disinfection of vehicles.' It is acceptable for essential vehicle movements onto the premises, such as feed delivery or egg collection, provided that the wheels are disinfected at the point of entry, and drivers disinfect their footwear and do not go further from their vehicles than is strictly necessary for their delivery/collection function.

'Epidemiological contact'. The biosecurity programme is intended "to minimise the introduction of disease". Hence the statement is intended to cover only realistic and controllable risks, and theoretical risks that are beyond human control such as visiting wild birds should not preclude certification.

If the OV is satisfied that the above controls on personnel and vehicle movements have been scrupulously observed, and that feed and other fomites which may carry the relevant pathogens have been suitably treated and controlled, he/she may certify this statement. If the OV has knowledge of any premises on which the named diseases have been present in the past 6 months he/she must make sufficient enquiries to be satisfied that no direct contact has taken place

Premises disease clearance

13. Paragraph II (5) refers. As for section 11 of this guidance notes - [Paragraph IV (a) of the certificate].

Laboratory Samples

14. Paragraphs II (6), (7), (8)(a) and (9) refer. These laboratory tests must be conducted at laboratories of the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA), AHVLA Weybridge/Lasswade. These tests carried out by VLA conform to the guidelines laid down in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, and therefore are 'OIE approved' as required in paragraph (9).

Veterinary surgeons wishing to submit large numbers of samples for testing should contact the laboratory well in advance to enable appropriate arrangements to be made for such numbers. Advice on the submission of samples may be sought from the laboratory. Samples must be submitted in time for results to be reported before the date of export.

The number of samples necessary to achieve a 99% confidence of detecting the disease if there was a 5% or a 0.5% disease prevalence is given in the following table:

Flock Size	Numbers to be Sampled	
	For 0.5% prevalence:	For 5% prevalence
901 - 1000	601	86
1001 - 1200	642	87
1201 - 1400	674	87
1401 - 1600	699	88
1601 - 1800	720	88
1801 - 2000	737	88
2001 - 3000	792	89
3001 - 4000	821	89
4001 - 5000	840	89
5001 - 6000	852	90
6001 - 7000	861	90
7001 - 8000	868	90
8001 - 9000	874	90
9001 - 10000	878	90
> 10,000	919	90

In the case of the virus isolation tests for avian influenza and Newcastle disease, note that both diseases would be covered by a single test because either agent would give rise to haemagglutination.

In the case of Newcastle disease serology, most birds should show a positive titre because they have been vaccinated. When the same birds are re-tested approximately 21 days later a rising titre would indicate the presence of active virus transmission within the flock. Consequently it is essential that the birds are individually marked at the time of the first blood sampling, and that each sample bears the bird's identification, so that the titres for each individual bird can be compared between the first and second sampling. A result would be considered significant if there were greater than a two fold dilution increase (greater than 1:1024 [\log_2^{10}]).

If it is preferred the results in paragraph (9) may be presented on a separate schedule. The certifying OV must write "see attached schedule" in the table. The schedule must contain the same information as listed on the table. It must be stamped, signed and dated by the OV, and firmly stapled to the certificate.

Concerning the test for Salmonella enteritidis in paragraph 8(b) of the certificate, the exporter may prefer to arrange for a certificate of equivalence to allow for testing by bacteriology rather than serology (notably if the flocks have been vaccinated against S. enteritidis). In this case the instructions in NFG paragraph 4 above must be followed by the OV. The OV must enter "*This consignment is certified in compliance with the alternative assurances in the certificate of equivalence attached to this certificate*" against Salmonella enteritidis in the table of test results in paragraph 9 of the health certificate and confirm this by applying the OV stamp and his/her initials. In any case, pre-export tests must be carried out in laboratories officially approved/accredited for the specific test for Salmonella enteritidis for the purposes of or the National Control Programs (NCP) for the control of salmonella in poultry. This is especially important the NCP are not a legal requirement in the case of ducks.

Second Veterinary Certificate, Part D [3622EHCD]

Notifiable Disease Clearance

15. Part A, Paragraphs IV. (1), (2) and (3), as paragraph 10 above.

Premises disease clearance

16. Part A, Paragraph IV (4) refers. As paragraph 11 above.

Laboratory Samples

17. Part B, Paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) refer. As paragraph 14 above.

Owner/Manager's signature

18. The OV and the owner/manager are each responsible for their appropriate parts of the information in certificate 3622EHCD.

19. **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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>