

No:

EXPORT OF OVER 5 BIRDS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 720EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 720EHC. 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. This certificate and the Pet Birds certificate 4948EHC will be reviewed in 2016, so check with APHA that you have the most to up to date version.

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. Where pre-export testing for the diseases to be screened during quarantine is not required in the export health certificate before shipping to the USA, exporters are strongly advised to carry out voluntary courtesy pre-export tests for such diseases. 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.

1. **Scope of the certificate**

This certificate covers the export of over 5 birds to the United States of America. Please note that a consignment of over 5 birds will be deemed as a commercial consignment by USDA even the owner regards them as pets. This certificate is for the use of captive birds (excluding poultry and other types of bird intended to be used for human or animal consumption).

2. **Definition**

The USDA definition of commercial birds is those that are intended for resale, breeding, public display or any other purpose, including consignments of more than 5 pet birds.

This certificate is **not** to be used for the export of birds intended to be used for human or animal consumption (i.e. not for food purposes).

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 EHCO 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. Obtaining Import permit

Exporters must obtain an import permit from the United States Department of Agriculture. The certificate and the original import permit must accompany the birds to the United States of America. Both documents must be made available to an inspecting veterinarian.

Application for an import permit may be submitted to:-

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services
National Center for Import and Export (NCIE)
Unit 39, 4700 River Road,
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
(301) 734-8364 telephone
(301) 734-4704 fax

or VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov

5. **Arrival in USA**
The importer must contact a USDA port veterinarian or a USDA Animal Import Center no later than 72 hours in advance of the arrival of the bird(s) to co-ordinate the import process.

6. **Quarantine**
All birds imported into the United States (except from Canada) are required to be quarantined for 30 days. Quarantine must take place at one of the USDA facilities located in either New York, Miami, or Los Angeles, or may occur in a privately owned quarantined facility that has been approved by APHIS.

7. **Identification of the birds**
Section I refers. The birds to be exported must each bear an individually numbered, tamper-proof leg band, or microchip. If microchips are used, the OV must write the location of the chip together with its code number on the schedule. The exporter is responsible for ensuring that a suitable reader is available to officials checking the birds upon entry to USA.

When the space in the bird identification section of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate details of all birds in the consignment, a separate schedule may be used to identify the birds certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the identification section of the certificate, which should be annotated "see attached schedule". The certifying Official Veterinarian must draw a line under the last entry and sign, date and affix the Official Veterinarian stamp in a colour other than black on each page of the schedule and also under the last entry, in order to prevent the unauthorised addition of more entries. The pages of the schedule must be firmly stapled to the export health certificate and each referenced with the unique reference number at the top right-hand corner of the export health certificate. The corners of each sheet should be turned over, 'fanned', and stamped with the Official Veterinarian stamp.

Alternatively, the birds can be placed in a transport container which must be then sealed and the seal number entered in Section I.

8. **Clinical inspection**
The inspection at paragraphs IV(a) must be carried out within 48 hours of the intended date of export.

9. **Vaccination against Newcastle disease**
Paragraph IV (e) refers. Vaccination against Newcastle disease is an option and not a requirement for import. Where birds have been vaccinated, this must have been carried out not less than 21 days prior to export and the vaccine must not contain any velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus.

10. **Vaccination against H5 & H7 types of Avian Influenza**
Paragraph IV (b) refers. Vaccination against H5 & H7 (Notifiable avian influenza types) is not allowed by EU law. However, the certifying veterinarian is advised to obtain a declaration by the exporter/owner that the birds for export have not been vaccinated against these types of avian influenza, as in some cases captive birds may have been originally imported into the EU prior to export.

11. **Notifiable disease clearance**
Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph IV(c) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland on form 618NDC.

12. **Route Plan**

OVs should obtain a plan of the intended route to be taken up to the airport of departure. This should be checked against the web page provided on the export health certificate. In the case of an outbreak of a notifiable disease affecting birds, this route must not pass through any restricted zone in place, as a result of this outbreak. A copy of the route plan should also be submitted, by the exporter, with their application. Further advice on this may be obtained by contacting;

Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for International Trade,
Eden Bridge House, Lowther Street, Carlisle, CA3 8DX.

Tel: 03000 201 301.

Email: Liveanimalexports.carlisle@apha.gov.uk

12. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.). Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Department at the address given below:

Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS)
Zone 1/17, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol,
BS1 6EB. Tel: 0117 372 8774 Fax: 0117 372 8206

13. **Welfare**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team

Centre for International Trade

Eden Bridge House

Lowther Street, Carlisle

CA3 8DX

Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

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 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