

No:

EXPORT OF ADULT POULTRY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

1. Scope of the certificate

This certificate is for the export of adult poultry from the United Kingdom to the United States of America.

- 2. IMPORTANT:** an import permit must be obtained prior to export and its number entered at the relevant section of the 7129EHC certificate. USA does not require pre-export testing for avian influenza. However, birds may be placed in quarantine upon arrival and tested for all subtypes of avian influenza (notifiable and non-notifiable). It is therefore recommended that exporters carry out pre-export testing with a test covering all 15 subtypes of avian influenza. Disclosure of any type of avian influenza may lead to the destruction of all the birds in pre-import quarantine by USDA/APHIS without compensation. Importers should comply with all the conditions in the import permit in addition to the requirements of this certificate. In case of doubt on any import condition/requirement, exporters are advised to obtain clarification directly from USA.

3. Official Signature

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian, appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, or equivalent in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OV's should apply the OV stamp to the certificate in the normal manner.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with an OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE SIGNED **WITHIN 72 HOURS OF EXPORT**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the issuing office (in GB, AHVLA, Specialist Service Centre (SSC)- Exports, Carlisle) and in the case of Northern Ireland to DARD, Room 922 Dundonald House, Belfast, within seven days of signature.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. Notifiable Disease Clearances

Paragraph IV (a) ii and (b) refer. These may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by the issuing office (in GB, Specialist Service Centre (SSC)- Exports, Carlisle) or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

This paragraph covers disease clearances both for the premises of origin and the disease control zones (as defined in the EU) where they are located. Option 1 has been crossed-out in both options of this paragraph as it is not applicable to this certificate. The exporter should submit a route plan and a written declaration together with the application for this certificate so that the relevant disease clearances can be issued. In the absence of

notifiable avian influenza and Newcastle disease in the UK and provided the consignment will only travel within the UK, the 618NDC will confirm that there are no official restrictions due to avian influenza or Newcastle disease in the premises of origin or the UK as a whole, without mentioning the specific transit areas in the UK. Similarly, the OV should obtain a route plan and a written declaration from the owner/exporter. He/she should then compare these with the notifiable disease clearances (618NDC) issued with the certificate before signature.

The route plan, the exporter's declaration and the 618NDC disease clearance document should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

If any birds in the flock(s) of origin have been imported less than 90 days prior to export, the OV must obtain the relevant evidence (including a copy of the certificate used for the import) from the owner/exporter with regards to disease assurances in the flocks of origin and the areas where they were located for the past 90 days. This may be in addition to the same assurances required during their residency in the UK prior to export (618NDC applies).

5. Flocks of origin disease clearances and clinical inspections

Paragraph IV (a)i and (a)iii refer. The clinical inspection at section (iii) must be carried out within 24 hours of export. For animals resident in the UK since birth or imported more than 3 months prior to the intended export the Official Veterinarian may certify indent (a)(i) of this paragraph based on a written declaration from the owner/exporter to confirm that no birds in the flock(s) of origin have been in contact with other birds/flocks that have been confirmed with either of these communicable diseases of poultry during the 90 days prior to export, as supported by an appropriate certificate from the veterinarian responsible for the flocks of origin if any birds in the flock(s) of origin have been resident in other flocks during the 90 days prior to export. The OV must obtain the relevant evidence (including a copy of the certificate used for the import) from the owner/exporter with regards to disease assurances in the flocks of origin for the past 90 days.

6. Testing

To carry out the tests at paragraph IV c) the number of samples to be taken from each flock should be based on the total number of birds in the flock. Although at least 5% of the birds in each flock is required it is advisable that this number is calculated according to the table below to give 95% confidence of detecting disease with a 5% of prevalence in the flock:

Number of birds in flock	Number of samples to be taken
under 25	all
25-29	20
30-39	25
40-49	30
50-59	35
60-89	40
90-199	50
200-499	55
500 or more	60

7. Laboratory Samples

Paragraphs (c) (d) and (e) refer. The laboratory tests in paragraphs IV (c) and (d) must be conducted at laboratories of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) Weybridge/Lasswade, or Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, Stormont. Veterinary surgeons wishing to submit samples for testing should contact the laboratory in advance of submission to enable appropriate arrangements to be made. Advice on the submission of samples should be sought from the laboratory if required. Samples should be submitted to the laboratory allowing sufficient time for test results to be reported before the date of export.

The tests in paragraph IV (e) must be carried out at a laboratory which is officially approved for Salmonella testing under the National Control Programme for salmonella implementing European Council Regulation 2160/2003.

The OV is personally responsible for checking that testing has been carried out, and that all the laboratory results have been negative.

8. Newcastle Disease Vaccination

Paragraphs IV.(f) refer. If the OV who completes the supplementary certificate is not personally responsible for the flock(s) of origin, he/she must obtain a support statement in writing from the veterinarian who is routinely responsible for those flocks in order to be able to certify this paragraph.

The USA does not specify that either the flocks or the birds must, or must not be vaccinated. Their concern is only that, if vaccinated, the vaccine must not be derived from a velogenic strain of virus.

In the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines the Newcastle disease virus is differentiated into three classes; in descending order of virulence these are velogenic, mesogenic and lentogenic. The manual specifies that vaccines should be prepared only from the latter 2, less virulent strains. As all vaccines that are licensed for use in the UK must conform to the OIE Manual standards, the OV may certify this paragraph on the basis that any Newcastle disease vaccine, if used, had a valid marketing authorisation in the UK.

9. Avian influenza vaccination

Paragraph IV (g) refers. The vaccination of domestic poultry for avian influenza in the UK is forbidden under EU regulations, except with special dispensation at times of particular risk (EU Directive 2005/94/EC). Under the same Directive, and the subsequent EU Decision 2006/474/EC, AI vaccination may be permitted in zoo birds under a specific licence, and subject to strict controls. The UK has never applied to the EU for approval of the use of AI vaccination in domestic poultry, but approval has been given for its use in a very small number of zoos.

The OV must certify this paragraph on the basis of his/her personal knowledge of the premises of origin, supported by whatever written statements may be considered necessary from the owner and other veterinarians.

10. Supplementary certification

A supplementary certificate is required to accompany the 7129EHC certificate because of the current ban by USA on hatching eggs and

poultry originating or transiting France (due to AI vaccination). The certifying OV must obtain evidence in order to certify that the poultry to be exported did not originate from France after 1st October 2023 and that the consignment have not and will not transit France. The supplementary certificate will be issued by APHA at the same time as the main certificate, and will need fan stamping together with the main certificate and any other schedules/documents to provide an indivisible certificate.

11. 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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ahvla-en/about-us/contact-us/specialist-service-centre/>

12. WELFARE

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation EC 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be

transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

England, Scotland and Wales Specialist Service Centre, Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA), Hadrian House, Wavell Drive, Rosehill, Carlisle, CA1 2TB
Tel: 01228 403600 / Fax 01228 591900 /
E-mail: wit@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Northern Ireland, Animal Welfare Section,
Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast,
BT4 3SB
Tel: 028 9052 4580 / Fax 028 9052 5012