

EXPORT OF PET 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 4948EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4948EHC. 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.

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 pet birds to the United States of America.

2. 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.

Countersignature Requirements

This certificate must be countersigned by a salaried Veterinary Official of the National Government in the Department of Environmental Food Rural Affairs in Great Britain or Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

In the case of exports to USA, an Official Veterinarian (OV) is an Authorized veterinarian of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or of the Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs (DAERA) *.

All requests for countersignature must be submitted to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date/time of countersignature using Request for APHA Veterinarian Countersignature of an Export Health Certificate (ET145) application.

The ET145 application can be submitted to CITC by email to processingteam@apha.gov.uk

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian* at your preferred countersigning office/area to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

*In Northern Ireland, a DAERA salaried Official Veterinarian/certifying officer is authorised to countersign this certificate.

3. Definition

Pet birds are defined by USDA as birds which are used for the
4948NFG (29/07/2015) (Revised 08/01/2024)

personal pleasure of their individual owners and are not intended for resale. The term pet bird does not include chickens, ducks, geese, swans, turkeys, doves, pheasants, pigeons, grouse, partridges, quail, guinea fowl or peafowl.

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
4700 River Road, Unit 39
Riverdale, MD 20737
(301) 734-8364 telephone
(301) 734-6402 fax

or

VS-Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov

5. Quarantine

All non-U.S. origin pet birds imported in to the United States (except from Canada) are required to be quarantined for 30 days in a USDA animal import quarantine facility at the owner's expense. A reservation at the facility must be made in advance by contacting the USDA port veterinarian at one of three special ports-of-entry, namely New York, Miami, or Los Angeles. The birds cannot enter the country other than at these ports-of-entry.

A US origin pet bird may be quarantined for 30 days at the owner's residence (home quarantine) and subject to testing until released from quarantine.

Entry requirements for US origin pet birds are:-

- Export health certificate issued by Defra
- Health certificate issued by a US veterinarian prior to departing the USA
- USA import permit.
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6. Clinical inspection

The inspection at paragraph **IV**. a) must be carried out within 30 days of the intended date of export. Paragraph IV a) refers: 'Evidence' should be taken to include clinical signs, laboratory test results, information from mortality records, and pathological examinations. In order to give this statement for the 90 days preceding export it is necessary to confirm that no such evidence has been observed in the premises of origin of the birds. If the certifying OV has not been responsible for the health of the birds at those premises of origin, he/she should rely on a support statement from the veterinarian who has been routinely responsible for the premises of origin and/or a declaration from the owner/exporter. OVs should be particularly aware of any current disease outbreaks such as avian influenza or Newcastle Disease in the country and their potential to have been spread to the birds to be exported through exposure, for example, with wild birds. In doing so they should assess the environment the birds have been kept in and contact with other birds

both captive and wild. OV's are strongly advised to consider pre-export testing for such diseases, as suggested in the paragraph above headed Important Disclaimer.

7. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraph IV. c) (2) refers. These paragraph may be certified by the OV on the basis that the pet bird or any other in-contact birds have not been kept/resident for the past 90 days in any area subject to official restrictions because of outbreaks of either High Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle Disease, **AND** provided that they will not transit through a zone restricted due to an outbreak of HPAI or ND based on the route plan and declaration thereof provided by the exporter.

Paragraph IV. c) (2) maybe be certified by the OV on the basis of 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 of DAERA in N. Ireland) within 15 days before shipment.

Note: Paragraph IV. c) (1) is NOT to be certified unless given specific permission by the 618NDC.

8. Route Plan

Paragraph IV(c) refers. OV's 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 (APHA),
Centre for International Trade,
Eden Bridge House,
Lowther Street,
Carlisle,
CA3 8DX
Tel: 03000 200 301
Email: processingteam@apha.gov.uk

9. Vaccination against Newcastle disease

Paragraph IV. d) 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. Authentication by whole-time Veterinary Officer

The Official Veterinarian must arrange for the authentication at Part VI of the certificate to be completed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or Scottish Government or Welsh Government or Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DAERA).

11. 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

12. 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.

13. 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