

**EXPORT OF FRESH POULTRY MEAT AND POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS TO ST LUCIA -  
1812EHC**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

**IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1812EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1812EHC. 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 is for the export of fresh poultry meat and poultry meat products to St. Lucia.

2. **Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)**

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 an 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](mailto: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 Certification On-Line (DECOL) 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. **Identification**

Paragraph I (e) (i) and (ii) - The OV should insert both container and seal numbers.

4. Paragraph (II) (d) - The Veterinary Authorities in St Lucia **will not allow the importation of poultry meat if it has been frozen for a period in excess of 6 months**. Month(s) and year(s) when frozen should be entered at Paragraph (II) (d).

5. **Origin**

Paragraph IV (a) refers. The OV should certify this paragraph on the basis of the slaughterhouse records. If the certifying OV is not personally involved with the slaughterhouse (e.g. certifying out of a remote cold store) the OV must obtain written support documents from the veterinarian who is responsible at the slaughterhouse. The support documents must not be included with the health certificate, but should be retained by the OV personally for record purposes.

6. **Fitness for human consumption**

Paragraphs IV (b), (c), (f), (g) and (h) refer:  
These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of oval-marks /plant identification number from approved slaughterhouse/s or meat products establishments which demonstrate production in an establishment approved in accordance with UK food safety and hygiene regulations.

7. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraph IV (b) and (d) and (e) refers. OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS may certify this paragraph on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the issuing office on form 618NDC. "Free from" disease in this context would mean the region (as defined below) in which the premises is situated is free of any movement restrictions in place due to disease control measures for the stated diseases of poultry as declared to the OIE. Therefore:

- the slaughterhouse must not be in a region which contains a disease control zone at the time of slaughter, and
- the processing/storage premises must not be in a region that has contained a disease control zone at the time of slaughter or for the 21 days following.

8. Paragraph IV b) refers.  
"approved abattoir" - an approved abattoir is one that is approved by the UK competent authority to carry out slaughter of poultry for the production of food.

Paragraphs IV b) and e) refers. "district/region" should be interpreted as the district or equivalent such as unitary authority, council area, depending on regional differences.

9. Paragraph IV d) refers.  
Certifying OV's should interpret the first part of this paragraph as the birds were NOT sent for slaughter from a premises where birds are slaughtered for disease control purposes. Please note that this may include diseases such as Salmonella or any (avian) disease where the slaughter of the birds is carried out for control/eradication purposes.

For the second part, the farms of origin must be more than 10km away from premises under any avian disease control restrictions, corresponding to the disease control zone established around an infected premises.

10. **Residues monitoring programme**

Paragraphs IV (g) refer. An annual surveillance plan is operated by the VMD under 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 fresh poultry meat/poultry meat products do not exceed the permitted levels of any veterinary medicinal product, pesticides, heavy metal contaminant, and prohibited substances -beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally in the meat.

11. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)