

EXPORT OF PIGEONS TO AUSTRALIA

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND VETERINARY OFFICERS

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS: 2010EHC parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2010EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2010EHC.

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 covers the export of pigeons to Australia. The 2010EHC consist of 5 parts: health certificates 1,2,3,4 and 5. Official Veterinarians and exporters need to be aware that the documentation required and the preparation of the birds for export are extremely complex.

It is essential that all parties involved in preparing and certifying a consignment communicate and liaise well in advance to plan each stage of the process. APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle must also be consulted at an early stage to ensure that the correct documents are applied for sufficiently in advance of the export date.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), Australia has agreed that all documents associated with this certificate replace the need to complete the equivalent parts of the Import Permit. However, exporters are reminded that the import permit may contain sections not covered by this certificate and these will still need to be completed and signed as appropriate.

2. Official Signatures

Various parts of this certificate are to be signed by a whole-time government veterinary officer (WTVO) responsible for international trade certification, an Official Veterinarian/Authorised Veterinary Inspector (OV)/(AVI), a whole-time government veterinary officer at the airport of departure, and the owner/manager of the quarantine.

Signatures and countersignatures are required as follows:

Health Certificate 1: Owner/Manager, countersigned by OV
Health Certificate 2: OV
Health Certificate 3: OV
Health Certificate 4: WTVO
Health Certificate 5: OV (Airport)

Health certificate 1: Owner/Manager's declaration - Internal - Support Certificate Pre-Export: This document is used as a supplementary certificate for sending pigeons from the source flock(s) to the pre-export quarantine premises. This is signed by the Owner/Manager of the source flock(s) and accompanies the pigeons into the quarantine facility. This document must be countersigned by an Official Veterinarian for source flocks in Great Britain or by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector for source flocks in Northern Ireland.

The following schedules are included or must be attached to the certificates if applicable:

Schedule 1: bird identification (Health certificate 1 Paragraph III(a))
Schedule 2: treatments pre-quarantine (Health certificate 1 Paragraph III (d))
Schedule 3: diagnoses/treatments, source flocks (Health certificate 1, Paragraph III (e))

Schedule 4: vaccinations (Health certificate 1, Paragraph III (f))
Schedule 5: Quarantine approval-list of pigeons beginning pre-export quarantine (Health certificate 2, Paragraph III)
Schedule 6: treatments in quarantine (Health certificate 3, Paragraph II(1))
Schedule 7: pre-export examination:(Health certificate 3, Paragraph II(m))

Note that the OV is responsible for collating all the certificates and schedules. EACH PAGE of each certificate - Health Certificate 1,2,3,4 and 5, and each schedule, must be separately stamped and signed by the OV. The stamp and signature must be made in ink of any colour other than black.

A copy of each of the health certificates 1,2,3,4 and 5, certified by the Official Veterinarian, must be returned to the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or in Northern Ireland to the relevant issuing office (see also paragraph 14 below).

3. **Import permit**

Exporters should be aware that an import permit is essential and must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), Australia.

***Please note that the import permit number must be entered on any relevant paragraphs as required on each certificate.**

4. **Approval of pre-export quarantine premises**

Health Certificate 2, 2010EHC (QUARANTINE INSPECTION) refers. The quarantine conditions are laid down in Appendix 1 of the Australian 'Conditions for the Importation of Live Birds (Pigeons)'.

Prior to transfer of any birds into the pre-export quarantine facility, the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must arrange to make an inspection of the facility to confirm that it meets the conditions certified in the Health certificate 2. Note that the premises must be cleansed and disinfected in an appropriate manner to the standard required to eliminate Newcastle disease virus (2010EHC Certificate 2 para II (j)) refers). The para II of the health certificate 2 must be signed and dated before any birds enter the pre-export quarantine facility.

The pre-entry examination of the birds must be carried out within 48 hours **prior** to the birds entering the building where pre-export quarantine will be carried out. This must be reflected by the date of inspection and signature on the 2010EHC Certificate 2.

5. **Identification of the birds and support certificates for source flocks.**

Where the consignment is composed of birds from different source flocks, a separate 2010EHC Certificate 1 must be completed for each source of flock. Support 2010EHC certificates 1 will be prepared and released by APHA CIT Carlisle on request. For source flocks in Great Britain, this will be signed by the owner and countersigned by an Official Veterinarian on Panel 1K. If possible, the OV should have knowledge of the source flock.

For source flocks in Northern Ireland the same 2010EHC certificate 1 will be used, but countersigned by an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) in Northern Ireland.

The address of the source flocks in para III b) must be cross linked to the Table in schedule 1 by numbering the flocks.

When the space in the bird identification section of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate details of all birds in the consignment, a separate schedule (Schedule 1) must be used to identify the birds. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in health certificate 1 para III (a) which must be annotated "see attached schedule". The certifying OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must draw a line under the last entry and sign, date and affix the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN stamp in a colour other than black on each page of the schedule and under the last entry, in order to prevent the unauthorised addition of more entries. The pages of the schedule must be securely stapled to the export health certificate and each page referenced with the unique reference number at the top right-hand corner of the export health certificate.

Particular care should be exercised in the reading and transcription of the leg band/or microchip numbers.

6. **Completion of Owners/Managers declaration**
2010EHC certificate 1 para III refers. The "manager" is the person nominated by the owner to be in charge of the birds.
7. **Illness or Treatment in source flocks prior to quarantine**
[paragraph III (e) of 2010EHC Certificate 1 refers]. All cases of disease or ill thrift in the source flocks and any other premises managed, owned or operated by the same company, group or individual during the 6-week period immediately preceding entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine must be subjected to veterinary investigation. Diagnoses and treatments must be listed in Schedule 3. Any other medications or treatments administered during this period must also be recorded and listed in Schedule 2. Schedules 2 and 3, if relevant, must be provided and completed by the owner/manager. They must be stamped by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN and attached to the certificate in the same way as Schedule 1, as described above in paragraph 5.
8. **Countersignature to owner/manager's declaration**
Health certificate 1 Paragraph IV refers. In order to satisfy himself/herself of the truth of the declarations made by the owner/manager, the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN or Authorised Veterinary Inspector, as appropriate, should make any reasonable enquiries which seem necessary, and if it seems appropriate may ask the owner/ manager to sign a written support statement.
9. **Notifiable disease clearance**
Health certificate 3 paragraph II.(d) refers. This paragraph refers to Newcastle Disease, paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon) and avian influenza. Newcastle Disease and paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon) are notifiable diseases, but the general term "avian influenza" covers both notifiable and non-notifiable strains of the virus. In relation to occurrence of avian influenza on premises, the term "avian influenza" includes all serotypes of the virus.
In relation to occurrence of avian influenza in the 40 km area around premises, the term "avian influenza" is defined as OIE notifiable avian influenza.
The certification contained in health certificate 1 paragraph IV(b) and certificate 2 para II in respect of notifiable diseases may be signed on behalf of the Department provided the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN is in receipt of written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN by the issuing office. In order to certify this paragraph in respect of non-notifiable strains of avian influenza, the OV must make due enquiry and be satisfied that non-notifiable avian influenza has not been diagnosed on any of the premises specified in the paragraph within 21 days prior to the entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine. OIE notifiable avian influenza means H5 and H7 serotypes of any pathogenicity and highly pathogenic strains of other serotypes.

IMPORTANT. Although this part of the certificate will be signed at the end of pre-export quarantine, it refers to absence of outbreaks of notifiable diseases in, or within 40 kms of, the source flocks and pre-export quarantine premises in the 21 days prior to the entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine. The clearance also involves premises managed, owned or operated by the same company, group or individual as the source flocks.

Thus, it is vital that the OV checks with APHA CIT Carlisle that this clearance is available for all the source flocks and the pre-export quarantine premises BEFORE any birds are moved from the source flocks to the pre-export quarantine premises. The OV must also check that he/she is able to certify this paragraph in respect of non-notifiable strains of avian influenza for all the relevant premises BEFORE any birds are moved from the source flocks to the pre-export quarantine premises. Failure to do this may result in the whole consignment being disqualified from export because of an outbreak of disease in the vicinity of one of the source flocks.

This clearance includes outbreaks of pigeon paramyxovirus which occur quite frequently. As this disease is recorded on a local basis, APHA CIT must check with the local Animal Health Offices for all the premises involved to determine whether or not clearance can be given.

Health Certificate 4: This clearance is the part of the 2010EHC certificate which is signed by a Whole Time Veterinary Officer.

IMPORTANT - the same warning as above applies - the clearances in para II a) and b) refer to absence of outbreaks of avian influenza and Newcastle Disease within 40 kms of the source flocks and the pre-export quarantine premises during the 21 days prior to entry into pre-export quarantine. It is vital that the OV checks that these clearances can be given BEFORE any birds are moved from any of the source flocks to the pre-export quarantine. For the purposes of this 40km area clearance, avian influenza is defined as OIE notifiable avian influenza.

10. **Pre-export quarantine - Samples for Laboratory Testing**

All laboratory tests must be conducted at laboratories of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Weybridge/Lasswade. Advice on the submission of samples should be sought from the laboratory in advance. If the result of any tests is not negative, APHA/DAERA must be advised immediately through the as the Australian DAWE wishes to be consulted. In addition to the pre-export tests specified in the health certificate 3, investigations must be carried out if any birds show signs of disease (health certificate 3 II (d) refers). Post mortem examination must be carried out on all birds dying during the quarantine. Copies of all post-mortem and laboratory results must be stamped by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN and attached to the certificate, as described for the schedules in paragraph 5.

11. Health Certificate 3, II (g) refers. For blood samples, sufficient blood must be collected from each bird for each test. It must be allowed to clot, and if necessary to aid this, it may be incubated at 37 degrees C for 2 hours, and then centrifuged. The serum may be sterilised by filtration and frozen, but preservatives must not be added unless specified by the laboratory for a specific test. The serum may not be diluted, nor may serum from different birds be pooled.

12. **Treatments during pre-export Quarantine**

Health Certificate 3 II (j) and (l) refers. No antibiotics can be administered during the pre-export quarantine without the written permission of the Director of Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service. Any antibiotic or other treatments administered must be recorded and listed on Schedule 6. This must be stamped by the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN and attached to the certificate in the same way as Schedule 1, as described above in paragraph 5.

13. **Authentication by Whole Time Veterinary Officer (WTVO)**

Health Certificate 4 refer.) The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must liaise with APHA/DAERA well in advance to arrange for a WTVO to carry out the examination of the birds at the end of the quarantine period, and to complete part C of the certificate. Please note guidance at para 9 above about notifiable disease clearance.

14. **Certification of Aircraft Cleansing and Disinfection**

Health Certificate part 5 refers - (2010AIR). The OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN must liaise well in advance with the DVM/RVL and the WTVO responsible for the airport. Health certificates 1,2,3 and 4 of the 2010EHC, duly completed, signed and stamped, must be despatched with the birds to the airport. Health certificate 5 must be attached to the other parts, but not signed. It will be completed and signed and stamped by the OV responsible for the airport and attached to the other parts of the 2010EHC to accompany the birds to their destination. A copy of the completed health certificate 5 must be returned by the OV at the airport to the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN, so that he/she may send the full set of copies back to the issuing office as required.

15. All costs for any service provided by the designated OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN in connection with the exportation must be met by the owner/manager.

16. **WELFARE DURING TRAVEL**

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, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

DAERA Helpline number 0300 200 7852.

DAERA Helpline email daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852

17. **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 Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>