

**VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF POULTRY OTHER THAN RATITES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO GEORGIA**

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

**Associated Documents: 8755EHC, 8755SUP, 8755NFG, and 618NDC.**

**Important**

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch of hatching eggs of poultry other than ratites to Georgia. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary 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.

In addition to the relevant export certificate, hatching eggs of poultry other than ratites transiting through the EU must be accompanied by the certificate required by the EU.

**1. Scope of the certificate**

This certificate is for the export of hatching eggs of poultry other than ratites from the United Kingdom to Georgia.

**2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), 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 certificate must be sent to APHA - Exports in Carlisle, within seven days of issue.

The OV/AVI should keep a copy for his/her own records. It can be electronic copy.

**3. Support Certification**

In situations where the flock of origin is attended by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the latter may complete the export health certificate on the basis of appropriate support statements on form 8755SUP which must be completed by the flock veterinarian.

**4. PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable / optional, and not filled, score it through. Use

a schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill in the information. Complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 that can be accessed via this link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R2235>

Box I.3. Central competent authority is Defra.

Box I.4. Local competent authority is either APHA or DAERA.

Box I.7. ISO code for the UK is GB.

Box I.9. ISO Code for Georgia is GE

Box I.11 Registration number is CPH number

Box 1.15. Under means of transport tick the appropriate method, and for identification give the flight number, vehicle registration or ship name. Under documentary references give any type of accompanying documents, such as animal transport certificate, bill of lading, delivery invoice, etc.

## **PART II: HEALTH INFORMATION**

### **5. Paragraph II.1. Residence of Flocks of Origin in the UK or EU Member state(s)**

The OV may confirm the residence history from personal knowledge or, if necessary, may ask for further evidence in the form of flock movement records or a support statement from the flock veterinarian.

For flocks which have been imported to the UK, any birds coming from a member state of the EU must have been accompanied by an import health certificate for breeding and productive poultry from the EU to Great Britain (798/2008 GBHC028E). The OV should ask to see the copy of the import health certificate to confirm that the imported birds were appropriately certified.

### **6. Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs II.2. and II.3. c) (iii): 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, Exports, Carlisle/ in Northern Ireland the relevant issuing office).

### **7. Avian influenza vaccination**

Paragraph II.3. a): The first option (i) may be certified on the basis that vaccination against Avian Influenza is prohibited within the UK, except in special circumstances in the face of an unusually high perceived risk of disease. The second option (ii) must be deleted.

## 8. Flock of origin

II.3. b) Disease status of flock of origin at the time of egg collection: The OV will require a declaration from the owner to confirm the flock did not show symptoms of transmissible diseases at the time of collection.

II.3. c) (i) Registration: May be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered by APHA/DAERA and hold a CPH number.

II.3. c) (ii): May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearance as per 6. above. More broadly, the premises of origin cannot be under any animal health restrictions relevant to poultry.

II.3. h): May be certified after the OV has checked the establishment's records and on receipt of a declaration from the owner

## 9. Testing for Salmonella under National Control Plan (NCP)

Paragraph II.3. e) and f) refers.

For the paragraph e), select one option and delete the non-applicable option.

- The first option is applicable for chicken and turkey flocks.
- The second option is applicable for other poultry species (e.g. ducks)

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II.3. e) and f) have been complied with.

EU Regulation 2160/2003 lays down procedures for the routine monitoring of chicken and turkey breeding flocks for zoonotic Salmonellas. The Regulation is implemented for chicken and turkey breeding flocks in England by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, and the equivalent in the devolved administrations. The scheme in chickens and turkeys is known as NCP.

The OV must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of the above regulation for certain Salmonellas of human significance: *S. enteritidis*, *S. hadar*, *S. infantis*, *S. typhimurium*, and *S. virchow* for chicken (*Gallus gallus*) and *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* for turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). The regulations currently apply ONLY to flocks of the chicken (*Gallus gallus*) and turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) species.

The OV must check the flock records to confirm that the appropriate tests have been carried out at the correct frequency with negative results of zoonotic salmonella species. If any of these serotypes are detected: *S. enteritidis*, *S. typhimurium*, *S. infantis*, *S. virchow*, and *S. hadar*, the certifying veterinarian must record the testing as positive. However, if any other serotypes are detected OV to record the results as negative.

The OV must check the details of the most recent Salmonella testing on the basis of his / her knowledge of the flock, an examination of relevant records and laboratory reports from an approved laboratory, and any necessary support statements.

**If hatching eggs from other species than chicken and turkey are exported (e.g. ducks), a Salmonella testing is also required. The testing must be equivalent to the testing applicable for chicken and turkey breeding flocks under the national control programme.**

Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 prohibits the use of antimicrobials as a specific method to control salmonella in poultry, and states that any live salmonella vaccines used for the control of Salmonella must provide an appropriate method to distinguish bacteriologically wild-type strains of salmonella from vaccine strains. All approved live Salmonella vaccines with marketing authorisation fulfil this requirement.

#### **10. Newcastle disease vaccination**

Paragraph II.3. h): One option to be certified after the OV has checked the establishment's records. OV to cross out the options which are not applicable. If flock was vaccinated, the table must be completed. OV to check that used vaccine(s) are approved/licensed and used in line with the manufacturer's recommendation. Any vaccines licensed for use in the UK are deemed to meet the vaccine standards envisaged by the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the WOA (formerly OIE).

The OV is advised to keep a copy of the records to support their certification.

#### **11. Full Vaccination Schedule**

Paragraph II.3. i): OV to check that used vaccine(s) are approved/licensed and used in line with the manufacturer's recommendation. Any vaccines licensed for use in the UK are deemed to meet the vaccine standards envisaged by the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the WOA (formerly OIE).

To avoid any possibility of questions and delay, it is recommended that the certifying veterinarian should attach a schedule of all vaccinations and staple it to the health certificate. The schedule must show at least the information requested on the certificate.

Each page of the schedule must be signed, stamped and dated by the certifying veterinarian, and he/she must write "see attached schedule" in this paragraph on the certificate.

#### **12. Egg Marking**

Paragraph II.4: All hatching eggs must be marked prior to dispatch, using colour ink, with a stamp indicating the unique registration number of the establishment of origin (CPH) or other unique identification number which is traceable back to the establishment of origin. This number can be PHS approval number. The figures shall be at least 2 mm high and 1 mm wide.

### 13. Egg sanitisation

Paragraph II.5: The eggs must be sanitised in accordance with the standards laid down in the WOAHA animal health Code. The Code states that "hatching eggs should be cleaned and sanitised as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions". The UK authorities do not have a procedure for approval of commercial products for egg sanitisation. In the absence of any such official approval procedure, the OV may use his/her own clinical judgement about the approval of the method.

The OV may certify the procedures surrounding egg collection and sanitisation in one of two ways.

Either the OV must have been present during the processes to personally observe them, or else the OV must visit the premises on a frequent and routine basis during which these processes are regularly observed and confirmed to be satisfactory, **and** the OV has received a written record from the person responsible confirming that they have been carried out to a satisfactory standard in respect of this particular export consignment; and have sufficient familiarity with the establishment and confidence in its management practices to have no reasonable doubt about the processes in this particular case.

### 14. Egg Collection Dates

Paragraph II.6: The certifying OV must obtain the dates from the flock management and may ask to see appropriate records.

### 15. Egg Examination

Paragraph II.7: The certifying veterinarian must examine a representative sample of the eggs on the date of signature of the certificate.

### 16. Transport boxes

II.8.a) Delete one option. If re-usable boxes are used, they must be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with point 18 of this NFG.

II.8. b), c), d): May be certified if all of the points b - d are complied with at time of loading.

Boxes must be labelled with the following information:

- the word 'hatching'
- the name of country/region/ administrative territory/compartiment of origin,
- the species of poultry concerned,
- the number of hatching eggs,
- the category and type of production for which hatching eggs are intended,
- the name, address and the registration number of the establishment of origin;

**17. Packing**

Paragraphs II. 8. and 9.: The certifying OV must personally observe the packaging in order to certify this.

The labelling details must appear on the outer surface of the boxes and must be consistent with other identification codes.

**18. Disinfection of boxes, containers and vehicles**

The certifying Official Veterinarian must ensure that the transport boxes, containers and vehicles were cleaned and disinfected with an authorized disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Retained EU Regulation No 1/2005 and that other parts of the attestation are complied with.

A declaration from the owner / transporter must be sought to confirm relevant requirements have been met.

A DEFRA approved disinfectant must be used. Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases 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, on the basis of their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses. See gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants.

DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

Under EU Council Regulation EC/1/2005, implemented in Great Britain by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and its equivalent in the devolved regions, vehicles carrying live poultry including hatching eggs must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

**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>