

No:

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF CHICKENS (*Gallus gallus*) AND TURKEYS (*Meleagris gallopavo*) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CANADA FOR BREEDING OPURPOSES

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

1. **Scope of the certificate.**

This is a TRACES style certificate for the export of hatching eggs of domestic chickens (*Gallus gallus*) or domestic turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) to Canada.

2. **Official Signature**

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.

3. **Import Permit**

The importer is responsible for obtaining an import permit from the local office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The permit must be obtained well in advance of the shipment. A copy of the permit must accompany the birds during shipment and must be available for inspection by the Canadian authorities at the airport of entry to Canada.

4. **Consignment details on page 1**

Boxes 1.3. and 1.4. The central competent authority is Defra.

The local competent authority is the APHA followed by the name of the town in which the Regional office is situated.

Box 1.7. The ISO code for the whole of the UK is 'GB'

Box 1.8. For the region of origin give the administrative territory. In the United Kingdom, this should be interpreted as follows for the area where the establishment of dispatch is located:

England, Wales and Northern Ireland: County
Scotland: District or Island Area

Leave the ISO code blank.

Box 1.9. The ISO code for Canada is 'CA'

Box 1.11. Premises of origin is the farm(s) where the eggs were laid.

Box 1.13. Place of loading may be the farm, or a specialised egg collection centre, or another collection location such as a

hatchery. The approval number is the number allocated by the Poultry Health Scheme or the Northern Ireland Poultry health Assurance Scheme.

Box 1.15. Tick 'aeroplane', and give the flight number as identification

Box 1.19. The commodity code for hatching eggs of poultry is '0407 1110 2001'

5. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraph II.1.1. refers. 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 (in GB, APHA

Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Exports, Carlisle) or the relevant issuing office of DAERA in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

6. **Residence requirement**

Paragraph II.1.2. refers. If the OV does not have personal knowledge of the flocks of origin, he/she should ask to consult the movement records, or obtain a written statement from the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flock(s) of origin. See paragraph 17 below about support statements from the flock veterinarian. The support statement should not be attached to the certificate, but should be kept by the OV for record purposes.

The reference to zones or compartments appears in the certificate in anticipation of future arrangements. The OV should be concerned only with residence in the 'country'.

7. **Official restrictions on parent flocks and hatcheries**

Paragraph II.1.3. refers. This paragraph may be certified by the OV on the basis of his/her personal knowledge, or a support certificate from the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flocks of origin, but if there is any doubt the APHA office in Carlisle should be consulted.

8. **Further freedom from HPAI and ND**

Paragraph II.1.4. refers. If the OV has been able to certify paragraph II.1.1. on the basis of a form 618NDC confirming country freedom, the same information would automatically cover freedom for premises within the country.

The location of the parent flocks will have been covered by the information for paragraph II.1.2.

The official avian influenza surveillance programme, which is recognised by CFIA, is the annual domestic poultry survey conducted by the UK in accordance with EU Commission Decision 2007/268/EC (as amended or superseded). The flocks of origin participate in the sense that they belong to the national pool of premises from which individual farms may be chosen for testing. So it is not relevant whether these particular farms have actually been tested.

9. **Avian Influenza vaccination**

Paragraph II.1.5. refers. The AI control Directive, 2005/94/EC, lays down rules that forbid the vaccination of poultry for AI in any Member State except in extreme circumstances and with the prior approval of the EU Commission. The Directive also provides the opportunity for zoo birds of special genetic or conservation value to be vaccinated to ensure their preservation.

The United Kingdom has never applied to the Commission for permission to vaccinate poultry, but has obtained permission for a very small number of zoo birds to be vaccinated. Consequently the vaccination of poultry against AI in the UK is currently illegal.

10. **Newcastle Disease vaccination**

Paragraph II.1.6. refers. Canada does not specify that the flocks must, or must not be vaccinated. If vaccinated, however, the details of the vaccine must be given so that appropriate investigations may be made in the event of an outbreak of

disease.

11. **TRT Vaccination and Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs II.1.7. and II.1.9 refer. Avian Pneumovirus is also known as Turkey Rhinotracheitis (TRT) or Swollen Head Syndrome (SHS). If a live vaccine has been used, in the flocks of origin, it must have been at least 10 weeks before the start of the collection of the eggs for export to avoid the potential risk of excretion of live vaccine virus.

12. **Examination of flocks of origin**

Paragraphs II.1.8. refers. 'Evidence' of infection should be taken to include clinical signs, data from production and mortality records, laboratory results and pathological examinations.

Breeding flocks which regularly export to the EU would normally receive an inspection visit from an OV at least every 31 days. Directive 2009/158/EC requires that flocks of origin must either be examined by an OV at the time of export to another member state, or they must be subject to routine monthly examinations. Most poultry breeding flocks in the UK opt for the monthly inspections. One of these visits can be taken to satisfy the Canadian health certificate.

The full requirements of the monthly visit by an official veterinarian are: He/she must have carried out a routine monthly health visit to each flock of origin within the last 31 days. The certifying OV must also obtain a written statement (by fax or email) from the flock manager within 24 hours prior to the intended time of despatch of the eggs or day old birds, to confirm that on the basis of production and mortality records, any other relevant reports, and the manager's personal observation, there is no suspicion of disease in the flock(s) of origin.

The statement that the flocks have no contact with wild birds, or with poultry of a lesser health status, must be provided by the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flock(s) of origin (see paragraph 17 below).

13. **Disease surveillance programmes for Salmonellas**

Paragraphs II.1.10. refers. For *S.pullorum* and *S.gallinarum* the relevant programmes are the testing under the PHS or NIPHAS, which implement the requirements of EU Directive 2009/158/EC.

For *S.enteritidis* and *S.typhimurium* the relevant testing is carried out for the salmonella National Control Programme, following EU Regulation 2160/2003, and subsequent legislation. It is implemented in the UK by The Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007.

The certifying OV should ask for a written assurance from the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flocks of origin that the tests have been carried out as required, with negative results in every case (See also paragraph 17 below). (Any doubtful or positive results which have been re-examined according to the current PHS or NIPHAS protocols and determined to be false doubtful or false positives can be regarded as negative).

14. **Full Vaccination Programme for the Flocks of Origin**
Paragraphs II.1.11. refers. A vaccination programme should be stapled to the health certificate. It should be signed, stamped and dated by the certifying OV, using ink of any colour other than black.

15. **Egg Collection and Sanitisation**
Paragraph II.1.12 refers. Dates of egg collection can be provided by the veterinarian whom is normally responsible for the flocks of origin (see paragraph 17 below).

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 or 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 collection and sanitisation in one of two ways.

Either the OV or another veterinarian must have been present during the processes to personally observe them. Or else the OV/veterinarian 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.

16. **Packaging Materials and Transport Vehicle**
Paragraphs II.1.13. and II.1.14. refer. The certificate implies that the OV will certify a future event, but this is not consistent with the 12 principles of the RCVS. However it would be normal for the OV to certify the health certificate on the day of despatch. In this case he/she will be able to examine and verify the condition of the packing materials at the time of completing the certificate.

The exporter must ensure that the boxes are marked as prescribed, showing the hatchery and country of origin, and a unique identification code which must also be written in box 1.23 of the health certificate.

Note also that the transport agent is required to provide a written statement, which must be attached to the health certificate, stating that the transport vehicle to the airport has been cleaned and disinfected before the eggs are loaded.

17. **Support Certification**
In cases where the OV is not personally responsible for the flock(s) of origin, he/she may certify the statements referring to those flocks on the basis of a support certificate (**7721SUP**) provided by the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for

those flocks. The support health certificate will be issued by (in GB, APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT) - Exports, Carlisle) or the relevant issuing office of DAERA in N. Ireland at the same time as the export health certificate.

18. **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