

**EXPORT OF HATCHING CHICKEN EGGS FROM INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT/S IN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED HPAI-FREE COMPARTMENT TO SOUTH AFRICA**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

**1. Scope of the certificate**

This certificate 8690EHC is for the export of chicken hatching eggs from UK to South Africa, with premises of origin only in establishment/s previously officially approved under the GB Compartment Scheme.

**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 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. Import permit**

The exporter's importing agent in Republic of South Africa (RSA) must obtain a Veterinary Import Permit from the South African authorities for each consignment. Certification must not be provided unless a copy of the Veterinary Import Permit has been received by the certifying OV. Both the certificate and the import permit must be presented with the consignment at the port of entry. The import permit number should be included at paragraph III. c) of the certificate.

**4. Seal numbers**

Paragraph I refers. The seal should be of a type which would be broken or torn if the boxes were opened. If the Official Veterinarian is not present at the time when the boxes are sealed, he/she should make sure that the exporter understands the requirement for appropriate marking and sealing of the boxes. The seal numbers must be written in the appropriate place in paragraph I.

**5. Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV a), b) (i) or (ii) and f) refer. These paragraphs may be certified by the OV for premises located in the UK provided he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent by (in GB) APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland before shipment.

The exporter must provide information to APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle about the location of the flocks of origin, plus any other establishment involved such as a hatchery or egg dispatch facility.

The authority for IV a) will be given on the basis of the establishments being premises formerly officially approved within the GB Poultry Compartment Scheme. This is applicable at times when the Compartment to which they belonged is not currently officially approved.

**6. Flock Disease Freedom**

Paragraphs IV c), k), p) and q) refer. 'Evidence' should be interpreted as including clinical observations, information derived from flock mortality and production records, laboratory test reports and pathological examinations. In paragraph IV c), 'clinical signs' should be interpreted as those of outbreaks of disease, but should not include the presence of

such organisms as E.coli which may frequently be present without giving rise to clinical disease symptoms.

Where reference is made to the past 12 months, and a flock has not been in existence for so long, the relevant period is the time since the flock was hatched.

**7. Poultry Health Scheme Membership**

Paragraphs IV d) and n) may be certified with respect to membership of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent by (in GB) APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or membership of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) from the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland.

The OV or the flock veterinarian is responsible for verifying by an inspection of the laboratory reports that all the results for the listed diseases have been negative.

**8. Avian Influenza testing**

Paragraph IV e) refers. South Africa has requested that samples must be taken from the flocks of origin as part of ongoing serosurveillance programme on a monthly basis. A minimum of 29 serum samples per epidemiological unit must be submitted. Final testing is to be completed by one of the official laboratories within 21 days prior to export. The Agar Gel Immunodiffusion Test (AGID) is recommended because it will detect antibodies to all sub-types of avian influenza. The alternative Haemagglutination Inhibition (HI) test is specific for each subtype, and if this test is requested it is necessary to specify that both H5 and H7 are tested.

**9. Avian Influenza vaccination**

Paragraph IV g) refers. Vaccination against avian influenza is only allowed by UK law under derogation. The UK has never applied for such a derogation. Vaccination of is permitted only in zoo birds in accordance with UK legislation. This paragraph can be certified on this basis.

For paragraph IV h), the above applies to UK flocks and the paragraph can be signed on that basis for all UK flocks. If the flock(s) of origin were imported into the UK, they must originate from an RSA approved country (as confirmed in the import permit), and it is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain the relevant official assurances from the veterinary authorities in those countries and make them available to the certifying OV.

**10. Salmonella testing**

Paragraph IV l) refers. Under the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, as implemented by a National Control Plan (NCP) for Salmonella, testing for S. Enteritidis must be carried out in adult breeding flocks at least every 3 weeks during the laying period. As regarding S.pullorum and S.gallinarum serotypes, there is a requirement to test chicken flocks at least once per year under a Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) and in Northern Ireland by the NIPHAS. Therefore, the testing under paragraph VI l) must be carried out separately for the purpose of this certificate. Sampling must be carried out for these serotypes at intervals not greater than 28 days from the flocks **environment**. The testing laboratory needs to be approved for Salmonella bacteriology under a PHS or in Northern Ireland, NIPHAS. Similar testing assurances must be obtained by the veterinarian responsible for the flock(s) of origin which were imported into the UK, and they must originate from an RSA approved country.

#### **11. Mycoplasma testing**

Paragraphs IV n) and o) refer. Testing for M.gallisepticum is carried out at 3 monthly intervals throughout lay as a condition of a PHS or in Northern Ireland, NIPHAS . The OV must inspect the relevant laboratory reports to confirm that the results have been consistently negative.

For M.synoviae there is no requirement to test under the PHS, and the testing under paragraph o) must be carried out separately for the purpose of this certificate. The recommended sample size at 3- monthly intervals should be 60 birds, which would provide 95% probability of detecting disease at a prevalence of 5%, but this may also be achieved by testing a smaller number at more frequent intervals.

The samples must be submitted either to the Animal and Plant Health Agency at Weybridge/Lasswade, or the DAERA Agri-food and Biosciences Institute in Stormont - N. Ireland , or to any laboratory approved for the purposes of Mycoplasma testing under a government supervised poultry health scheme in UK/ROI/USA/RSA approved third country.

#### **12. Owner/Exporter's declaration**

Paragraph IV t) refers. The declaration should not be attached to the health certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

#### **13. Support certification**

Paragraphs IV. c), e), h), i) j), k), l), m), n), o), p) and q) refer. When the flock of origin is inspected by a different Veterinarian, he/she should complete form 8690SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in these paragraphs are complied with.

#### **14. 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>

#### **15. 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, Dundonald House,

Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.  
DAERA Helpline number 0300 200 7852.  
DAERA Helpline email [daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk)  
DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852