

EXPORT OF CHICKEN OR TURKEY HATCHING EGGS AND DAY OLD CHICKS OR POULTS TO TUNISIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 534EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 534EHC. 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 534EHC may be used for the export of hatching eggs or day-old birds of either chicken or turkey species from the United Kingdom to Tunisia.

The use of this certificate is limited to the export of hatching eggs or day-old chicks thereof of UK origin only, unless the exporter provides an official agreement to accept a consignment of day-old birds hatched from eggs imported from USA or any EU or third countries.

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, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or equivalent in the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OVs should apply the OV stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with an OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office: in GB to APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle; and in Northern Ireland to DAERA, within seven days of signature.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

3. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV a) refers.

The appropriate section of this paragraph may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by (in GB) APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle; or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland before shipment.

For flocks of origin located outside of the UK, the exporter is responsible to obtain the assurances relevant to the flocks/farms of origin contained in the paragraphs mentioned above from the relevant authorities.

4. **POULTRY HEALTH SCHEME**

Paragraphs IV b), d) and h) refer. Membership in GB by the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) will be confirmed on form 618NDC, which will be sent to the OV before export. Note that in paragraph h) the membership of the grandparent flock follows

automatically from membership of the parent flock, since the parent flock is not allowed under the rules of the Scheme to take in birds or eggs from any other source that is not also a member of the Scheme.

Eggs of non-UK origin must be imported under the relevant model certificate for imports into the UK. It is a requirement that the flocks of origin are members of a statutory scheme equivalent to the PHS/NIPHAS schemes.

The OV must confirm himself/herself (or obtain a certificate from the flock veterinarian to that effect) by reference to the flock records that the following additional statements are correct:

- Paragraph b). That inspections by an OV have taken place at least every 3 months.
- Paragraph d): that laboratory test results have been negative for the past 6 months.

5. **FLOCK DISEASE CLEARANCE**

At paragraphs IV c), j) and l): 'evidence' shall be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock production and mortality records, laboratory test reports and pathological examinations.

Please note that paragraph IV l) is only applicable to turkey flocks wishing to seek exemption from requirement for vaccination for Avian Encephalomyelitis. Flock freedom must be given for 3 years for this disease on the basis described above.

6. **MYCOPLASMA TESTING**

Paragraph IV e) refers. Blood samples must be taken from a representative sample selected at random from each flock of origin. The number of samples per flock must be sufficient to give a probability of 95% that infection will be detected if the prevalence is at least 5%. The number of samples necessary to achieve this is given in the following table:

Number of birds in flock	Number of samples to be taken
up to 20	all
20-29	20
30-39	25
40-49	30
50-59	35
60-89	40
90-199	50
200-499	55
500 or more	60

The blood samples must be tested either at a laboratory of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), or the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland or at a laboratory approved for Mycoplasma serology under the Poultry Health Scheme and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) or a government laboratory or an officially approved laboratory in the non-UK country of the flock of origin.

7. **EXAMINATION OF CHICKS**

Paragraph IV f) refers. The reference to the health of previous chicks from these flocks should be taken to refer only to the immediate post-hatching period, prior to placement on their rearing farms, i.e., the time when they might be affected by diseases acquired from their parent flock. Any subsequent disease is not relevant to this certification.

8. **SALMONELLA TESTING UNDER THE PBFHO**

Paragraph IV i) refers. The Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Order 2007 implemented Salmonella testing guidelines for breeding flocks which were first set down in the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code, appendix 3.4.1., and subsequently in the Zoonosis Regulation 2160/2003. This Order has been revoked and replaced in England by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007 (as amended), and equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Required testing is carried out under the National Control Program (NCP)

These pieces of legislation are concerned only with the Salmonellas of human significance, principally S. enteritidis and S. typhimurium and lay down the legal requirement that all breeding flocks of the fowl and turkey species must be tested, and other species such as ducks may follow the same protocol voluntarily.

In order to certify this paragraph, the OV should satisfy himself/herself, with reference to the flock records as necessary, that the microbiological testing has been carried out with negative results.

Relevant guidance on NCP can be found on gov.uk:

[Chicken breeders: poultry testing for salmonella - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/chicken-breeders-poultry-testing-for-salmonella)

[Turkey breeders: poultry testing for salmonella - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/turkey-breeders-poultry-testing-for-salmonella)

9. **VACCINATION OF FLOCKS OF ORIGIN**

Paragraphs IV g), k) and o) refer. Vaccination details of the flocks of origin must be supplied to the certifying OV by the flock veterinarian (if they are different people) on support certificate 534SUP.

Note that in paragraph IV g) the import conditions do not stipulate which sort of vaccine must be used, but simply require that the necessary information should be given; this information is repeated in paragraph IV k).

If necessary for paragraph IV k), a separate schedule may be attached to the certificate. In this case the schedule should contain the same information as required in the table, and should be stamped and signed by the OV, and the OV should write 'see attached schedule' in the table on the certificate.

Please note that vaccination for Gumboro disease and Infectious Bronchitis is not required for turkey flocks. Additionally, if paragraph IV (o) can be certified, then turkey flocks of origin are also exempted from the requirement for vaccination against Avian Encephalomyelitis.

In the case of turkeys, paragraph IV o) may be deleted, as permitted by the export health certificate.

10. **VACCINATION OF CHICKS**

Paragraph IV n) refers. This paragraph may be deleted in the case of day-old turkeys or turkey hatching eggs, as permitted by the export health certificate. Note that if the vaccine has a marketing authorisation for use in the United Kingdom, it will automatically conform to the standards laid down in the WOA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

11. **DIOXIN CONTAMINATION**

Paragraph IV p) refers. This paragraph may be certified by the OV provided that there is not any restriction on the flock of origin due to suspicion of contamination of their food with dioxin or other contaminants and provided that OV has no suspicion that dioxin levels are exceeding the required UK standards. OV might need to check establishments records in relation to feed supply and/or request declaration from farmer to satisfy these assurances.

As part of the UK Residue Control Plan (RCP), APHA collects poultry feed samples on farm, and tests them for prohibited substances (hormones, steroids). Animal feed is also monitored by means of testing animals for residues of organophosphates (OPs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the slaughterhouses, with poultry livers collected and tested as the most sensitive test matrix for these types of compounds. The UK RCP covers all licensed slaughterhouses in the UK and is implemented under the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations of 2015. If there is any suspicion of contaminants being used in animal feed, the vet in the abattoir is able to detain an animal/batch of animals (for the purposes of taking a sample/samples) and similarly, APHA can collect additional samples on farm.

12. **RADIATION MONITORING**

Paragraph IV q) refers. This paragraph may be certified by the OV based on the United Kingdom maintaining a Terrestrial Radiation Monitoring Programme for radioactivity in food and the environment and when there is no suspicion that radiation levels in the consignment for export exceeds accepted international standards.

The UK's Terrestrial Radiation Monitoring Programme for radioactivity in food and the environment is based on routine sampling and analysis of all food types.

13. **DEFRA APPROVED DISINFECTANT**

Paragraph IV s) refers. With reference to Defra approved disinfectants, these can be considered as any disinfectant approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended), Diseases of Poultry (England) Order 2003" (SI no 1078) and equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The list contains list disinfectant approved on the basis of their efficacy against certain notifiable disease viruses.

Relevant Defra web page is: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it>

14. **SUPPORT CERTIFICATION**

Paragraphs IV b), c), d), e), g), h), i), j), k), l) and o) refer. When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the flock veterinarian should complete form

534SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in these paragraphs are complied with. The support health certificate will be provided by (in GB) APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland, at the same time as the export health certificate.

15. **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#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

16. **WELFARE OF ANIMALS**

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 Northern Ireland, 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 028 9052 4420