

**EXPORT OF CHICKEN AND TURKEY HATCHING EGGS AND DAY OLD CHICKS AND  
POULTS TO NIGERIA**

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

**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.

1. **SCOPE**

This certificate may be used for the export of hatching eggs of the domestic chicken and turkey species to Nigeria.

**EXPORTERS MAY USE THIS CERTIFICATE, BUT AT THEIR OWN RISK WHICH CAN BE REDUCED BY ENSURING THE IMPORTER CHECKS THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE BORDER INSPECTORS/ NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES.**

As the certificate has not been specifically agreed with the importing authorities, on welfare grounds this certificate is **not to be used for the export of day-old chicks and poults**. This may be reconsidered on direct communication from the importing authorities stating that a particular consignment will be accepted.

Please note that this Department will assume, unless informed otherwise by an exporter or by the veterinary authorities in the country of destination, that certificate 416EHC meets Nigeria's import requirements and, therefore, that it is acceptable to the importing country's authorities, however this cannot be guaranteed. Destination countries may change their requirements at short notice; not inform the Department until after a change has been made; or, in some cases, not inform the Department at all.

2. **OFFICIAL SIGNATURE**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 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 must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink 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](mailto: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. POULTRY HEALTH SCHEME MEMBERSHIP**

Paragraphs IV (a) and (l) and (m) refer. Directive 2009/158/EC is the European poultry trade Directive. All of the conditions in the Directive are fully implemented in GB by the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). Therefore membership of either of these schemes means that the premises are officially approved in accordance with Directive 2009/158/EC, including regular official veterinary inspections.

The OV may certify membership of either the PHS or NIPHAS on the basis of official confirmation (form 618NDC), which will be sent to the OV before shipment by APHA, or the equivalent in Northern Ireland.

Note that in paragraph (l) and (m) the 618NDC will only confirm membership of the health scheme. The OV is personally responsible for checking the lab reports to confirm that none of the test results have been confirmed positive during the

lifetime of the flocks.

4. **CLINICAL INSPECTION OF THE CHICKS OR POULTS**

Paragraph IV (b) refers. (Delete in the case of hatching eggs). The inspection should be carried out within 24 hours prior to despatch. In order to avoid any possible dispute at the point of arrival, it is strongly recommended that the inspection should be conducted, and the certificate signed and dated, on the same date as the chicks are despatched.

5. **FLOCK INSPECTION**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. The inspection must be carried out within 28 days before export. In the case of flocks that were depopulated after egg collection but more than 28 days prior to export, the OV may certify this paragraph on the basis that the inspection was carried out within 7 days prior to depopulation.

6. **DISEASE SECURITY AND TRANSPORT**

Paragraphs IV (d), (e) and (f) refer. The OV should certify these paragraphs on the basis of his/her personal observations and knowledge of the establishment.

With reference to paragraph (f): Under EU Council Regulation EC/1/2005, implemented in England by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and its equivalent in the devolved regions, vehicles carrying live poultry must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

A Defra approved disinfectant must be used. Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant, and there is a sub-group specifically 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.

7. **INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE**

Paragraph IV (g) refers. As turkeys are not normally affected by infectious bursal disease, and it is not normal practice to vaccinate them for this disease, the paragraph should be deleted in the case of turkeys.

In the case of chickens vaccination against IBD is not obligatory in either the parent flocks or eggs/chicks, but if they are vaccinated the information must be supplied.

It is an obligatory requirement that chicken flocks of origin must be tested by the Agar Gel Precipitin (AGP) test to certify their freedom from this disease in non-vaccinated flocks. Delete either sub-paragraphs (iii)a and b or sub-paragraph (iii)c.

8. **MAREK'S DISEASE**

Paragraph IV (h) refers. As turkeys are not normally affected by Marek's disease, and it is not normal practice to vaccinate them for this disease, the paragraph should be deleted in the case of turkeys.

In the case of chickens note that the vaccination information is required ONLY for day old chicks, and not for parent flocks.

9. **AVIAN INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS**

Paragraph IV (j) refers. As turkeys are not normally affected by avian infectious bronchitis, and it is not normal practice to vaccinate them for this disease, the paragraph should be deleted in the case of turkeys.

In the case of chickens vaccination against IB is not obligatory in either the parent flocks or eggs/chicks, but if they are vaccinated the information must be supplied.

It is an obligatory requirement that chicken flocks of origin must be tested serologically for IB to certify their freedom from this disease in non-vaccinated flocks. Delete either sub-paragraphs (iii)a and b or sub-paragraph (iii)c.

10. **FOWL CHOLERA**

Paragraph IV (k) refers. vaccination against FC is not obligatory in either the parent flocks or eggs/day old birds, but if they are vaccinated the information must be supplied.

The statement that the flocks are "recognised as being free from FC" may be certified on the basis that no clinical outbreaks of frank disease have come to the notice of the veterinarian who is routinely responsible for those flocks. Delete either sub-paragraphs (iii)a and b or sub-paragraph (iii)c.

11. **AVIAN INFLUENZA VACCINATION**

Paragraph IV (n).(i) refers. The vaccination of domestic poultry for avian influenza in the UK is forbidden under UK regulations, except with special dispensation at times of particular risk.

The OV must certify this paragraph on the basis of his/her personal knowledge of the premises of origin, supported by whatever written statements he/she may consider necessary from the owner and/or flock veterinarians.

12. **NEWCASTLE DISEASE VACCINATION**

Paragraph IV (o).(ii) and (iii) refer. Nigeria specifies that **neither the flocks of origin nor the chicks should have received any modified live Newcastle disease vaccine within 8 weeks prior to collection of the eggs** (either for direct export of hatching eggs, or collection of the eggs from which the day olds are hatched).

Concerning compliance of the vaccine with the OIE (now WOA) Terrestrial Manual: The WOA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines lays down standards for vaccine production for all the common poultry infections. Any vaccine which receives a marketing authorisation for use in the UK or the EU will automatically comply with the standards in the Manual.

If preferred a separate schedule may be provided showing the vaccination history of the flock(s). The schedule must be stamped and signed and firmly stapled to the certificate, and the certificate must be marked "see attached schedule".

13. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs IV (n).(ii) and (o).(i) refer. These statements may be signed on behalf of the Department provided the OV is in receipt of written authority from APHA (for GB) or DAERA (for NI) which will be sent to the OV before shipment.

In (n)(ii) the OV must delete only those lines which do not apply. At times when the UK is not officially free of NAI, authority to certify (n)(ii)(b) would be given for premises outside of any zones ineligible to export to the European Union due to disease control restrictions.

Note that the authority will confirm only the disease freedom of the UK/region/compartiment. The OV must make his/her own enquiries in order to certify the residence statement about the flocks of origin.

14. **SUPPORT CERTIFICATE**

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the flock veterinarian should complete form 416SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in the flock of origin are complied with. The support health certificate will be provided by the issuing office at the same time as the export health certificate

15. **NO PARAGRAPH 'i'**

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

16. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

17. **Welfare of Animals during transport**

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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

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