

No: .....

**EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF DOMESTIC FOWL (*Gallus gallus*) TO AUSTRALIA  
FROM SOURCE FLOCKS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST NEWCASTLE DISEASE**

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

**Associated Documents: 7519EHCA, 7519EHCB, 7519EHCC, 7519EHCD, 7519NFG**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scope of the certificate**

1. This set of certificates is for the export of hatching eggs of domestic fowl to Australia from flocks which have **never** been vaccinated against Newcastle disease.

The certificates A, B and C together with a copy 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 certificate 7519EHCA where indicated.

A government veterinary officer must sign certificates 7519C and 7519D where indicated. Exporters are advised to liaise with their local AHVLA/DARD office well in advance to get this arranged.

In addition, if DAFF has issued a certificate of equivalence (see paragraph 4 below), it must be countersigned by a government veterinary officer. According to the DAFF import conditions "a government veterinary officer is a full-time veterinary officer of the Government of the exporting country".

In addition to the above signatures the certificates 7519EHCA, 7519EHCB, and 7519EHCD must be signed where indicated by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government - Rural Directorate, Welsh 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 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 [7519EHCA]**

#### **Vaccination History**

8. Paragraph IV (4) refers. If preferred, a schedule may be attached. The certifying OV 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 [7519EHCB]**

#### **Biosecurity Programme**

10. Paragraph IV (4) 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 who 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**

11. Paragraph IV (5) 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.

### Laboratory Samples

12. Paragraphs IV (6), (9) and (10) refer. These laboratory tests must be conducted at laboratories of the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA), AHVLA Weybridge/Lasswade. These tests carried out by AHVLA conform to the guidelines laid down in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, and therefore are 'OIE approved' as required in paragraph (11).

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 must be undertaken, since DAFF does not recognise Newcastle disease freedom status for imports into Australia if Newcastle disease vaccination is practised in the exporting country. Therefore, all serology titres should be consistent with non-vaccinated birds. Any titres which are not consistent with non-vaccinated birds should be discussed with the laboratories of the Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), AHVLA Weybridge/Lasswade and if necessary, cleared with retesting. If there are titres consistent with vaccination (or natural infection), these will invalidate the consignment eligibility for export under this certificate, which is only for eggs from non-vaccinated flocks. The same policy and advice is applicable at retesting approximately 21 days later.

If it is preferred to present the results in paragraph 11 on a separate schedule, this may be done as described in paragraph 8 above.

### **Salmonella Freedom**

13. Paragraph IV (7)(i) and (8)(i) refer. DAFF has approved the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) and the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) as an assurance of freedom from Salmonella pullorum and S.gallinarum, because they conform with Directive 2009/158/EC.

DAFF has also approved the Salmonella National Control Programme (NCP) in breeding chicken flocks as an assurance of freedom from S.enteritidis because it conforms with EU Regulation 200/2010.

The OV can certify this paragraph provided that the flocks of origin are current members of the PHS or NIPHAS, and the NCP, and they have carried out the necessary routine tests with negative results. The redundant options MUST be deleted.

Paragraph IV (7)(ii) and (8)(ii) refer. Pre-export tests must be carried out in laboratories officially approved/accredited for the specific pathogen/test for the purposes of the poultry health schemes under Directive 2009/158/EC (PHS/NIPHAS) or the National Control Programs for control of salmonella in poultry. this is especially important in the case of Salmonella arizona, since monitoring/testing for this pathogen is not a requirement in the case of chickens under the 2009/158/EC Directive (PHS/NIPHAS).

### **First Veterinary Certificate, Part C [7519EHCC]**

#### **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

14. Paragraphs IV. (1) and (2) refer. These paragraphs may be certified by the government veterinary officer on the basis of their knowledge of up to date notifiable disease reports. For the purposes of certification, avian influenza should be understood as Notifiable avian influenza.

### **Second Veterinary Certificate, Part D [7519EHCD]**

#### **Laboratory Samples**

15. Part A, Paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) refer. As paragraph 12 above.

#### **Premises disease clearance**

16. Part A, Paragraph (6) refers. As paragraph 11 above. For the purposes of certification, avian influenza should be understood as Notifiable avian influenza.

#### **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

17. Part B, Paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), as paragraph 14 above.

#### **Disclaimer**

18. 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>





