

EXPORT OF FEATHER AND DOWN PRODUCTS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export health certificate 8553EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8553EHC. 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

Export health certificate 8553EHC may be used for the export of washed and sterilized feathers and down products to the People's Republic of China. The feathers must be obtained from poultry of UK origin only.

2. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)

The Chinese authorities must have the details of the certifying OV on file, including specimens of his or her OV stamp and signature. See paragraph 3 and Appendix 1 below.

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 stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK**.

Certified Copy Requirements

Certifiers are only required to return a certified copy of EHCs for the following EHC types:

- If the commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
- EHCs where the certifier cannot submit certifier feedback

If you are required to return a certified copy to CITA, email a scanned copy to certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

Retain a copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified for two years.

Certifiers are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however, CITA 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 DECOP 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. **Providing specimen copies of OV signatures and stamps to China**

China requires that all OVs carrying out export certification for feathers and down products must provide specimen copies of their signature and OV stamp, well in advance of the intended export, to ensure that they have been received and acknowledged by the Chinese authorities, before any exports take place.

Unless there are changes, specimen signatures and stamps only need to be sent once.

Where regular exports are likely, it is recommended that specimen copies of stamps and signatures of alternative OVs should also be provided, to allow for absences such as sickness and holidays.

This information must be provided on the form attached at **Appendix 1**. The completed form must be scanned and sent by e-mail to:

- APHA Carlisle, for OVs in Great Britain
- DAERA, for aPVPs in Northern Ireland

APHA and DAERA will liaise with Defra for onward transmission to the Chinese authorities.

Several weeks should be allowed for the information to be processed by the authorities in China and received by their port control authorities. Exporters should, therefore, plan ahead and ensure that any likely changes or additions to their OV's details are communicated well in advance.

It is imperative that the exporter and/or their importer ensure that the Chinese officials at port/s of entry into China have a copy of the certifying OV's stamp and signature on file, prior to signing this EHC.

4. **Disease freedom and premises registration**

Paragraph IV. a) may be certified on behalf of the Department provided the OV has received written authority from the issuing office which will be sent to before shipment. Authority will be based on information provided to the issuing office at time of application.

Disease freedom is to be certified for the processing facility as given in II. b), which must be free of notifiable avian diseases.

The processing facility must be registered with the General Administration of Customs of P.R.China. The full list of approved premises can be found at <http://dzs.customs.gov.cn/dzs/2747042/3995816/fsydwcp/3996743/index1.html>, which contains a specific link for UK approved premises. The Official Veterinarian must ensure that the premises are identically described on the 8553EHC and the published list.

If the premises are not on the approved list, the exporter can apply in writing to the APHA Centre for International Trade. The application should include the following details of the poultry feather processing plant:

Approval NO.	Premises Name	Premises Address	City/ County	Nation (E/W/S/NI)

5. Paragraphs IV b) to e) may be certified on the basis of familiarity with the processing and handling procedures in place at the processing establishment and examination of relevant records, or on the basis of a signed declaration from an authorised signatory of the exporter.

The date of sterilization should be entered in IV. d).

6. Paragraph IV f). Packages must be clearly and firmly (i.e. permanently) marked in English, indicating the product name and information of the production enterprise, corresponding to II. b).
7. Provided that the consignment is identified by batch codes, serial numbers or shipping marks for example then it is not necessary for the OV to be present at the time of loading into the means of transport. The certificate must fully describe the consignments such that substitution with product which has not been inspected is not possible.

8. **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- Exports, in Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

APPENDIX 1

Details of Official Veterinarians Requesting Authorisation to Certify
Consignments of export feathers and down products to the People's
Republic of China

Official Veterinarian Name (in block letters)	Signature (in any colour other than black)	Stamp (in any colour other than black)

GUIDANCE FOR SUBMITTING STAMPS:

- Please ensure that the stamp is perfectly *upright*
- Please try to ensure that both the stamp and the printed name fall well within the boxes provided.
- If they go beyond the borders, this might cause confusion at the Chinese CIQ (border point) if the line is misconstrued as being part of the standard stamp or name.
- You may expand the boxes if necessary and add extra lines as required.
- The stamp **MUST** be sharp and wholly legible, as must be the name.
- A new stamp should be acquired if necessary
- The stamp should be in a colour other than black, preferably the colour to be used on actual certification to China.