

EXPORT OF PIGEONS TO CANADA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1344EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1344EHC. 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 certificate

This certificate may be used for the export of pigeons to Canada. 'Pigeons' includes all species of pigeons, as well as rock doves, ring doves, turtle doves, ground doves and collared doves.

2. Import Permit

Exporters should be reminded that they must apply for an import permit from the Government of Canada. More details can be found at <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/imports/eng/1300460421194/1300461242684>

The import permit number as issued by the Canadian authorities should be entered in part III b). The export health certificate and the original import permit must accompany the birds to Canada. Both documents must be made available to an inspecting veterinarian at the first Canadian port of entry.

3. 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, Welsh Government, or the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation. OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour OTHER THAN BLACK.

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

4. Identification of the birds

Section I and paragraph IV f) refer. The birds to be exported must each bear an individually numbered, tamper-proof leg band, or microchip. If microchips are used, the OV must write the location of the chip together with its code number on the schedule. The exporter is responsible for ensuring that a suitable reader is available to officials checking the birds upon entry to Canada.

When 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 to identify the birds certified. 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 Official Veterinarian must draw a line under the last entry and sign, date and affix the Official Veterinarian 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 Official Veterinarian stamp.

Alternatively, the birds can be placed in a transport container which must be then sealed and the seal number entered in Section I.

5. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

The certification contained in paragraphs IV a), b) and c) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided the certifier is in receipt of written authority from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Great Britain, or DAERA in Northern Ireland which will be sent to the certifier before shipment.

In the case of outbreaks of Newcastle disease or notifiable avian influenza in the UK, disease control zones are applied prohibiting any export from a Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone applied round any infected premises. For the purposes of this EHC, this restriction is in place from the date the zones were put in place until 28 days following final cleansing and disinfection of the infected premises, as per WOAHA criteria. Any areas outside of these restricted zones can be considered as a 'free' zone.

CFIA also impose restrictions on birds originating from or travelling through affected areas of the UK. Areas with restrictions still in place can be seen on the Canadian website <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/status-by-disease/countries-recognized-as-free-from-the-disease/eng/1343108465347/1343108628931#fn3> - please note that the published list shows the full counties, but only the 10km zones from the infected premises in those counties are subject to restrictions.

6. **History of the Birds**

Paragraph IV e) refers. The OV should certify either paragraph i. or ii. on the basis of his/her personal knowledge, supported where necessary by a written declaration from other veterinarians, or from the owner/exporter.

7. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraphs IV g), h), and n), plus e) i. or ii. regarding the required clinical examination refer. The birds must be examined within 30 days of the start of quarantine, within 30 days of the intended departure and a final health examination must be carried out within 24 hours of the intended departure. The OV should be satisfied that the birds have shown no clinical signs of avian influenza during this time.

8. **Avian Influenza Testing**

Paragraph IV e) iii. and iv. refers. Currently, the AI official surveillance is not applicable to pigeon premises. Therefore, this paragraph can only be certified under section iv. Cloacal (faecal) swabs are needed from each bird for testing purposes. Samples can be pooled to a maximum of 5 swabs per vial.

If the consignment consists of fewer than 60 birds, each bird must be sampled. If there are more than 60 birds, it is necessary to sample only 60 which should be selected at random.

The laboratory test may be either virus isolation (VI) or polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The PCR is usually quicker. Samples may be pooled by the laboratory at 5:1. Samples must be tested at the avian virology laboratory of VLA Weybridge. It is strongly recommended that the OV should phone the laboratory well in advance to discuss procedures for taking and handling the samples, and any other technical details.

9. **Pre-Export Quarantine Approval**

Paragraphs IV j) and k) refer. An Official Veterinarian must inspect and approve the proposed pre-export quarantine premises before the birds are placed there. Bearing in mind that pre-export quarantine must last for at least 30 days, the inspection must take place more than 30 days before the intended date of export (note also the necessary time frame within which the birds must be vaccinated for Paramyxovirus and the type of vaccine to be used at paragraph IV m)).

The OV should consider the following requirements when approving the facility:

1. The quarantine building must be separate from other buildings on the premises.
2. The building must have a drainage system independent from that of other buildings on the premises.
3. A separate source of food and separate utensils must be arranged for the birds in pre-export quarantine.
4. The birds in quarantine must be tended by staff having no contact with other birds. Separate and dedicated overalls or protective clothing must be worn when attending the birds in quarantine.
5. Footbaths of a DEFRA approved disinfectant must be placed at the entrance to the quarantine building.

The Canadian Food and Inspection Agency (CFIA) lays down the following requirements for the operating practices:

6. birds being transported to take up residence in the facility must not come into contact with any other birds not similarly certified, and their transport vehicles and crates must have been cleaned and disinfected prior to the journey.
7. The building must be cleaned and disinfected before the start of quarantine using a DEFRA approved disinfectant
8. No other birds or animals may be introduced to the facility during the quarantine period.
9. No birds (or carcasses) may be removed except with the agreement of the OV who is responsible for the quarantine.
10. No testing or treatment can take place during the quarantine except with the knowledge and agreement of the supervising OV.
11. All equipment used in the facility must be appropriately cleaned and/or sterilised, prior to the start of the quarantine, and again as appropriate during the quarantine.

10. **Pre-Export Quarantine Supervision**

Paragraphs IV j), and k) refer. **If the address of the exporter is the same as the address of the pre-embarkation quarantine, this would only be acceptable if the whole group of birds is being prepared for export. Birds for export and birds not being exported cannot be kept on the same premises.** In order to certify that the OV has had the facility under his/her supervision, he/she must visit at least at the beginning and end, and once or twice during the course of the quarantine. The number of visits will be a matter for the discretion of the OV, and may depend on the amount of personal knowledge that the OV has of the management practices and experience of the

operator. It is strongly recommended that several visits should be made unannounced during the course of the quarantine.

11. **DEFRA approved Disinfectants**

Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 1978 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant approved for use with poultry, on the basis of their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses. 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.

12. **Vaccination**

Paragraph IV m) refers. The Canadian import conditions require that the veterinarian who completes and signs the export health certificate must have 'supervised' the vaccination of the birds. In practice this means that the veterinarian must either have administered the vaccine himself/herself, or must have been present at the time of vaccination in order to be able to certify that each of the particular birds for export received the vaccine. The vaccine will be 'authorised' if it has a current market authorisation for use in pigeons in the United Kingdom.

13. **Owner/Exporter's Written Declarations**

Paragraphs IV e) and o) refer. These declarations should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

14. **Transport requirements**

The Official Veterinarian must obtain the statements in paragraph IV o) in writing from the owner/exporter. Responsibility for maintaining the health status of the birds after the Official Veterinarian's final inspection and during transport rests with the owner/exporter. Canadian import conditions attach great importance to each of the items in paragraph IV o). The owner/exporter is also responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

15. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.). Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Department at the address given below:

Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS)
Zone 1/17, Temple Quay House,
2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

16. **No paragraph (i)**

The omission of paragraph IV (i) is deliberate to avoid confusion, as the symbol 'i' is used to number indented paragraphs.

17. **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 should be reminded that they must comply with the British laws relating to the welfare of animals. If the birds are being transported by air, the relevant standards of the International Air

Transport Association (IATA) must be met. Information about the necessary requirements (e.g. cage sizes, construction etc.) may be obtained from the following offices:-

GREAT BRITAIN Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle.

NORTHERN IRELAND Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland, Animal Welfare Section, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB

18. **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 APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle.