

EXPORT OF CAPTIVE BIRDS TO SAUDI ARABIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 6491EHC. 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 6491EHC may be used for the export of captive birds excluding poultry from United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian authorised on behalf of 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 holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or to DAERA, within seven days of issue.

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

See section 13 below for details of Saudi Arabian Embassy authentication, which is required following OV certification.

3. IMPORT PROCEDURES

Prior to the export of the birds the importer must obtain an import permit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Agriculture, Division of Animal and Plant Quarantine. The import permit must accompany the consignment together with the export health certificate.

4. STATEMENT OF ORIGIN

The OV should sign this certificate on the basis of their familiarity with the exporter and the premises of origin. The OV is responsible for obtaining any documentary evidence which appears necessary to confirm the statement. Note that the Saudi import conditions do not contain any stipulation about the length of time for which the birds must have been resident at the premises of origin prior to export.

5. IDENTIFICATION OF THE BIRDS

Paragraph I refers. If the space in the bird identification section of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate details of all birds in the consignment, a separate schedule may be used. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the identification section of the certificate, which should be annotated "see attached schedule". The certifying OV must draw a line under the last entry and sign, date and affix the OV stamp in a colour other

than black on each page of the schedule and also under the last entry, in order to prevent the unauthorised addition of more entries. The pages of the schedule must be firmly stapled to the export health certificate and each referenced with the unique reference number at the top right-hand corner of the export health certificate. The corners of each sheet should be turned over, 'fanned', and stamped with the OV stamp.

6. **REGULAR VETERINARY ATTENTION**

Paragraph V (a) refers. The certifying OV must be the same person who is routinely called upon by the exporter to attend and advise about any veterinary health problems with his/her birds. This is the basis upon which not only paragraph V (a), but also paragraphs V (b) and (c) may be certified.

7. **PREMISES DISEASE FREEDOM**

Paragraphs V (b) and (c) refer. These paragraphs must be certified on the basis of the OV's personal knowledge of the exporting premises, supported where appropriate by any clinical examinations, laboratory reports and pathological investigations which may have taken place. A notifiable disease clearance form (618NDC) is not required because the statement applies only to the premises of origin, and freedom from Newcastle disease is certified on the same basis as freedom from the other listed diseases which are non-notifiable.

8. **CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

Paragraph V (d) refers. The import conditions require that the clinical examination is carried out within 48 hours of export.

9. **VACCINATION**

Paragraph V (e) refers. If any of the birds have been vaccinated for pigeon paramyxovirus, this must be indicated on the identification schedule. All such birds must have their vaccination certificates attached to the health certificate. The exporter must be aware that the birds will be subject to serological testing after arrival in Saudi Arabia, and any birds showing a positive serological reaction may be destroyed as suspect for infection, unless it can be shown that their positive titre is likely to be due to vaccination.

10. **LABORATORY TESTING FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA**

Paragraph V (f) refers. The birds must have a PCR test performed in National Reference Laboratory (NRL) confirming that the bird is free from AI (specifically any strain reported in the UK). Sampling and testing must be carried out no earlier than 7 days prior to export, though this timescale may be increased if otherwise stated on the import permit received from KSA. The PCR test result must accompany the bird. Once sampled, the birds for export must remain isolated (using separate airspace) from all other birds not part of the same export consignment until despatched.

Additionally, the birds may be subject to a further test on arrival in KSA. Import permits may contain additional testing requirements, which must be adhered to.

11. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs V (g) and (h) may be certified on behalf of the Department provided the OV has received written authority from APHA or DAERA (Form 618NDC).

12. **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. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

<u>ENGLAND,</u>	Customer Service Centre, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Eden Bridge House, Lowther Street, Carlisle, CA3 8DX
<u>SCOTLAND</u>	Tel: 03000 200 301
<u>AND WALES</u>	E-mail: CentralOps.carlisle@apha.gov.uk
<u>NORTHERN</u>	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural
<u>IRELAND</u>	Affairs, Animal Welfare Section, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB
	Tel: 028 9052 4580

13. **Authentication of Veterinary Health Certificate by Saudi Arabian Embassy**

Following certification by the Official Veterinarian, **the exporter** must arrange for the completed certificate to be authenticated by the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London, prior to the consignment being exported. This is a requirement of the Saudi Arabian authorities, and failure to ensure this is done may result in the consignment being held or rejected on import. Details of the required process and timescales should be sought direct from the Saudi Arabian Embassy by the exporter.

14. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate and these notes are 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 (CIT) - Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#specialist-service-centres-ssc>

In Northern Ireland, please contact the DAERA trade administration team:

- e-mail - tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk
- Phone - 02877442146