

EXPORT OF PIGEONS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THAILAND FOR PARTICIPATION IN RACING EVENTS

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8801EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8801EHC. 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**

Export health certificate 8801EHC may be used for the export of pigeons from the United Kingdom to Thailand for participating in organised racing events.

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

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), The Scottish Government, The 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.

3. **Import permit**

An importer or any person wishing to import live animals into the Kingdom of Thailand should receive an Import Permit from the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) prior to an importation.

The import permit number should be entered in the relevant section in Part I. of the 8801EHC. Exporters and certifying OVs should ensure that necessary conditions as stated in the import permit correspond to those within the EHC. If there are any discrepancies, the issuing office of APHA/DAERA should be consulted prior to export.

4. **Import procedures**

The birds will be subject to quarantine on arrival at approved premises in Thailand, for a period of at least 30 (thirty) days. Samples from each bird will be collected on day 2 and day 21 of quarantine period for avian influenza and Newcastle disease testing. The importer/owner shall be fully charged for the incurred expenses.

Failure to follow the Thai import procedures may result in returning the birds to the country of origin or destroying without compensation.

5. **Identification**

Section I refers. Number of birds and identification number must be entered at the table, or a common entry used if all the birds are identified in the same manner.

6. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraph IV. a), b) and c) can be certified, provided the Official Veterinarian has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by the issuing office (in GB, Exports, Carlisle/ or in Northern Ireland the relevant issuing office) before shipment.

Premises freedom from the stated disease in a) and c) is on the basis of no confirmed outbreak on the premises, or if a confirmed outbreak at least the stated time has elapsed following the completion of final cleansing and disinfection on the premises.

For b), the area being 'free from HPAI' in this context means not subject to restrictions put in place for the control of an outbreak of HPAI. This applies to the 10km zone around an infected premises until that zone is lifted, and to the 3km zone around an infected premises until 90 days after the zone was lifted.

7. **Vaccination history**

Paragraph IV. d) refers. If the veterinarian responsible for the avian premises of origin cannot certify this statement on the basis of his/her personal knowledge he/she should obtain a written declaration from the flock owner/manager.

8. **Residence requirements and health**

Paragraph IV. e) refers. This paragraph can be certified on the basis of a written declaration from the exporter and further enquiries that the certifying veterinarian consider appropriate. Note that there is no minimum period required, though 'premises of origin' would be expected to refer to the normal place of residency of the birds.

9. **Examination**

The examination at Paragraph IV. f) should be carried out, and the certificate signed, on the date of export.

10. **Transport conditions**

Paragraph IV (g) refers. The OV must either personally verify, or obtain a written declaration from the owner/exporter, that the birds will be transported in boxes or containers which comply with International Air Transport Association (IATA) specifications, particularly in relation to height, perch space and ventilation, and with adequate access for feeding and watering.

11. **Welfare**

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

12. **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>