

NO:

EXPORT OF DAY OLD CHICKS AND CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS

1. 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.

Use of non UK eggs - Given that there have been outbreaks of avian influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease worldwide (including in EU and non-EU countries). The exporter is responsible to ascertain if there are any restrictions/bans in place by Oman for countries that have notified outbreaks of avian influenza or Newcastle disease which may render the consignment of day-old birds illegal for import into Oman and therefore rejected. Therefore exports of day-old birds hatched from imported eggs will be at exporter's own responsibility.

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 7669EHC meets Oman'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.

It is therefore strongly advised that exporters check with their customers that certificates are acceptable to the authorities in the country of destination in advance of each consignment, especially with regards to the acceptability of day-old chicks hatched from imported eggs. This Department will not accept liability should it turn out that certification supplied by us does not meet an importing country's requirement.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate (7669EHC) may be used for the export of day old chicks and chicken hatching eggs to the Sultanate of Oman.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)

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.

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.

4. IMPORT PERMIT:

Exporters are responsible for ascertaining whether an import permit is a compulsory requirement in the importing country, and if so, for ensuring that the importer has obtained the necessary permit.

5. Poultry Health Scheme Membership

Paragraphs IV.(a) and (c) refer. Current membership of the flocks of origin and the hatchery to the Poultry Health Scheme in GB, or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS), may be certified on the basis of a written statement (form 618NDC) which will be sent to the OV by the issuing office (in GB, APHA Centre for International Trade, in Carlisle) within 10 days before shipment. Both health schemes fully implement the EU Directive 2009/158/EC and the

standards referred to in Chapter 6.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The statement with regards to regular supervision by the UK authorities may be certified on the basis of the annual membership visit and any additional visits by OV's for the purpose of certification of hatching eggs and day-old chicks for export. Official veterinarians are personally responsible for checking that the above supervision requirements have been met or obtain such assurances by means of a support veterinary certificate (7669SUP).

In the case of day-old birds hatched from imported eggs, the certificate for imports into the EU requires the flocks of origin to be members of a poultry health scheme at least equivalent with the conditions of Directive 2009/158/EC and therefore such certificate will provide assurances of this membership. The exporter should make a copy of the relevant certificate available to the OV for certification.

6. **Hatchery procedures and disease freedom**

Paragraphs IV (b) and (c) [disease freedom]; (d) and (f) [vaccination of day-olds) refer. The OV is personally responsible to ascertain the matters to be certified on the basis of personal observations and knowledge of the practices at the hatchery and any records or evidence that he/she considers necessary.

7. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs IV (a) and (l) refer.

These paragraphs may be certified by the OV provided he/she has received written authority (form 618NDC) which will be sent by APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

In the case of day-old birds hatched from imported eggs the exporter is responsible to obtain the relevant notifiable disease clearances from the authorities in the country of origin of the flocks and make these available to the OV. Please note that the assurances in the certificate used for import of the eggs into the EU only provides assurances for the 30 days prior to import.

8. **Flock Disease Clearance**

Paragraph IV (b) refers - the OV should obtain the evidence he/she considers appropriate (or obtain it from the flock veterinarian) that the flocks of origin are free from the relevant diseases. Evidence should be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock production and mortality records, laboratory test records, and pathological reports on post mortem examinations.

Paragraph IV (e) [testing option] refers- the following are the test recommended by the OIE for international trade purposes:

Infectious Bursal disease (IBD)/Gumboro disease: AGID or ELISA
Infectious bronchitis (IB): ELISA, HI or VN
Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT): AGID, ELISA or VN

For further information and laboratory standards, the OIE Manual should be consulted: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-manual/access-online/>

Paragraph IV (g) refers - The clinical inspection of the flocks of origin should be carried out either within 72 hours of export, or if

the flocks were subjected to a monthly OV visit within the 30 days prior to export, then the OV may certify this paragraph on the basis of written confirmation by the flock manager/veterinarian that up to date production and health records substantiating that there are no concerns with regards to the flocks' health.

Marek's vaccination

9. Paragraph IV (d) refers. The chicks must be vaccinated at the hatchery, using the following authorised vaccine (which is at least bivalent), in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Clinical inspection

10. The inspection at paragraph IV (g) and (h) must be carried out within 24 hours of the intended time of export. Paragraph IV (h) -In the case of hatching eggs no inspection is required, and this paragraph may be deleted.

Packing and Transport Conditions

11. Paragraphs IV (j), (k) and (i) refer. In order to certify these paragraphs it is necessary for the OV to personally observe the packing materials and the internal compartment of the vehicles used for transport.

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. Other instructions about disinfection of the vehicle are given in Directive 2009/158/EC, Article 18. 7. The OV may certify the paragraph if, in his/her professional judgement, the methods are adequate and effective.

A DEFRA approved disinfectant must be used for disinfecting the internal cargo compartment of the vehicle. 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.

12. **Support certification**

Paragraphs IV. (a), (b), (e) and (g) refer. When the flock of origin is inspected by a different Veterinarian, he/she should complete form 7669SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in these paragraphs are complied with.

In the case of day-old birds hatched from imported eggs the exporter is responsible to obtain the relevant flock assurances from the flock veterinarian of the flocks of origin and make these available to the OV.

Exporter's declaration

13. Paragraphs IV (k) refers. The written declaration from the owner/exporter must not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

14. **Welfare of Animals**

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.

15. **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