

EXPORT OF DAY-OLD BIRDS OF POULTRY TO JAPAN

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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters and should have been issued to you together with export certificate 2536EHC. These Notes for Guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 2536EHC and associated documents:

2536EHC, 2536NFG, 2536SUP, 618NDC (and in the case of an outbreak of Notifiable Avian Influenza in the UK, 2536SPT)

1. Scope of certificate

This certificate covers the export of day old birds of domestic poultry [chicken, quail, turkey, ostrich, guinea fowl, pheasant and birds classified into Anseriformes order (such as duck and goose)] from the United Kingdom to Japan.

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.

Certified Copy Requirements - England, Wales and Scotland

Guidance concerning return of certified copies of EHCs has changed and only specific certified copies are required to be returned to the APHA. Certifying OVs must return a certified copy of EHCs only for the following EHC types:

- if the exported commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids;
- if the certificate was applied for manually and the application documents have been emailed to APHA and not applied for via the Exports Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system.

Certified copies should be emailed on the day of signature to the Centre for International Trade Carlisle (CITC) at the following address: certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

For certificates that have been issued to the Certifying OV via the EHCO system, the Certifying OV must complete the certifier portal with the status of the certificate and the date of signature.

A copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified must be retained for two years.

Certifying OVs are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however CITC may request certified copies of EHCs and supporting documentation in order to complete Quality Assurance checks or if an issue arises with the consignment after certification.

DAERA Export Health Certificates: Provision of certified copies

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. **Notifiable disease control and surveillance**

Paragraphs IV a) and b) refer. These paragraphs can be certified on the basis that NAI and ND are designated as notifiable diseases, and an effective surveillance programme is implemented in the UK.

The following definitions are used for notifiable diseases, as per AHR (Animal Health Requirements) agreed with Japanese Authorities:

"Highly pathogenic avian influenza (referred to as HPAI)"

means infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of high pathogenicity as defined in the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

"Low pathogenic avian influenza (referred to as LPAI)"

means infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of H5 and H7 subtypes other than HPAI virus.

"Notifiable Avian Influenza (referred to as NAI)"

means HPAI and LPAI as defined above.

4. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Paragraph IV c), and if necessary the relevant sections of 2536SPT, may be certified on behalf of the Department provided the OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her (in GB by APHA, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office in Northern Ireland) before shipment.

The written authority will indicate which sections of c) should be certified, depending on the disease status of the UK at the time. If either or both of the second and third clauses are to be certified, the supplementary document 2536SPT must also be certified. If this is the case, the written authority will also indicate which section(s) of the 2536SPT can be certified, according to the information on flock/hatchery locations by the applicant.

Certifying OV's should also note and verify any additional testing requirements as stated in the 2536SPT.

"Free region" means counties of the United Kingdom other than infected region and seropositive region. Please refer to the latest list of free regions/countries from the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/news/third-free.html>

5. **Avian Influenza vaccination**

Paragraph IV d) can be certified on the basis of vaccination against Avian Influenza in poultry in the UK is not permitted.

6. **Flock Health Record**

At paragraph IV (e) 'evidence' shall be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock/hatchery records, laboratory test records, records of testing under a Poultry Health Scheme or National Control Plan for salmonella and pathological reports.

Exports cannot take place where flocks of origin have had evidence of any of the stated diseases within the past 90 days prior to export.

If any of the stated diseases occurred in the hatchery within the 90 days prior to export, certifying OV's should ensure paragraph IV f) has been complied with, as per the following point.

7. **Hatchery Disinfection following disease identification**

Paragraph IV (f) refers. In the case of any of the diseases listed in IV (e) having been identified **in the hatchery** within 90 days prior to import, the Japanese authorities require a written declaration from the UK competent authority that the hatchery has been effectively cleansed and disinfected. Laboratory tests must be carried out to prove the efficiency of the C&D. As there is no pre-existing standard procedure for APHA to carry out these procedures, it will be necessary for the hatchery owner to collaborate with APHA in order to devise the necessary arrangements.

Note that in case the above procedure is applied, the Japanese animal health authority has to accept the UK proposal and confirm their satisfaction in writing before the export can take place. This means that the UK authority must have informed Japan about the situation and obtained their official confirmation that they are satisfied. The OV must liaise with APHA, CIT Carlisle, to confirm that this may be signed.

8. **Testing for Salmonella enteritidis, Salmonella typhimurium, Pullorum disease (S. pullorum) and Fowl typhoid (S. gallinarum)**

Paragraph IV (g) (i) can be signed on the basis of the routine testing required under the salmonella National Control Plans (**S. enteritidis, S. typhimurium) and the Poultry Health Scheme (S Pullorum/Gallinarum)**) on the basis of negative results in each case. In the case of species such as ducks which are not currently covered by the statutory Salmonella National Control Programme a voluntary monitoring program equivalent to those for domestic fowl or turkeys must be in place in the relevant flocks. The frequency of sampling should be at least monthly. The OV is responsible for checking that the required testing has been carried out and that all the results have been negative.

If the exporting company is in compliance with paragraph IV(g)(i), the OV must delete paragraph IV (g)(ii). In the unlikely situation where IV. (g) (ii) need to be used, please refer to CIT in Carlisle for a sampling protocol.

9. **Testing for Avian Influenza**

Paragraphs IV (h) and (j) refer.

In the flock farm of exported day-old birds, testing on NAI must be conducted as follows, with negative results:

- a. Haemagglutination Inhibition test or agar gel immunodiffusion test on serum every 90 days; and
- b. When premises of origin are within a free region at the time of shipment to Japan: PCR virological test or virus isolation (by the inoculation of embryonated fowls eggs) on respiratory swab or cloacal swab once within 30 days prior to export; or
- c. When premises of origin are not in a free region at the time of

shipment to Japan: PCR virological test or virus isolation (by the inoculation of embryonated fowls eggs) on respiratory swab or cloacal swab at least 7 days after egg collection and clinical examination at least 14 days after the egg collection.

Samples must be taken in accordance with the following sampling protocol:

1. The total number of samples of the premises must be at least 60 birds or, if the total bird number of the premises is less than 60, all birds must be subject to sampling.

If the premises include more than one flock (building), samples must be delivered from each flock (building) and the sample number of each flock (building) must be at least 30 birds, or if the number of birds in a flock (building) is less than 30, all birds in the flock (building) must be subject to sampling.

2. All samples should be selected at random.
3. All samples should be fully marked and identified with the date of sampling and the flock to which the samples relate.
4. Samples should be stored in a refrigerator at between 1 and 4 degrees centigrade and submitted for testing immediately (not more than 5 days after collection).
5. All samples should be examined in a laboratory authorized for that purpose by the government authorities of the United Kingdom.
6. Samples for PCR testing for NAI can be pooled at 1:5 ratio if tested at APHA Weybridge.

All testing for NAI must be carried out at a laboratory approved by the UK government authorities for that purpose. At present the only laboratory which has that approval is the APHA avian virology laboratory at Weybridge. It is advisable to contact the Weybridge laboratory well in advance of the submission of samples to ensure that swabs are taken and handled correctly, and that there is plenty of time to complete the tests prior to the intended date of export.

Testing must be carried out for all exports regardless of location of origin premises, according to the timescales laid out above.

Additionally, in the situation where flocks were in a free region at time of egg collection but the region was subsequently classified as an infected region prior to export, the flock farm must be subject to testing as specified at point 9 c. above, and clinical examination at least 14 days after the egg collection. The table should be certified accordingly, or otherwise deleted if flocks remain in free regions throughout.

Paragraph IV (j) states that serological tests have been carried out "at intervals of 90 days". However the OV may certify this provided that at least one test as described in the paragraph has been carried out within the last 90 days before export, AND the source flocks have been tested at regular intervals before that for other purposes, such as for other exports or for Compartment requirements.

10. **Clinical inspection**

The inspection at paragraph IV (k) must be carried out within 24 hours of the intended time of export.

11. **Vaccinations**

When the spaces at paragraphs IV (l) and (m) of the certificate are insufficient to accommodate all vaccination details, a separate schedule may be used. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the vaccination boxes 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 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 reference number of the particular export health certificate at the top right-hand corner.

12. **Owner/Exporter's Declarations**

Paragraph IV (n) refers. The written declarations should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

Paragraph (n)(iii). The consignment of day old poultry should not be in contact or travel with any other birds that are not of the same health status of the said consignment - "mixed-load". Thus the day old chicks may be the sole consignment of birds on the flight.

Paragraph (n)(iv). In addition, the day old chicks must not transit the areas (county) that are subject to restriction. Evidence such as a route plan should be provided and attached to the certificate. Please refer to the latest list of the third free countries from the following URL: <http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/news/third-free.html>

Government 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. Approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

13. **Support certification**

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian, he/she should complete form 2536SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in paragraphs IV (e), (g), (h), (j) and (l) of 2536EHC are complied with.

14. **Transport and Post-Import procedures after arrival in Japan**

Exported day-old birds to be exported to Japan must be transported directly to Japan. If exported day-old birds transit at a third country, it must be certified by the animal health authority of a third country or the captain of aircraft that the exported day-old birds were moved hygienically without coming into contact with other animals at a designated control area in the airport.

The day old birds will be subject to post-import quarantine during which tests will be carried out for Salmonella and avian influenza.

In case that NAI is detected in exported day-old birds by the examinations during the quarantine period in Japan, the said day-old birds could be slaughtered by an order from Animal Quarantine Service in Japan.

In case that any other infectious disease is detected during the

quarantine period in Japan, the said day-old birds could be returned or slaughtered by an order from Animal Quarantine Service in Japan.

15. **No paragraph (i)**

Note that the paragraph notation in the certificate reads IV (h) to IV (j) with paragraph IV (i) omitted. This is intentional to avoid confusion, as roman numeral 'i' is used to number indented sub-paragraphs.

16. **Welfare**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team

Centre for International Trade

Eden Bridge House

Lowther Street, Carlisle

CA3 8DX

Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

17. **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 or DAERA, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk