

EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS FROM POULTRY OTHER THAN RATITES TO THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

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

Associated Documents: 6062EHC, 6062SUP, 618NDC

IMPORTANT

Avian influenza in the UK: due to outbreaks of avian influenza in the UK and given that this certificate requires assurances and official clearances in connection with avian influenza, consignments originating from establishments inside affected counties may not be eligible for export, unless they are approved as AI free compartments outside of disease control zones.

Please refer to paragraph 12 of these Notes for Guidance.

1. Scope of the certificate

This certificate covers the export of hatching eggs of chickens, turkeys and ducks to Turkey.

Please note that it is a requirement that the 6062EHC certificate must be signed by the certifying OV **within 24 hours** of the intended time of export. Exporters should also be aware that although the certificate's validity is for 10 days, the Turkish authorities may refuse your consignment if the consignment does not arrive within the 48 hours after signature of the certificate. Therefore exporters are advised to make the necessary arrangements in order to comply with this timeline.

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/aPVPs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/aPVP stamp in any 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 OV's 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

Authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) certifying DAERA Export Certification On-Line (DECOL) produced EHCs 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. Competent Authority

In box I.3 for Central Competent Authority enter the name of the appropriate Department for England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland (DEFRA, SG, WG or DAERA).

In box I.4 for 'local competent authority' enter the local office location (town).

4. Country of Origin

In box I.7 the country of origin is pre-printed as United Kingdom, and the ISO code is pre-printed as GB. This is NOT a mistake. The International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) specifies a 2-letter code for each country, and the letters for the entire United Kingdom are GB.

5. Region of Origin

Under I.8 for the region of origin, enter the **county** in which the flock(s) are located (corresponding to the addresses in box I.11) (see also paragraph 11 below).

6. Approval numbers of Place of origin and loading

Box I.11 and I.13 refers. Box I.11 should contain the farm(s) of origin, and box I.13 the location where the consignment is gathered for loading (e.g. the egg store).

The approval number required is the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) membership number of the premises. If the flock manager cannot supply this number the OV should apply to CITC in GB, or the relevant office in N. Ireland.

CITC or the relevant office in N. Ireland will also confirm on form 618NDC that the premises are currently a member of the Scheme. In the case of exports from Compartment premises inside Counties which are restricted for exports to Turkey, the compartment approval number must also be entered alongside the PHS approval number, e.g. 'Compartment: PC/10/01/01'.

7. CITES permit number

Box I.16 refers. This does not apply in the case of domestic poultry,

and the box is pre-printed 'not applicable'.

8. **Commodity code**

Box I.19 refers. This refers to customs codes for hatching eggs. Enter the eight digit customs code as appropriate:

0407 11 00 - for Fowls of the species Gallus domesticus

0407 19 11 - turkey or geese

0407 19 19 - species other than Gallus domesticus, turkeys or geese.

9. **Egg Marking**

Box I.28 and paragraph II.1.7 refer. All hatching eggs must be marked prior to despatch in accordance with Directive 2009/158/EC, Article 7, which refers to an earlier Commission Regulation 1868/77. Marking must consist of 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, which may be the PHS or NIPHAS registration number, should be inserted in box I.28.

10. **Directive 2009/158/EC and Poultry Health Scheme membership**

Box I.11 and Paragraphs II.1.1. and II.1.6.(b) (relating to PHS membership) refer. In Great Britain Directive 2009/158/EC is implemented by the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). Flocks and hatcheries which are members of the Scheme therefore conform with the provisions of the Directive. The Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (or the equivalent in Northern Ireland) will confirm on form 618NDC that the flock is currently a member of the Scheme.

With reference to paragraph II.1.6.(b), the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (or the equivalent in Northern Ireland) will authorise the certification of the following points in the paragraph:

- The premises is approved in accordance with Directive 2009/158/EC.
- Approval has not been suspended or withdrawn.
- The premises is not subject to any animal health restrictions.
- Freedom of the area within 10 km radius from AI or ND.

This leaves one point which the OV must certify on the basis of his/her personal knowledge and enquiries, namely that the flock has been held on the premises for at least 6 weeks.

11. **Territory of the of Flocks**

Paragraphs II.1.2, II.1.3 and II.1.4 refer. The location of the flocks is critical information. In both of these paragraphs in the space for the territory it is very **important** that the OV should write the country code 'GB', which **must** be followed by the **county** name (which must be the same as the county given in box I.8).

Regionalisation: When there is a local outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease in a part of the UK, Turkey may agree to regionalise the UK so that exports from unaffected counties may be continued.

Compartmentalisation: Turkey has agreed to allow exports from Compartment premises inside affected counties, as long as they are or have been more than 10km from an outbreak of avian influenza for the 30 days prior to export. If the compartmentalization option is used, the county entered alongside GB will be one of those restricted for trade by Turkiye.

Therefore the certification of paragraphs II.1.3. and II.1.4. can be made on the basis of certifying that the **compartment** is free from the stated disease, not the county. When completing the certificate, in addition to "GB" and the county, "(Compartment)" should be added to indicate this option is being used (e.g. "**GB- Cumbria (Compartment)**"). No part of these paragraphs should be deleted. Customs officials have access to the list of GB poultry compartment approved establishments and will accept imports on this basis (under the UK-Turkiye bilateral agreement). The establishment compartment approval number(s) must be entered in Section I.11 of the certificate (See numeral 6 of this document above).

Residency requirement in paragraph II.1.2: in order to verify that the flocks have remained in the given territory for the past 3 months, the OV should rely on the import documents together with his/her own observations and enquiries.

If the flocks have been imported from another country, they must have been accompanied by the appropriate health certification. The OV should check both the import health certificate and if applicable the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED).

12. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraphs II.1.3 and II.1.4 refer.

The notifiable disease declarations in both these paragraphs can be certified on the basis of written authorisation which will be sent to the OV on a **618NDC (notifiable disease clearance)** form by the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle or the relevant office in N. Ireland within 10 days prior to export.

The expression that 'the territory is free from...' should be construed to mean that the counties/administrative territories, in which both the flocks of origin and the egg store are located, do not at the time of export contain any part of a protection, surveillance or restriction zone imposed under EU legislation for the control of avian influenza or Newcastle disease. For approved poultry compartment premises, this requirement is limited to the zone imposed rather than the full county.

The definitions of Newcastle disease and avian influenza referred to in Regulation 798/2008/EC are transferred into UK legislation, notably the Diseases of Poultry Order 2003, under which these diseases are notifiable in the UK.

13. Clinical inspection of Flocks

Paragraph II.1.6.(a) refers. The examination of the flock(s) of origin must be carried out within 24 hours of the intended time of export. The examination should follow the procedure set down in EU legislation (Directive 2009/158/EC), which offers 2 alternatives:

- (i) Either the certifying OV, or another veterinarian who provides a written statement to the certifying OV, must examine each flock of origin within 24 hours prior to export to confirm that the flock is free from clinical signs or suspicion of infectious disease.
- (ii) Or the certifying OV, or another veterinarian who provides a written statement to the certifying OV, must have carried out a monthly health visit to inspect the flock of origin, the last of which was not more than 31 days prior to the export of the eggs, and the certifying OV must be satisfied, on the basis of the monthly examinations AND of up to date information on the flock's current health status provided by the person in charge within 24 hours prior to the export, that there is no sign or suspicion of disease in the flock of origin.

14. Flock disease surveillance

Paragraph II.1.6. (d) refers. These surveillance requirements are those which are laid down in the PHS and NIPHAS, and exactly correspond to the requirements in Directive 2009/158/EC. If the flocks have been tested with negative results according to the requirements of the PHS or NIPHAS, this paragraph may be certified. The OV should check all the relevant laboratory reports.

Paragraph II.1.6 (e) refers - Salmonella Kentucky: flocks of origin should be certified free from this salmonella on the basis of a voluntary routine monitoring (with a minimum of frequency of quarterly testing) or pre-export testing with negative laboratory results being dated a maximum of three months prior to the intended date of export. The testing should be carried out at a laboratory officially approved for testing of salmonella under the Poultry health Scheme (or NIPHAS) or the National Control Plan for salmonella, provided the test is accredited for salmonella spp which it is fit for purpose for detecting S. Kentucky. The OV should check all relevant laboratory reports.

15. Use of Vaccines

Paragraphs II.1.6.(g) and (h) refer. There is no compulsion to either use or not use Newcastle disease vaccine. However, whichever choice is followed, the information must be given in case it becomes necessary to monitor the imported birds in the event of an outbreak of Newcastle disease.

Vaccines must have a marketing authorisation valid in the United Kingdom. Where the space in paragraphs (g) and (h) is insufficient, the OV may write 'see attached schedule' and must staple a schedule to the health certificate. The schedule must be signed, stamped and dated in ink other than black.

16. Disinfection of the eggs

Paragraph II.1.9. refers. The eggs must be disinfected as soon as possible after collection. Appropriate standards are laid down in the Office International d'Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The recommendations are:

(a) fumigation with formaldehyde; or (b) spraying with or immersion in an egg shell disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions; or (c) made hygienic by another method approved by the veterinary authorities in the country of origin.

17. Sealing of containers

Paragraph II.4.1.(c) refers. The OV has to be satisfied (by carrying out an inspection of the consignment) that the boxes used for the transport are sealed in such a way as to avoid any possibility of the substitution of the contents once the boxes are sealed. The seal should be of a type which would need to be broken or torn if the boxes were opened.

18. Disinfection of Vehicles

Paragraph II.4.2. refers. Vehicles must be disinfected before the crates are loaded for transport, using a DEFRA approved disinfectant. Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007 (as amended) or the equivalent legislation in the devolved administrations. The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant approved for use with poultry, on the basis of their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses.

DEFRA/DAERA approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container,

and other References to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

19. Support certification

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian, he/she must complete form 6062SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying compliance with those paragraphs which relate to matters within the competence of the flock veterinarian. The completed and signed support health certificate must be provided to the certifying OV.

20. 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