Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of hatching eggs of captive birds 8453

June 2025

Contents

No. 8458 NFG

EHC applicable for entry into the EU or NI of hatching eggs of captive birds

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OV AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers (CO) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for entry into the EU of hatching eggs of captive birds

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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 403/2021, shall be attached to veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of terrestrial animals where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey. You can find Master of the ship declaration here: https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, (EU) 2017/625, (EU) 2016/429

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 - Model EHC amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of EU legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the EU'.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This EHC may be used for entry into or transit through the EU or NI of hatching eggs of captive birds.

"**Captive birds**" means any birds other than poultry that are kept in captivity for any reason other than the exemptions below. This includes birds kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or selling.

Excluded are birds kept in captivity for the following reasons:

a) the production of:
   i. meat
   ii. eggs for consumption
   iii. other products
b) restocking supplies of game birds
c) the purpose of breeding of birds used for the types of production referred to in points (a) and (b)

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV appointed by APHA on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC. There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in the APHA Vet Gateway:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm

You can also contact APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744. The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at: https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

I.27 Identification of the commodities.

“CN Code” – Commodity code

“Species” – list the name of the species with Latin name in brackets e.g. “Chickens” (*Gallus gallus*)

“Subspecies / Breed / Category” – list whether they are “grandparent” “parent” or “commercial broiler” or “commercial layer” eggs

“Identification system” means the way the eggs are identified – e.g. “Black print”

“Identification number” is the Egg marketing number

“Quantity” need to enter the number of eggs in the consignment

PART II: HEALTH INFORMATION

II.1 Animal Health Attestation

II.1.1: Enter the territory code. GB as listed for all of the relevant commodities. The relevant regulations are Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404 and 2021/405. These regulations have been amended by Implementing Regulations 2021/634 and 2021/606, adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

The certifying OV must check the UK’s status in the third country list in Annex 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as amended by (EU) 2021/634 against the commodity he/she is certifying and ensure that the relevant provisions are certified accordingly.

II.1.2: The establishment must be named and supplied with an approval number that appears on a list of establishments drawn up and published by the Commission. This name and unique approval number must be in Box I.11

(a) Check that the approval has not been suspended

(b) and (c) Should be certified on the basis that the establishments are registered and approved by APHA and receive regular animal health visits from a veterinarian. Frequency of such visitation is proportionate to the risk. Records of animals should be kept for 3 years.

(d) and (e) May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the eggs came from holdings in the UK. The establishment(s) of origin cannot be under animal disease control restrictions relevant to captive birds.

(f) This selection can be deleted as appropriate, as this paragraph is only required for consignments of eggs from the family *Psittacidae*. The certifying OV would need to seek the relevant evidence/access to records to satisfy themselves that these requirements on these points are complied with. This can be signed on the basis that this disease is notifiable in the UK.

II.1.3 –
(a), (b), (c), (d), (e): The certifying OV would need to seek the relevant evidence/access to records to satisfy themselves that these requirements are complied with. For (d) the tests should be carried out on samples taken by or under the control of the competent authority. Taking and testing of samples can be found; http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/tte/nad.htm

(f): May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the animals came from holdings in the UK.

(g): The clinical examination must be done within 24 hours of loading and may only be performed by an OV of the country of origin. The OV should be vigilant for highly pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease.

II.1.4: May be certified if all of the points (a)-(e) are complied with at time of loading. Containers must be labelled as per point 7 of Annex XVI to Regulation (EU) 2020/692 relevant for hatching eggs of captive birds.

II.1.5: Enter the date of dispatch to the EU or NI.

The certifying OV must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Retained EU Regulation No 1/2005 and that other parts of the attestation are complied with. See section 9 on Animal Transport Attestation and gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. A declaration from the owner / transporter must be sought to confirm relevant requirements have been met.

II.1.6: ***[Delete if not applicable]***
This section is only intended for the export of consignments of captive birds of the Galliformes species (e.g. turkey, chicken, quail and other land fowl) being exported to Member states granted the status free from Newcastle disease virus without vaccination in accordance with Article 66 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and comply with the points listed. The certifying OV would need to seek the relevant evidence/access to records to satisfy themselves that these requirements on these points are complied with. For (d) the tests should be carried out on samples taken by or under the control of the competent authority. Taking and testing of samples can be found; http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/tte/nad.htm

Further guidance for completion of this certificate can be found in Chapter 4 of Annex I I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) C (2020)8100.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

NOTE: Avian Chlamydiosis clearance should be obtained by the OV based on their knowledge of and records held at the Captive Bird Breeding Establishment.

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified zones or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Consignments of hatching eggs which have been transported through, unloaded in, or moved to another means of transport when transported by road, sea or by air through an HPAI restricted zone are unable to enter the EU or NI as per Article 99 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the Exports > Certification Procedures page of the APHA Vet Gateway.
- For any postcodes in Northern Ireland, COs can obtain clearance using the interactive map provided by DAERA that can be found here: AI Trade Map

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that GB has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM A THIRD COUNTRY [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

Consignments could potentially contain animals which have originated in NI. The certificate/documentation which the animal arrives into GB with may not contain sufficient information for the GB CO to sign the EU EHC.
Disease clearance for animals originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry) can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all livestock animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animals that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a GB EHC. The GB EHC may not contain enough information to allow the CO to sign an EU EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet. The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animals before export from the EU.

This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries and fulfilled a residency period in GB, and GB exporters intend to export then to the EU. In these cases, COs may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such animals from the Third Country to GB.

GB COs are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB COs to be able to certify the live animals in good time before the export to the EU.

7. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

II.1.3(g): The clinical inspection must be carried out within 24 hrs of loading by an OV of the competent authority of the country of origin.

8. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES:

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here:
http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

9. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCS

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, ‘certified copies’ of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on the APHA Vet Gateway.

10. LEGAL STATEMENT

The existing EU legislation that the UK complied with prior to the end of the Transition Period has been incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. The EU standards that this legislation

includes continue to remain in force, without substantive amendment, as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable

11. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 APHA in Carlisle.

This publication is available at https://www.gov.uk/search/all

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

liveanimalexports.carlisle@apha.gov.uk

8453 NFG

Version History:

NFG

Version 7: Published 16 June 2025

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE – Section amended to include reference to AI map for NI.

Version 6: Published 31 July 2024

Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 added

Part I.27: "CN Code" added

Version 5: Published 16 February 2023

Section 4 Added guidance regarding movement of hatching eggs through a HPAI restricted zone.