

EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT (INCLUDING RAW MEAT PREPARATIONS), MEAT PRODUCTS AND MECHANICALLY RECOVERED POULTRY MEAT OF CHICKENS, QUAILS, GUINEA FOWLS AND TURKEYS TO INDIA

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS

Associated Documents: 7514EHC, 7514SUP, 7514IMC, and 618NDC.

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 certificates (7514EHC & 7514SUP). The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificates.

1. IMPORTANT

EXPORTERS MAY USE THIS CERTIFICATE, BUT AT THEIR OWN RISK WHICH CAN BE REDUCED BY ENSURING THE IMPORTER CHECKS THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE BORDER INSPECTORS.

Please note that this Department will assume, unless informed otherwise by an exporter or by the veterinary authorities in the country of destination, that certificate 7514EHC meets India's import requirements and, therefore, that it is acceptable to the importing country's authorities, however this cannot be guaranteed. Destination countries may change their requirements at short notice; not inform the Department until after a change has been made; or, in some cases, not inform the Department at all.

It is therefore strongly advised that exporters check with their customers that certificates are acceptable to the authorities in the country of destination in advance of each consignment. This Department will not accept liability should it turn out that certification supplied by us does not meet an importing country's requirement.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate (7514EHC) may be used for the export of fresh poultry meat (including mechanically separated poultry meat - MSM) and raw meat preparations and meat products OF CHICKENS, QUAILS, GUINEA FOWLS AND TURKEYS TO INDIA from the United Kingdom to India.

IMPORTANT: THE CERTIFICATE CAN ONLY BE USED TO EXPORT POULTRYMEAT/MSM OR RAW MEAT PREPARATIONS DERIVED FROM POULTRY HATCHED, BRED, REARED AND SLAUGHTERED SOLELY IN THE UK.

Chilled and frozen meat is considered to be fresh meat. The temperature of frozen product must not exceed -18°C during storage and transport.

3. 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 or the Welsh Government, who is on the appropriate panel for export purposes or who holds the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) authorisation, or an Official Veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA).

OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

In GB, a certified copy of the completed certificate must be sent to the Centre for International Trade, Carlisle within seven days of signing.

The OV should keep a copy for his/her own records.

4. 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. **It is strongly advised that you ask your customers in India to check, in advance of each consignment, that the 7514EHC certificate will be accepted on arrival by the relevant India's border/customs officials.**

5. ACCREDITATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS FOR EXPORT

Paragraph IV. (a) refers - There is no requirement for specific accreditation/listing of meat establishments for exports from the UK. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of oval marks which demonstrate compliance with UK Food Hygiene Regulations. The regulation requires pre-slaughter farm health reports, and ante mortem and post-mortem inspections, to ensure that only healthy birds are slaughtered. The same legislation requires that the slaughterhouse and production premises are approved and supervised by 'the Competent Veterinary Authority'. In United Kingdom this means the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England and Wales, Food Standards Scotland (FSS) in Scotland, DAERA in Northern Ireland, or in the case of standalone meat preparations/products/storage premises, the relevant Local Authority.

6. REGISTRATION OF FOOD MANUFACTURING FACILITIES WITH INDIAN AUTHORITIES

Any manufacturing facilities intending to export meat and meat products to India must be registered with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. Exporters should contact the APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle, or DAERA for Northern Ireland, for further details on this process.

7. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraphs IV (e) refers - This paragraph may be certified by the OV provided he/she has received written authority (form 618NDC) which will be sent by Specialist Service Centre (SSC) Exports, Carlisle or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland within 10 days before shipment.

8. FREEDOM FROM RESIDUES AND CONTAMINANTS

Paragraphs IV.(c) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the EU oval health mark, which demonstrates compliance with the EU/UK Food Hygiene Regulations, and the National Surveillance Scheme for residues (anti-microbials etc).

A testing programme for residues in meat is laid down under Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC, and Council Regulations 2377/90/EEC and 426/98/EEC, which are all implemented in British national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997, and the relevant legislation in the Devolved Administrations. On the basis of this testing plan it can be considered that the meat does not exceed the permitted levels of any veterinary medicinal product, antiparasitic agent, or heavy metal contaminant nor any beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, or other harmful chemical residues which do not occur naturally in the meat.

9. CROSS CONTAMINATION WITH PROTEINS OF OTHER SPECIES

Paragraph IV (d) and (h) refer - The OV must certify this paragraph on the basis of his/her personal knowledge and observations at the establishment. If necessary the OV may consult the establishment's trading and manufacturing records, and/or ask for a written statement

from the management of the establishment and request any private veterinary declarations as he/she considers necessary.

10. PACKAGING MATERIAL

Paragraph IV (i) refers - The **packaging** should meet the packaging requirements laid down in the EU legislation laying down hygiene rules for food of animal origin and its official controls. Apart from being single use and clean, packaging materials must be strong enough to ensure effective protection of the meat, must not alter the organoleptic characteristics of the meat, and must not be capable of transmitting to the meat substances harmful to human health.

11. ORIGIN & HEALTH STATUS OF BIRDS-(FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION/7514IMC AND SUPPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE- 7514SUP)

Paragraphs IV (b) and (f) refer. There are two alternatives for the OV to obtain the evidence needed in order to certify the statements contained in these paragraphs:

A) If the exporter knows in advance that the meat will be intended for export to India, then the guarantees contained in these two paragraphs of the certificate should be included in the Food Chain Information (FCI) document accompanying the birds to slaughter. These will then form the basis for the completion of the 7514IMC which will eventually accompany the meat when moved between UK establishments, including its final movement to the cold store.

B) If the meat has already been produced and the FCI did not contain the assurances above, then the certifying OV must obtain the relevant support health certificate(s) [7514SUP] from the flock veterinarian(s) responsible for the flock(s) or origin. The OV is responsible to make the appropriate enquiries to ensure that the flocks/farms of origin of the birds are correctly identified and thus the relevant assurances certified.

Paragraph IV (b)- Born-Bred-Reared-Slaughter clause: only the meat from birds hatched, reared, slaughtered and processed solely in the UK is eligible for export to India.

Paragraph IV (f)- Establishment disease clearance: Evidence of 'incidence' of disease should be interpreted as clinical signs as well as information from production and mortality records, laboratory reports and pathological examinations. Note that the statement refers only to frank outbreaks of clinical disease, and not to agents which are routinely or effectively controlled by vaccination.

IMPORTANT: This guarantee is needed for the farm of origin and for the 12 months prior to dispatch of the birds to slaughter, not only for the flock(s) of origin of the birds and for the life of that/those flock(s). Both the 7514SUP and 7514IMC documents are provided as a template. Exporters and OVs will need to ensure that they issue as request the assurances contained in them from Veterinarians and Food Business Operators as necessary and keep a record of such documents as proof that these specific statements for India could be certified.

12. FEED

Paragraph IV (g) refers - Feed ban: This paragraph may be signed on the basis of the EU/UK legislation on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy, which prevents the feeding of ruminant origin protein (other than milk) to food producing or farmed animals. The feed ban is the basic animal health preventive measure laid down against BSE and consists of a ban on the use of processed animal protein (PAP) in feed for farmed animals. PAP produced from infected ruminants is assumed to be the transmission route of BSE. The current EU 'total' feed ban was introduced in January 2001. It was preceded by a UK ban on the feeding

of mammalian meat and bone meal, and this has been deemed to be fully effective from 1 August 1996. . Therefore, it will be illegal to feed food producing animals with feed stuffs containing any animal protein (other than milk and in the case of non-ruminants and calves - fishmeal).

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 AHVLA Specialist Service Centre - Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:
<http://animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/about/contact-us/tradeexports.html>