

EXPORT OF CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS AND DAY OLD CHICKS TO IRAN

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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to the Official Veterinarian (OV) and the exporter. The NFG should have been issued to you together with its related export health certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health 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. Conditions as stated in the health certificate should be compared to those of any import permit received.

1. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

This certificate is for the export of hatching eggs or day old birds of the chicken species *Gallus gallus* to Iran.

2. **OFFICIAL SIGNATURE**

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 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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV 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 should keep a copy for his/her own records

3. **GENERAL HEALTH STATEMENTS**

Paragraphs IV (a) and (b) refer. 'Clinical evidence' should be interpreted as including observed clinical symptoms, information from flock production and mortality records, laboratory sample results and pathological reports.

4. **MYCOPLASMA TESTING**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. For *M.gallisepticum* the routine testing carried out under the rules for a poultry health scheme (PHS/NIPHAS) will meet the conditions for this paragraph. For *M.synoviae* it is necessary to conduct an additional test because this is not covered under the requirements of the PHS/NIPHAS. It will be sufficient if the last set of samples taken for *M.gallisepticum* testing under the PHS is also tested for *M.synoviae*. These tests must all be carried out at a laboratory approved by Defra or DAERA for Mycoplasma testing under the PHS.

5. **POULTRY HEALTH SCHEME MEMBERSHIP**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. This paragraph may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written confirmation on form 618NDC from APHA-CIT Carlisle (or the relevant team in Northern Ireland) that the flock(s) is/are a current member(s) of the PHS or NIPHAS (Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme).

Note that the 618NDC (or the relevant document in N.Ireland) will cover

only membership of the PHS/NIPHAS. It is the responsibility of the certifying veterinarian to check that all the test results for the flock(s) have been negative.

6. **FLOCK VACCINATION**

Paragraph IV (e) refers. Any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA. The use of vaccines imported under a VMD issued Special Import Certificate (SIC) or, of autogenous vaccines manufactured and used with the approval of the VMD, can be considered to have the equivalent of a marketing authorisation in the UK.

If there is insufficient space in the table, the OV may attach a separate schedule providing the same information as the table. The schedule must be signed, stamped and dated by the OV in ink of any colour other than black, and firmly stapled to the certificate. The table must be annotated 'see separate schedule'.

7. **VACCINATION OF DAY-OLD CHICKS**

Paragraph IV (f) refers. Note that the Iranian import conditions normally specify that a bivalent vaccine must be used.

8. **WOAH STANDARDS**

Paragraph IV (g) refers. This paragraph applies only in the case of day old chicks, and must be deleted in the case of hatching eggs. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code lays down conditions for hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries. These conditions are incorporated in the United Kingdom government supervised poultry health scheme (PHS/NIPHAS). Consequently, any flock or hatchery which is a member of the PHS/NIPHAS applies and exceeds the conditions laid down in the WOAH Code.

Paragraph IV (g) may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has verified, either from personal knowledge or by receiving written confirmation from APHA-CIT Carlisle (or the relevant team in N. Ireland), that the hatchery is a current member of the PHS/NIPHAS; AND the OV must personally verify by personal knowledge or by reference to any relevant records that none of the specified infections have been isolated at the hatchery during the past 6 months.

With reference to yolk sac infections, it is accepted that a small incidence (typically about 0.1%) of yolk sac infections is normal in eggs from clinically healthy flocks. The paragraph can be certified if the incidence is of this order, but not if there is a significantly higher incidence indicating a real clinical problem.

9. **FEED DEFICIENCIES**

Paragraph IV (h) refers. This statement must be provided by the veterinarian responsible for the flock(s) of origin, based on his/her clinical experience and observations.

10. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE**

Paragraphs IV (i) and (j) may be certified provided the OV has received written authority (form 618NDC) from APHA-CIT Carlisle, or the relevant authority in NI, which will be sent to him/her prior to export.

With reference to the definition of HPNAI affected zones in paragraph (j), this should be applied around any outbreak of HPNAI in poultry as

defined by the WOAAH Terrestrial Manual. In addition to UK domestic disease control procedures, Iranian import requirements must also be adhered to. These require that no exports of poultry are allowed from **premises within 50km** of a confirmed outbreak premises, until 3 months after effective cleansing and disinfection of the affected premises.

For any avian influenza outbreak that is not HPAI in poultry according to the WOAAH definition, the affected zone is defined according to UK domestic disease control procedures.

For further information, please contact: APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle.

In the case of flocks of origin located in another country, hatching eggs from those flocks should have been imported into the UK accompanied by the appropriate import documentation, which will provide some of the necessary official clearances about the flocks of origin. The OV must inspect the import documentation and any relevant official clearances issued by the Competent Authority to make sure that they are in order and that he/she has the supporting evidence to certify these paragraphs.

11. **SUPPORT CERTIFICATE**

Paragraphs IV (a), (c), (d), (e) and (h) refer. When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the flock veterinarian should complete form 1018SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in these paragraphs are complied with. The support health certificate will normally be provided by the APHA-CIT Carlisle at the same time as the export health certificate.

For flocks of origin located in another country, the relevant import documentation must be checked.

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#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

13. **WELFARE CONDITIONS DURING TRANSPORT**

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