No: .....

EXPORT OF DAY OLD CHICKS TO SOUTH AFRICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

1. Scope of the certificate

443EHC - This certificate is for the export of day old chicks to South Africa.

Please note that this certificate is currently valid to export day-old chicks, hatched in the UK from eggs originating in the UK, the Republic of Ireland, a member state of the EU or any country approved by the Veterinary Authorities of South Africa as indicated by the import permit, only.

Due to outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in several countries in and outside the EU, the exporter and OV must ensure that the relevant country is approved (as indicated in the RSA import permit) if the day-old chicks for export are hatched from imported eggs. Imports into South Africa from any countries currently affected by outbreaks of HPAI, including USA and Germany, are not allowed until further notice.

2. 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.

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.

South Africa may issue permits which require the poultry to originate from a poultry compartment even when the UK is free of HPAI. In such case, the EHCs sent to certifying OVs will have the other option contained in paragraph IV.(a)i) pre-deleted, but certifying OVs must also always ask to see the import permit to verify.

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) (i) or (ii), (b)(i) or (ii), (f), and (g) refers. These paragraphs may be certified by the OV 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 DAERA office in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

With reference to paragraphs (a)(ii) and (b)(ii) the exporter must provide information to APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle about the location of the hatchery, all relevant flocks of origin and the route to be taken from the hatchery to the airport of departure.

With reference to paragraph (g), vaccination against avian influenza is only allowed by EU law under derogation. The UK has never applied for such a derogation. Vaccination of zoo birds is permitted under Commission Decision 2005/744/EC.

Day-old birds hatched from eggs of non-UK origin: RSA approved countries as per import permit only – USA and Germany are currently affected by a RSA ban on HPAI grounds and exports of day-olds from the UK hatched from eggs in those countries is not allowed until further notice.

Paragraphs IV (b)(ii)[flocks of origin], (f) and (g) – [prohibition of vaccination against avian influenza in commercial and outdoor poultry] refer. If the flock(s) of origin is(are) not in the UK, they must originate from an RSA approved country (as confirmed in the import permit), 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.

6. Flock Disease Freedom

Paragraphs IV (c), (j), (l), (q) and (s) 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 meaning clinical 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 syndromes.
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 (o) 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) the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment. If the flock(s) of origin is(are) not in the UK, i.e. in a RSA approved country (as confirmed in the import permit), it is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain the relevant official statements from the veterinary authorities in those countries and make them available to the certifying OV.
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 or after setting the eggs. 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. Salmonella testing

Paragraph IV (m) refers. The requirements of this paragraph were fully met up till I January 2007 by the testing carried out under the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Order (PBFHO) 1993. Under the new Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, as implemented by a National Control Plan for Salmonella, testing is carried out at least fortnightly for S.enteritidis. However the new culture method specified under the 2007 Order is not suitable to detect S.pullorum and S.gallinarum. There is a requirement to test for these serotypes at least once per year under a Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) and in Northern Ireland by the NIPHAS. Many breeding companies carry out this testing at least monthly for their private control purposes. These private tests would meet the requirement of the certificate, provided that the testing laboratory is 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 in the USA.

10. Mycoplasma testing

Paragraphs IV (o) and (p) 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 (p) 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.

11. Clinical inspection

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

12. Owner/Exporter's declaration

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

Concerning IATA transport regulations, the owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her birds meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). He/she should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary provide a copy of the relevant conditions. Published copies of the IATA conditions can be bought from the following companies:

Freight Merchandising Services, c/o Vidap Freight Services Ltd., Shield Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1AU.
Tel: 01784 240840 Fax: 01784 240824

Label Line, Hollyhouse, 14 Tenby Road, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5UT.
Tel: 01252 836472 Fax: 01252 838094

13. Support certification

Paragraphs IV. (c), (e),(h), (j), (k), (l),(m),(n),(o),(p), (q) and (s) refer. When the flock of origin is inspected by a different Veterinarian, he/she should complete form 443SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in these paragraphs are complied with.

14. 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 paragraphs.

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

16. 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.