

EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS AND MECHANICALLY SEPARATED POULTRY MEAT TO THE PHILIPPINES

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS

Associated Documents: 6041EHC, 6041NFG (this document) and 618NDC

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

Export health certificate (6041EHC) may be used for the export of chicken/turkey/duck meat, chicken/turkey/duck meat products and mechanically separated chicken/turkey meat for human consumption to the Philippines.

The type of products being exported, including the poultry species from which they are derived, must be entered in paragraph I a).

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.

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 AND PREMISES REGISTRATION**

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.

There is no general requirement for origin premises to be listed/registered with the Philippines authorities. However, when the UK is not officially free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Defra must supply a list of exporting premises for the Philippines authorities to verify that all premises are outside of HPAI affected areas. The list shall include the establishment number, name and full address.

To ensure Defra has the latest lists in the event of an HPAI outbreak, **exporters must supply a list of meat production establishments of origin, including slaughterhouses, cutting premises and processing/production premises, to APHA/DAERA for all shipments (even when the UK is free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza)**, who will liaise with Defra to ensure the premises are included on any list supplied to the Philippines authorities.

When the UK is not free from HPAI, inclusion on the registered list must be confirmed prior to departure of the consignment.

4. **HEALTH AND HYGIENE OF BIRDS AND MEAT**

Paragraphs IV a), d) and e) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of compliance with UK meat hygiene Regulations, which will be shown by the approved oval identification mark on the packaging.

For IV a) regarding ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Food Standards Scotland (FSS), are responsible for ensuring that all poultry intended for human consumption is subject to ante-mortem inspection (which may be largely based on observations at the farm of origin), and post-mortem inspection at an FSA/FSS approved slaughterhouse.

For IV d) and e), food hygiene legislation is implemented by the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013, and its equivalent in the devolved regions. If the carcass meat (or its packaging) have been marked with the official oval identification mark, the OV can assume that the meat has met all the requirements of the legislation.

5. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs IV b) and c) refer. These statements may be signed on behalf of the Department provided the OV is in receipt of written authority

from the issuing office of APHA (for GB) or DAERA (for NI) which will be sent to the OV before shipment, on the basis of information provided on application of the premises of origin.

Exported poultry meat or MSM can only be derived from poultry slaughtered in the UK. If the flocks of origin were located in another country, freedom from these notifiable diseases must be certified on the basis of the assurances in the health certificate under which the birds were imported into UK, or after receiving official written confirmation of the official disease freedom status of the country/region/premises of origin from the veterinary authority of the country of origin.

The "area" refers to the 'third administrative territory' as shown on the WOH-WAHIS information portal premises, corresponding to the district or equivalent throughout the UK; all farms and slaughterhouses must be outside of an area that has an infected premises, until the final end date as entered onto WAHIS for any outbreaks in that area. Note that this does not require resolution of the entire WAHIS event, which may include outbreaks in another area.

6. **RESIDUE TESTING AND FREEDOM FROM CONTAMINANTS**

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

The UK has in place a statutory veterinary residue surveillance scheme in fulfilment of its obligations retained under the Official Controls Regulation 2017/625 and, Council Directive 96/22/EC. An annual surveillance plan is operated by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and respective pieces of regulations in Wales and NI. Samples are analysed from food producing animals for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances and various contaminants. On the basis of this testing plan it can be considered that the fresh poultry meat/poultry meat products do not exceed the permitted levels of any veterinary medicinal product, pesticides, heavy metal contaminant, and prohibited substances -beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally in the meat.

7. **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