

No:.....

EXPORT OF DAY OLD POULTRY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

Scope of the certificate

1. This certificate may be used for the export of day old birds to the United States of America, belonging to the following species: chickens, doves, ducks, geese, grouse, guinea fowl, partridges, pea fowl, pheasants, pigeons, quail, swans, and turkeys.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: exporters are strongly advised to ensure compliance with additional requirements of the import permit not included in this certificate, including quarantine on arrival to the USA and any tests to be carried out during such quarantine before the consignment is finally allowed to be imported to the USA. This may include testing for avian influenza (any subtype), Newcastle disease and any other diseases that the USA authorities may deem necessary. It is therefore recommended that exporters carry out pre-export testing of the flocks of origin 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.

Owners/exporters should therefore be advised that the Department cannot accept any liability if the consignment subsequently fails one of the tests whilst in quarantine in the USA and consequently the consignment may have to be destroyed as its return to the UK may not be possible since health assurances under EU import conditions will not be certifiable.

2. **Obtaining Import permit**

Paragraph I.(b) refers- Exporters should be reminded that they must apply for an import permit from the United States of America. Information about the necessary requirements (see disclaimer above) may be obtained from the following office:-

National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, USDA Center, 4700 River Road, Unit 39 Riverdale, MD 20737 USA

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/poultry_eggs.shtml
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/live_poultry.shtml

3. **Post Import Quarantine**

All imported birds are subject to at least 30 days post-import quarantine in the USA. During this time they will be subject to a number of laboratory tests for various diseases. For this reason the USA does not have a requirement for the flocks of origin to be tested prior to export. The importer should be aware that they must obtain USDA approval for the quarantine premises well in advance of the import.

4. **Official Signature**

This certificate may be signed by an Official Veterinarian appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), The Scottish Government, The Welsh Government, or an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), who is an Official Veterinarian (OV) on the appropriate panel for export purposes. OVs/AVIs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

A certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to APHA - Exports in Carlisle, within seven days of issue.

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

5. **Notifiable Disease Clearances**

APHIS-defined European Poultry Trade Region: A single region consisting of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales), Greece, Hungary, Ireland (Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

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, APHA 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 APHIS-defined European Poultry Trade Region) 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).

6. **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 day-old birds from UK flocks 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.

It is imperative to list all flocks of origin in the EHC - a separate page attached to the certificate is acceptable if preferred.

7. **Salmonella enteritidis monitoring**

Paragraph IV (c) refers. The national control programmes for salmonella (NCP) lays down procedures for the routine monitoring of chicken and turkey breeding flocks for Salmonellas of public health significance, including Salmonella Enteritidis, in accordance with EU Regulation 2160/2003. Samples must be collected at intervals not exceeding 21 days and send for testing to UK approved laboratory. The paragraph may be certified in the case of chickens and turkeys if sampling has been carried out in accordance with the national control programme, and the results of all testing have been negative. The OV is personally responsible for checking that testing has been carried out, and that all the laboratory results have been negative.

In the case of other poultry species specific testing must be carried out following a similar protocol to that laid down in the national control programme.

Link for the Statutory National Control Programmes: Chicken breeders: [Chicken breeders: poultry testing for salmonella - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Equivalent statutory programmes are in place in N. Ireland: [Salmonella | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](http://daera-ni.gov.uk)

8. **Egg Drop Syndrome (EDS) testing**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. Testing must be carried out either at a government laboratory or at a laboratory which is UKAS (ISO17025) accredited for EDS serology testing (usually by HAIT or ELISA tests). The options of "at least 5%" or a minimum of 150 per flock are on the basis of "whichever is lesser" and results may be accumulated in the 90 days prior to export, provided that the OV is satisfied that different birds in the same flock have been used to reach the target figures and that all the sampling dates and the laboratory results thereof are within the 90 days prior to export.

October 2015 - The US authorities have dropped the requirement to test turkeys for EDS. Therefore this statement does not apply to hatching eggs of turkeys. Certifying OVs can delete this paragraph now in the case of hatching eggs from turkeys.

9. **Avian Metapneumovirus testing**

Paragraph IV (e) refers. Testing must be carried out at a government laboratory. Testing is not required for waterfowl species, and in their case this paragraph must be crossed out in the certificate.

Flocks that are not vaccinated against avian metapneumovirus can use any of the testing options in the certificate, but it is advisable that serological testing is chosen as the option to go for since it is the testing that USA will perform if birds/eggs are certified as originating from non-vaccinated flocks.

Vaccination will interfere with serology tests. As an alternative to testing 30 birds per house (sentinel birds are also eligible) by RT-PCR or ELISA, the use of sentinel birds can be used to achieve the assurances required on the basis of serology testing. If sentinel birds are used (30 birds per house required but it is advisable that more than 30 sentinel birds are initially placed to account for mortalities etc), they should be either birds aged 4 to 8 weeks when tested by serology with negative results prior to introduction or be unvaccinated males tested by serology with negative results prior to introduction. They must be placed in the same house as the flock under test. If the option of young birds is used, these should be in as close contact as possible with the rest of the flock but separated from the main flock in a cage on the floor of the house. The cage should be regularly moved around to different parts of the floor in order to ensure effective contact with the faeces of the flock of origin. Careful consideration must be taken to ensure that any eggs laid by sentinel birds are collected and be removed as soon as possible and in no circumstance must they be used for export to USA. Each sentinel bird must be individually identified so that the initial and subsequent serology results demonstrate that they were not vaccinated/naturally infected at the time of introduction in the flock and that this remains to be the case on the basis of further tests results to be used as evidence for certification for export. Testing may be done by whatever serology test is currently in standard use by the APHA or Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, Stormont. If a Company wants to use this option, the Official Veterinarian should obtain evidence that in this case the flock(s) had remained as closed flocks from the date of commencement of egg collection.

For any of the testing option at least 30 birds per house should be tested (30 sentinel birds per house if sentinels are used- serology testing only).

Vaccination status of the flocks of origin: certification of mixed consignments containing eggs from both vaccinated and non-vaccinated flocks is not allowed. The US Department (APHIS) requires that the vaccination status of the flocks of origin is stated in the certificate to consider what tests to be used if they decide to carry out post- import testing. In the case of eggs from flocks where sentinels are present, the vaccination status refers only to the birds producing the eggs for export (the sentinel vaccination status should be disregarded; no eggs from them should be exported to USA) and the flocks of origin must be certified as vaccinated for Avian Metapneumovirus.

10. **Newcastle disease vaccination**

Paragraph IV (f) refers. If the OV who completes 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.

11. **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.

12. **Owner's Declaration**

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

13. **Supplementary certification**

A supplementary certificate is required to accompany the 898EHC 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 certify, to the best of their knowledge based on evidence such as route plan, declarations, etc., that the poultry (including hatching eggs) 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.

14. **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/>

15. **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 UK 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.

Further information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

DAERA Helpline number 0300 200 7852.

DAERA Helpline email daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852