

**EXPORT OF POULTRY HATCHING EGGS TO ALBANIA**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER**

**Associated Documents: 7568EHC, 7568CON, 7568SUP, 7568NFG, and 618NDC.**

**Scope of the certificate.**

1. This certificate is for the export of poultry hatching eggs to Albania. The certificate follows the format of an EU TRACES model certificate. For this reason it is very long and is presented in 2 parts: 7568EHC and 7568CON. It is **ESSENTIAL** that both parts are completed and stapled together, to accompany the consignment.

**Official Signature**

2. 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 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.

3. **Support Certification**

In situations where the flock of origin is attended by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the latter may complete the export health certificate on the basis of appropriate support statements on form 7568SUP which must be completed by the flock veterinarian.

**PART 1: IDENTIFICATION DATA**

4. Box 1.3. Central competent authority is Defra.

Box 1.4. Local competent authority is either Defra, or Scottish Government, or Welsh government, or DAERA.

Box 1.7. ISO code for the UK is GBR.

Box 1.8. For region of origin write the county name.

Box 1.9. ISO Code for Albania is ALB

Boxes 1.11. and 1.13. For approval numbers give the GB Poultry Health Scheme or Northern Ireland NIPHAS registration numbers.

Box 1.15. under means of transport tick the appropriate method, and for identification give the flight number, vehicle registration or ship name. Under documentary references give any type of accompanying documents, such as animal transport certificate, bill of lading, delivery invoice, etc.

Box 1.16 The official veterinarian (OV) may need to ask the exporter to provide information about the location of the Border Inspection Post (BIP) at which the goods will officially enter Albania.

Box 1.17. For CITES write 'Not applicable'.

Box 1.19. The commodity code for poultry hatching eggs is 04.07.191 100

Box 1.23. Identification codes must be shown on the boxes, and also on the eggs (see also paragraph 17 below). The sealing of the boxes should ideally be achieved by use of sticky labels over the junction of the box lids and bases, so that the labels must be torn in order to open the boxes. The labels must bear the identification code. The same identification code may be given in box 1.28.

**PART II: HEALTH INFORMATION**

5. Para. II.1.1. **Directive 2009/158/EC**

Directive 2009/158/EC is the European poultry trade Directive. Poultry traded between member states of the EU must comply with the Directive. All of the conditions in the Directive are fully implemented in GB by the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme 7568NFG (Cleared 16/04/2013) (Revised 02/01/2024)

(NIPHAS). Therefore membership of either of these schemes means that the premises comply in all respects with Directive 2009/158/EC.

Current membership of the PHS or NIPHAS will be confirmed in a written statement (form 618NDC) which will be sent to the OV by the issuing office (in GB, APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Exports, Carlisle) within 10 days before shipment.

6. Para II.1.2. **Residence of Flocks of Origin in the UK**  
The OV may confirm the residence history from personal knowledge, or if necessary may ask for further evidence in the form of flock movement records, or a support statement from the flock veterinarian.

The territory code for the whole of the UK is GB. There is no separate code for a compartment and this option should be deleted.

Concerning flocks which may have been imported to the UK, any birds coming from another member state of the EU must have been accompanied by a TRACES certificate as laid down in Directive 2009/158/EC. Birds imported from a Third Country must have been accompanied by a certificate conforming to the model in Regulation EC 798/2008. These certificates do apply conditions which are at least as strict as Directive 2009/158/EC. The OV should ask to see the copy of the import health certificate to confirm that the imported birds were appropriately certified.

7. Para II.1.3.(a) **Notifiable Disease Clearance**  
This paragraph 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 (CIT), Carlisle/ in Northern Ireland the relevant issuing office) within 10 days before shipment.

Concerning references to Regulation EC 798/2008, the definitions of Newcastle disease and avian influenza in the Regulation repeat those in Directive 92/66/EEC for Newcastle disease, and Directive 2005/94/EC for avian influenza. The definitions in these Directives are repeated in UK legislation, and the paragraphs may be certified on that basis.

In the line titled 'territory of code' the OV must write 'GB'. The line titled 'compartment' must be deleted.

Territory of code will be applicable to the whole territory of the country of origin except any areas under restriction due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease under the principle of Regionalisation/Zoning at the time of signature of the certificate.

8. Para II.1.3.(b) **Avian influenza surveillance**  
Regulation 798/2008 refers to surveillance being carried out as in Directive 2005/94/EC, and this is carried out under UK legislation. The OV may certify this paragraph on this basis.

9. Para II.1.4. First indent. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**  
This paragraph will be certified on the same basis as paragraph 7 above. All the other sub-paragraphs in II.1.4. must be deleted.

10. Para II.1.5. First option **Avian influenza vaccination**  
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. The UK has never applied to the EU for approval of the use of AI vaccination in domestic  
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poultry, although approval has been given for its use in non-poultry species 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. The second option must be deleted.

11. Para II.1.6.(a) **Examination of Flocks of Origin**  
There are two possible methods for completing the inspection of the flock(s) of origin, based on guidance in Directive 2009/158/EC. Either an official veterinarian can visit the flock on the day that the certificate is signed, and provide a support statement to the certifying veterinarian to confirm that there are no grounds for suspecting disease.

Or an official veterinarian must have carried out routine monthly health visits, the last of which must have been within the past 31 days, and provide a support statement to the certifying veterinarian that no disease conditions have been detected. In this case the certifying veterinarian must also obtain a written statement (by fax or email) from the flock manager on the date of signature of the certificate, to confirm that on the basis of production and mortality reports, any other relevant reports, and the manager's personal observation, there is no suspicion of disease in the flock(s) of origin.

12. Para II.1.6.(b) **Residence and Directive 2009/158/EC**  
Residence may be certified as in paragraph 6 above. Compliance with Regulation 2009/158/EC may be certified as in paragraph 5 above. Concerning the first indent, the form 618NDC (see paragraph 5 above) will confirm that approval has not been suspended or withdrawn. Concerning the second and third indents, the form 618NDC (see paragraph 7 above) will confirm that the premises are not subject to animal health restrictions, and that no outbreaks have occurred within the relevant space and time.

13. Para II.1.6.(c) **Contacts with other poultry or wild birds**  
The OV may confirm the freedom from contact with poultry of a lower health status, or with wild birds, from personal knowledge and if necessary may ask for further evidence in the form of flock movement records, or a support statement from the flock's regular veterinarian.

**PART II. Continued. ANIMAL HEALTH ATTESTATION**

14. Para II.1.6.(d) **Surveillance for Salmonella and Mycoplasma**  
The second option applies to poultry. The first and third options must be deleted.

Under Directive 2009/158/EC any poultry breeding flock wishing to export to other EU member states must be routinely tested for these 5 diseases, and membership of the PHS or NIPHAS confirms that they are subject to such testing.

Current membership of the PHS or NIPHAS will be confirmed in a written statement (form 618NDC) which will be sent to the OV by the issuing office (see paragraph 5 above). Note that the OV is personally responsible for checking that testing has been carried out, and that all the laboratory results have been negative.

15. Para II.1.6.(e) **Newcastle Disease Vaccination**  
The Albanian import conditions do not specify that the flocks must, or must not be vaccinated. Their concern is only that, if vaccinated, the type (live or inactivated) and most recent vaccination date must be declared. Delete as appropriate.
16. Para II.1.6.(f) **Full Vaccination Schedule**  
To avoid any possibility of questions and delay, it is recommended that the certifying veterinarian should attach a schedule of all vaccinations and staple it to the health certificate. The schedule must show at least the information requested on the certificate. Each page of the schedule must be signed, stamped and dated by the certifying veterinarian, and he/she must write "see attached schedule" in this paragraph on the certificate.
17. Para II.1.7. **Egg Marking**  
All hatching eggs must be marked prior to despatch in accordance with Directive 2009/158/EEC, Article 8, which refers to an earlier Commission Regulation 617/2008. This specifies that marking must contain an identification number of the place of origin, and the figures must appear in indelible black ink at least 2mm high by 1 mm wide. Alternatively, eggs may be marked with a black, indelible mark at least 10 mm squared, and the packs in which they are transported must bear the identification number of the producer establishment. This number may be the Poultry Health Scheme registration number.
18. Para II.1.8. **Egg sanitisation**  
The eggs must be sanitised in accordance with the standards laid down in the OIE Code. The Code states that "hatching eggs should be cleaned and sanitised as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions". The UK authorities do not have a procedure for approval of commercial products for egg sanitisation. In the absence of any such official approval procedure, the OV may use his/her own clinical judgement about the approval of the method.  
  
The OV may certify the procedures surrounding egg collection and sanitisation in one of two ways.  
Either the OV must have been present during the processes to personally observe them. Or else the OV must  
**(i)** visit the premises on a frequent and routine basis during which these processes are regularly observed and confirmed to be satisfactory,  
**and (ii)** have received a written record from a responsible person confirming that they have been carried out in the normal way to a satisfactory standard in respect of this particular export consignment,  
**and (iii)** have sufficient familiarity with the establishment and confidence in its management practices to have no reasonable doubt about the processes in this particular case.
19. Para II.1.9. **Egg Collection Dates**  
The certifying OV must obtain the dates from the flock management, and may ask to see appropriate records.
20. Para II.1.10. **Egg Examination**  
The certifying veterinarian must examine a representative sample of the eggs on the date of signature of the certificate.

**PART II. Continued. PUBLIC HEALTH ADDITIONAL GUARANTEES**

21. Para II.2.1. and II.2.2.

**Testing for Salmonella enteritidis and S.typhimurium**

EU Regulation 2160/2003 lays down procedures for the routine monitoring of chicken and turkey breeding flocks for these zoonotic Salmonellas. The Regulation is implemented for chicken and turkey breeding flocks in England by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, and the equivalent in the devolved administrations. The scheme in chickens and turkeys is known as the National Control Programme (NCP).

Regulation 1177/2006 prohibits the use of substances which would interfere with bacteriological testing under the NCP. Antibiotics and live vaccines are not permitted as a means of control of Salmonella in testing flocks.

The OV is personally responsible for checking that testing has been carried out, and that any suspicion of infection has been ruled out (any doubtful or positive results which have been re-examined according to the current NCP protocols and determined to be false doubtfuls or false positives can be regarded as negative).

Note that the EU legislation in this context is interested only in 5 serotypes of Salmonella: S.enteritidis, S.typhimurium, S.infantis, S.vichow, and S.hadar. If any of these serotypes are detected the certifying veterinarian must record the testing as positive. However if any other serotypes are detected he/she must record the results as negative.

22. Para II.3.1. **Newcastle Disease Vaccination**

To be certified as in paragraph 15 above.

23. Para II.4. **Additional health requirements**

None of this paragraph applies to exports from the UK and the whole of paragraph II.4. must be deleted.

The requirements in Regulation 798/2008 state that the seed stock for the vaccine must conform with EU pharmacopoeia specifications. All vaccines which have a marketing authorisation for use in the UK do conform.

**ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION**

24. Para II.5.1. **Packing Requirements**

The certifying OV must personally observe the packaging in order to certify this paragraph.

The labelling details [sub-paragraph (b)] must appear on the outer surface of the boxes and must be consistent with other identification codes (see paragraph 4 above).

25. Para II.5.2. **Disinfection of vehicles**

Under EU Council Regulation EC/1/2005, implemented in Great Britain by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and its equivalent in the devolved regions, vehicles carrying live poultry including hatching eggs must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

A DEFRA approved disinfectant must be used. Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant, and there is a sub-group specifically 7568NFG (Cleared 16/04/2013) (Revised 02/01/2024)

approved for use with poultry, on the basis of their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses.

DEFRA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

**Disclaimer**

26. 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)