

## EXPORT OF POULTRYMEAT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - 2186EHC

### NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

#### 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/ CONGO'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 2186EHC meets DR Congo'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 OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate is for the export of poultry meat from the United Kingdom to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### 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](mailto: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 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. Paragraph IV a) may be signed if the birds were reared and slaughtered in the UK. This can be certified on the basis of:
  - (i) familiarity with slaughterhouse procurement procedures and/or examination of producer movement records;
  - (ii) a statement from the veterinarian/s supervising the farms on which the birds were produced or;
  - (iii) a statement from the OVS at the slaughterhouse/s.
5. Paragraph IV b), c) & d) can be certified on the basis of identification marks from fully licensed slaughterhouse/s which demonstrate compliance with the requirements of UK Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations.
6. Paragraphs IV. e) 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, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland) before shipment.

Authority will be given based on information provided at the time of application. Farms of origin must be, at time of slaughter, outside of any restricted zone put in place due to an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease. The zone applies from confirmation of disease until such time domestic controls are lifted and the relevant zone revoked.

#### 7. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)