

## EXPORT OF COMMERCIAL BIRDS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### 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 certificate 720EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 720EHC. 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 covers the export of captive non-poultry commercial birds exported from the United Kingdom to the United States of America.

Commercial birds are those that are intended for resale, breeding, public display or any other purpose.

Shipments that consist of five or fewer birds may be considered pet bird shipments and should be accompanied by the alternative certificate 4948EHC.

This certificate is not to be used for the export of birds intended to be used for human or animal consumption (i.e. not for food purposes).

#### 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 must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink 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**

aPVPs certifying DECOL 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. **Obtaining Import permit**

Exporters must obtain an import permit from the United States Department of Agriculture. The certificate and the original import permit must accompany the birds to the United States of America. Both documents must be made available to an inspecting veterinarian.

Application for an import permit may be submitted to:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services  
National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) Unit 39, 4700 River Road,  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
(301) 734-8364 telephone  
(301) 734-4704 fax

or [VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov)

4. **Arrival in USA**

The importer must contact a USDA port veterinarian or a USDA Animal Import Center no later than 72 hours in advance of the arrival of the bird(s) to co-ordinate the import process.

5. **Quarantine**

All birds must undergo a minimum 30- day quarantine at a USDA Animal Import Center or a USDA approved private quarantine facility. The importer is responsible for obtaining a reservation at the quarantine facility.

6. **Identification of the birds**

Section I refers. The birds to be exported must be identified, either through individually numbered tamper-proof leg bands, microchip, or otherwise physically described.

When the space in the bird identification section of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate details of all birds in the consignment, a separate schedule may be used to identify the birds certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the identification section of the certificate, which should be annotated "see attached schedule". The certifying Official Veterinarian must draw a line under the last entry and sign, date and affix the Official Veterinarian stamp in a colour other than black on each page of the schedule and also under the last entry, in order to prevent the unauthorised addition of more entries. The

pages of the schedule must be firmly stapled to the export health certificate and each referenced with the unique reference number at the top right-hand corner of the export health certificate. The corners of each sheet should be turned over, 'fanned', and stamped with the Official Veterinarian stamp.

7. **Residency requirements**

Paragraph IV. 1. refers. This covers the prior of 90 days prior to export. If the birds have remained on a single premises, part a. should be certified.

If the birds have been on multiple premises then b. or c. should be certified; b. when any of the premises is outside the European Poultry Trade Region (EPTR, which includes the United Kingdom) and c. when all premises are within the EPTR.

Where b. or c. is certified, the OV should ensure the prior premises meet the health requirements of the 720EHC by receipt of documentation, including import certificates where necessary, from the premises veterinarian or competent authority of the exporting country.

Whatever the residency option, the commercial birds to be exported must have been under veterinary supervision continuously until the time of export to USA. This may be under the direct supervision of the certifying OV (option a.) or may be certified based on import certification or support attestations from veterinary authorities in country/ies of origin (options b. and c.).

The EPTR consists of: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales), Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

8. **Clinical inspection**

The inspection at paragraphs IV. 9. must be carried out within 48 hours of the intended date of export.

In addition, the commercial birds for export, under supervision, didn't show any signs of notifiable disease within 30 days of export.

9. **Vaccination against Newcastle disease**

Paragraph IV. 6. refers. Vaccination against Newcastle disease is an option and not a requirement for import. Where birds have been vaccinated, this must have been carried out not less than 21 days prior to export and the vaccine must not contain any velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus.

Details of vaccinations given to the birds, including 'date vaccinated' and 'name/manufacturer of vaccine' must be entered in the space provided, or on an attached schedule if required.

10. **Vaccination against Avian Influenza**

Paragraph IV. 2. refers. Vaccination against avian influenza is not allowed by UK and EU law. However, the certifying veterinarian is advised to obtain a declaration by the exporter/owner that the birds for export have not been vaccinated against these types of avian influenza, as in some cases captive birds may have been originally imported into the UK/EU prior to export.

11. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph IV. 4. and 5. with regards to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease as applicable

on behalf of the Department provided written authority (Form 618NDC) to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

Clearance will be based on information provided at the time of application, and will be for UK premises only, covering the 90 days prior to export on the basis that the birds have not been kept/resident for the past 90 days in any area subject to official restrictions because of outbreaks of either HPAI or Newcastle disease, AND provided that they will not transit through a zone restricted due to an outbreak of HPAI based on the route plan and declaration thereof provided by the exporter.

For paragraph IV. 5. concerning "other communicable avian disease", the OV should determine this on the basis of documentation from the premises. "Adjoining premises" are any linked premises with shared facilities.

If commercial birds for export have resided in any country/ies other than UK, exporters must obtain the relevant disease clearances from the competent authority of the relevant country/ies.

12. **Commingling of birds**

Paragraphs IV. 7. refers. This includes the 90 day period prior to the export of the birds, and should be based on knowledge of the premises or attestations received regarding previous premises.

13. **Packaging materials**

Paragraph IV. 8. refers. Official veterinarians should ensure that birds are placed in new or appropriately sanitized packaging materials at the premises from which the birds were to be exported.

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.

14. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.).

15. **Welfare**

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)

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

16. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)