

EXPORT OF FRESH POULTRY MEAT TO GABON - 7104EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS 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.

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/ GABON'S AUTHORITIES.

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 7104EHC meets Gabon'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. 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

7104EHC can be used for the export of fresh poultry meat (chilled or frozen) from the United Kingdom to Gabon.

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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI 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 EHC 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 CIRC 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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. **HEALTH STATUS OF BIRDS and FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Paragraphs IV (a) and (b) refer. The Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS) and DAERA in N. Ireland are responsible for ensuring that all poultry intended for human consumption is subject to ante mortem inspection (which may be largely based on observations at the farm of origin), and post mortem inspection at an FSA/FSS/DAERA approved slaughterhouse. Such approval will by default mean that the slaughterhouses are officially approved for exports to the EU. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection required before the meat is declared as fit for human consumption and therefore eligible to be placed in the market in the EU (including for export to other Member States). All meat (or its wrapping/packaging) which has passed these inspections will carry the approved oval health mark, as laid down in the EU meat hygiene Regulations, and implemented in UK legislation (The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013, and the equivalent in the devolved regions).

5. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs IV. (c) refers. This paragraph may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle before shipment. In Northern Ireland the local equivalent arrangements will apply.

Paragraph (c) requires no restrictions to be in place on the premises (farms) of origin of the birds due to notifiable avian influenza and Newcastle disease. At times when the UK is not officially free of these diseases, authority to certify (c) would be given for premises outside of any disease control zones put in place for either of these diseases, at time of slaughter of the birds. The authority will relate to birds of UK origin only, and be based on information provided to the issuing office at time of application.

If the flocks of origin were located in another country, freedom from these notifiable diseases must be certified on the basis of the assurances in the health certificate under which the birds were imported into UK, or after receiving official written confirmation of the official disease freedom status of the country/region/premises of origin from the veterinary authority of the country of origin.

6. Paragraph IV. (d) refers. Contact of the meat with products not in compliance with EU legislation will render the meat as unfit for human consumption (it will be reclassified as animal by-product), it should not bear the oval health mark and therefore it would not be eligible to be placed on the EU market. However, the OV must certify this paragraph on the basis of his/her personal knowledge and observations at the premises, particularly with regard to the segregation of meat from animal by-products. If necessary the OV may consult the establishment's trading and manufacturing records, and/or ask for a written statement from the management of the establishment.
7. Paragraph IV. (e) refers. The use of mammalian meat and bone meal, or feed containing it, for feeding to farm animals (including poultry), is prohibited according to the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2018, and equivalent in other regions of the UK. This legislation revokes earlier versions in force.
8. **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