

## **EXPORT OF COLUMBIFORM SPECIES (PIGEONS AND DOVES) 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 8699EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8699EHC. 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 columbiform species (pigeons and doves) from the United Kingdom to the United States of America.

#### **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 Columbiformes 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. **Quarantine**

All pigeons and doves must quarantine for a minimum of 30 days at a federal or APHIS-approved private quarantine facility. The importer is responsible for obtaining a reservation at the quarantine facility.

5. **Identification of the birds**

Section I refers. The Columbiformes to be exported must be identifiable through an individually numbered, tamper-proof leg band, tattoo or microchip. If microchips are used, the OV must write the location of the chip together with its code number on the schedule. The exporter is responsible for ensuring that a suitable reader is available to officials checking the birds upon entry to USA.

When the space in Part I is insufficient to accommodate details of all Columbiformes 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.

6. **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 8699EHC 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 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.

7. **Clinical inspection**

The inspection at paragraphs IV. 2. a. must be carried out within 48 hours of the intended date of export. Once inspected, the birds should not be moved from the premises until departing for export; this fulfills the requirement of paragraph IV. 2. c.

8. **Vaccination against Avian Influenza**

Paragraph IV. 2. b. 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.

9. **Vaccination against Newcastle disease**

Paragraph IV. 3. 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.

Any vaccinations given to the birds, details including 'date vaccinated' and 'name/manufacturer of vaccine' must be entered in the space provided.

10. **Commingling of birds**

Paragraph IV. 4. refers. Following departure from the premises of origin, care should be taken that the birds should not commingle with any other birds, and specifically if originating from or transiting through a region affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), i.e. any areas with a disease control zone in place due to an outbreak of HPAI.

This can be certified when the OV can verify that the birds are not originating from the HPAI restricted zone, and that the planned route does not pass through any restricted zone in place as a result of an HPAI outbreak. OVs are to refer to the 'Notifiable Disease Occurrence List' at <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET171.pdf>

Alternatively, or if birds originate and/or transit through the affected regions, this can be certified if the certifying OV receives a declaration from the exporter that commingling of the shipment with other birds will not occur after leaving the premises of origin until departure from the airport.

If neither of the above options are possible, OV's must obtain a plan of the intended route to be taken from the premises of origin up to the airport of departure. The route must be submitted to the APHA Centre for International Trade, for Great Britain, or the issuing office for Northern Ireland, who will verify that the birds are not originating from the HPAI restricted zone, and that the submitted route does not pass through any restricted zone in place as a result of an HPAI outbreak. Written authority (Form 618NDC) to certify this paragraph will then be given by the issuing office. Further advice on this may be obtained by contacting:

Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for International Trade, Eden Bridge House, Lowther Street, Carlisle, CA3 8DX.  
Tel: 03000 201 301.  
Email: [Liveanimalexports.carlisle@apha.gov.uk](mailto:Liveanimalexports.carlisle@apha.gov.uk)

11. **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.

12. **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.).

13. **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.

14. **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)