

NO:

EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT AND MECHANICALLY RECOVERED POULTRY MEAT TO COMOROS

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN 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.

2. **SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE**

Export health certificate (7288EHC) may be used for the export of fresh poultry meat (**including mechanically recovered poultry meat**) and **raw meat preparations** from the United Kingdom to *Comoros*.

IMPORTANT: The certificate can only be used to export poultrymeat/MRM or raw meat preparations derived from poultry slaughtered in the UK.

Fresh poultry meat means all parts of domestic poultry which are fit for human consumption and which have not undergone any preserving process This includes offals such as livers, gizzards, hearts and necks which have been passed and health-marked fit for human consumption, and mechanically recovered meat (MRM) derived from poultry meat as above. Chilled and frozen meat is considered to be fresh meat.

The temperature of frozen product must not exceed -18°C during storage and transport.

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.

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. IMPORT PERMIT:

Exporters are responsible for ascertaining whether an import permit is a compulsory requirement in the importing country, and if so, for ensuring that the importer has obtained the necessary permit.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraphs IV (a) and (c) refer.

Paragraph (a) refers to freedom from notifiable avian influenza and Newcastle disease of both the premises (farms) of origin of the birds and the administrative territory (county) where they originate. In the absence of outbreaks of these notifiable diseases in the UK this paragraph may be certified by the OV provided he/she has received written authority (form 618NDC) which will be sent by Centre for International Trade (CIT) Exports, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office of DAERA in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment. The 618NDC clearance will relate to birds of UK origin only.

In cases where outbreaks of any of these diseases are present in the UK and provided the principle of regionalisation has been applied, further guidance will be issued which will be dependent on the disease situation and the policy line (including licensing of poultry to slaughter) in place at the time.

If the flocks of origin were located in another EU Member State, freedom from these notifiable diseases must be certified on the basis of the assurances in the ITAHC under which the birds were imported for slaughter, 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.

Paragraph (c) refers to specific restrictions at the UK meat plants. this paragraph may be certified by the OV provided he/she has received written authority (form 618NDC) which will be sent by Centre for International Trade (CIT) Exports, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office of DAERA in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

6. **HEALTH STATUS OF BIRDS**

Paragraphs IV (a) and (b) refer. The reference to 'clinically healthy birds' in paragraph (a) may be certified on the basis of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) (meat hygiene division) in England or 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 approved slaughterhouse. All meat which has passed these inspections will carry the EU approved oval health mark, as laid down in the EU meat hygiene Regulations, and implemented in UK legislation (The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006, and the equivalent in the devolved regions).

7. **EU LEGISLATION**

Paragraph IV (d) refers. The relevant EU meat hygiene legislation is:
Regulation EC 852/2004 -hygiene of foodstuffs
Regulation EC 853/2004 -hygiene rules for food of animal origin
Regulation EC 854/2004 -official controls on products of animal origin.

In the UK the EU legislation is implemented by the Food Hygiene(England) Regulations 2006, and its equivalent in the devolved regions.

If the carcass meat (or its packaging) have been marked with the official EU oval health mark, the OV can assume that the meat has met all the requirements of the legislation.

8. **RESIDUE TESTING AND FREEDOM FROM CONTAMINANTS**

Paragraphs IV.(e) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the EU oval health mark, which demonstrates compliance with the EU/UK Food Hygiene Regulations, and the National Surveillance Scheme for residues (anti-microbials etc).

A testing programme for residues in meat is laid down under Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC, and Council Regulations 2377/90/EEC and 426/98/EEC, which are all implemented in British national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997, and the relevant legislation in the Devolved Administrations. On the basis of this testing plan it can be considered that the meat does not exceed the permitted levels of any veterinary medicinal product, antiparasitic agent, or heavy metal contaminant nor any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, or other harmful chemical residues which do not occur naturally in the meat.

9. **MEAT OF SPECIES OTHER THAN POULTRY**

Paragraph IV. (f) refers. The OV must certify this paragraph on the basis of his/her personal knowledge and observations at the premises. 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.

10. **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