

## **EXPORT OF PET BIRDS TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

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

#### **IMPORTANT**

These notes provide guidance to the Official Veterinarian (OV) and the exporter. The NFG should have been issued to you together with its related export health certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate. 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.

#### **1. Scope of the certificate**

This certificate 8841EHC may be used for the export of pet birds (birds regarded as caged birds personally owned and cared for, for example parrots, finches, canaries) to Antigua and Barbuda. This would not apply to pigeons, doves, species of wild or domesticated fowl, or game birds.

#### **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 should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV/AVI 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](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**

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. **Import Permit**

Exporters are responsible for ascertaining whether an import permit is a compulsory requirement in the importing country, and if so, for ensuring that the importer has obtained the necessary permit.

4. **Location of the birds**

Owners of pet birds located in a disease control zone due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle Disease are reminded that they must follow the rules for that zone.

Further detail, including on where disease control zones are currently in force, is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.

5. **Identification of the birds**

Paragraph IV a) refers. The birds must be individually identified as detailed in part I of this certificate. If a specific method is stated in the import permit, this must be followed unless dispensation is given by the importing authorities.

6. **Final clinical Examination**

Paragraph IV) b) refers.

The examination should be conducted within 48 hours of the intended time of export.

7. **Pre-export isolation & Veterinary supervision**

Paragraph IV) c) refers.

The birds for export must be kept in isolation approved by the Official Veterinarian, on behalf of the Veterinary Authority, for at least 21 days prior to shipment.

For pet birds, isolation may be allowed to take place within the owner/exporter's home provided that the OV is satisfied that the conditions provide suitable biosecurity with no contact with other birds not subject to isolation. In this case, the address as detailed in part II. b) and c) will be the same.

To certify this requirement, the OV must inspect and approve the premises prior to the entry of the birds in order to confirm that they are suitable for isolation. The OV must use his/her discretion to apply the normally accepted principles of biosecurity: Access by people must be restricted to authorised attendants only.

The OV must personally verify the date of entry into the approved isolation facility, and must be satisfied that the bird(s) will remain in these conditions continuously during the isolation period. There must be no contact with any other birds, and none of the people visiting the

birds in isolation may have contact with any other birds throughout the isolation period. During isolation the OV may make additional visits at his/her discretion if these are considered necessary in order to confirm the continuity of isolation.

8. **Transport declaration**

Paragraph IV d) refers. The birds must be transported in suitable new containers. The OV should receive a declaration from the owner/exporter accordingly. The declaration should not be attached to the health certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

Concerning IATA transport regulations, the owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her birds meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

9. **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:

APHA <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>  
DAERA - Email: [vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

10. **Welfare of Animals**

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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)