

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF POULTRY AND DAY-OLD POULTRY TO ARGENTINA

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS

1. 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.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate (8819EHC) may be used for the export of hatching eggs of poultry and day-old poultry to Argentina.

"Poultry" is defined in accordance with WOA: *all birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of any commercial animal products or for breeding for this purpose, ... and all birds used for restocking supplies of game or for breeding for this purpose.*

3. 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 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 CITC, 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, 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.

4. **IDENTIFICATION**

The non-applicable option from 'day-old birds' or 'hatching eggs' should be deleted, and the table completed to show further details of the consignment.

Purpose and generation non-applicable options should be deleted, and quantities should be entered as applicable, including the total quantity.

5. **IMPORT PERMIT**

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.

6. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs IV 1.1, 3.1, 4.1 and 12 refer. The paragraphs may be certified provided the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to the OV before shipment by the APHA Centre for International Trade (CIT), Carlisle for Great Britain or by the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland, on the basis of information received at the time of application.

1.1 requires that the establishment(s) of origin (farm, hatchery, egg reception/distribution centre) of the day-old birds or hatching eggs are members of the Poultry Health Scheme, or NIPHAS in Northern Ireland. This will be confirmed as part of notifiable disease clearance.

3.1 There is no current recognition by SENASA of disease-free zones or compartments in the UK, so these options have been struck through. Until zoning and compartments are agreed by SENASA, only the country freedom option can be used. The "country" option requires that the whole of the UK has been officially free of HPAI from at least the 21 days prior to egg collection until the date of export.

4.1 for Newcastle disease (ND) can be certified similarly to 3.1, with country freedom required. 4.2, including sub-paragraphs 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 regarding sampling have been struck through as not applicable.

Paragraph 12 (statement on transiting through zones only) can be certified when the UK is free from HPAI and ND as there will be no such zones in place. When the UK is not free from HPAI or ND, and once SENASA recognise disease-free zones in the UK, on the basis of a route plan provided to CIT the consignment after leaving the place of origin cannot transit through any zone with official restrictions for the control of HPAI or ND on route to the place of departure from the UK. This must be applied even in the case of travelling in a sealed container.

7. **FLOCK HEALTH HISTORY**

Paragraphs IV 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 3.4, and 5 refer. This can be certified based on information derived from clinical observation, production and mortality data, laboratory reports and pathological examinations. The statement refers to outbreaks of clinical disease and is not intended

to refer to conditions which are routinely and effectively controlled by surveillance programmes.

Certain sections are applicable only to particular species as indicated within the certificate. Non-applicable parts should be deleted where indicated by the asterisk, including the whole of IV. 5. for species other than ducks.

In cases where the certifying OV is not personally responsible for the flock(s) of origin they may certify the statements referring to those flocks on the basis of a support certificate (8819SUP) provided by the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for those flocks. The support health certificate will be issued by APHA/DAERA at the same time as the export health certificate.

8. **DUCK VIRAL HEPATITIS**

Paragraph IV 5 refers to exports of duck hatching eggs and day-old ducklings only, and should be deleted for any other species.

The OV may certify this paragraph provided that all the test results have been negative (or in the case of doubtful results, have proved negative on further investigation). The OV should check the laboratory reports.

9. **TESTING FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA AND NEWCASTLE DISEASE**

Paragraphs IV 3.3 refers.

Testing for Newcastle disease (paragraph IV. 4.2.1) is not required while the UK is officially free from Newcastle disease. Testing for avian influenza must be done by PCR; there is currently no equivalent diagnostic protocol agreement between Defra and SENASA. PCR samples must be tested at the avian virology laboratory, APHA Weybridge.

The number of samples required is 34 samples per flock (airspace). Up to 5 samples can be pooled if taken from the same anatomical site.

Sampling referred to in the above paragraphs must be carried out at the beginning of the collection of the eggs for export.

10. **VACCINATION HISTORY**

Paragraphs IV 2.2, 3.2, 4.3, 4.4. refer. If the veterinarian responsible for the flock of origin cannot certify this statement based on his/her personal knowledge they should obtain a written declaration from the flock owner/manager.

Paragraph 2.2 must be certified if exporting day-old birds but should be deleted if exporting hatching eggs. Strains authorised by SENASA are: strain CR88121 attenuated, strain 4-91, strain Massachusetts H120, H120 strain, strain 1/96 group 793B, Massachusetts strain, Connecticut strain, Ma5 strain (Massachusetts serotype), strain B48 Massachusetts.

Paragraph 3.2 concerning vaccination against avian influenza; the vaccination of poultry for avian influenza in the UK is forbidden, except with special dispensation at times of particular risk.

Regarding Newcastle disease, paragraph 4.3 must be certified if exporting day-old birds; day-old birds must not be vaccinated against Newcastle disease. If exporting hatching eggs, paragraph 4.3 should be deleted. Paragraph 4.4. must be completed if the flock of origin have been vaccinated, or deleted if they have not been vaccinated.

11. **OFFICIAL DISEASE MONITORING PROGRAMMES**

Paragraph IV 6 refers. Freedom from Salmonella pullorum and S.gallinarum in all species, and Mycoplasma gallisepticum in galliformes only, can be certified on the basis of routine monitoring of flocks under membership of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS).

Mycoplasma synoviae is not covered by an official flock monitoring programme. The OV must confirm that the exporting company has conducted regular monitoring for this disease on a private basis with negative results. Monitoring should be on a similar frequency as monitoring of the diseases which are within the PHS scheme. Testing must be carried out by UKAS accredited/approved laboratories, by method as recommended by that laboratory.

In the case of ducks, Mycoplasma is not a recognised disease of significance and is not monitored under any official programme and so not applicable.

12. **LABORATORY TESTING**

Paragraph IV 7 refers. The diagnostic tests must be carried out in accordance with the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the WOA, in official laboratories accredited or recognised by the competent authority for the test being carried out.

13. **VACCINATION APPROVAL**

Paragraph IV 8 refers. Poultry hatching eggs and day-old poultry must come from flocks in which vaccines containing live viruses have not been used in the sixty (60) days prior to the collection of the eggs for the purpose of export. If the veterinarian responsible for the flock of origin cannot certify this statement based on his/her personal knowledge they should obtain a written declaration from the flock owner/manager.

Any vaccines must be produced in accordance with the WOA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals and are approved by the competent authority of the United Kingdom. Vaccination details should be entered accordingly into the table(s) on page 5 of the certificate. The second table should be deleted in the case of hatching eggs. A schedule can be used if necessary.

14. **ANTI-MICROBIAL TREATMENT**

Paragraph IV 9 refers. The statement that hatching eggs or day-old poultry for export have not received treatment with antimicrobial substances should be certified by the OV on the basis of his/her personal observations at and knowledge of the farms of origin/hatchery, supported by any written assurances that they feel may be necessary.

15. **DISINFECTION/SANITISATION OF THE EGGS**

Paragraph IV 10. refers. The eggs must be disinfected or sanitized as soon as possible with a UK licensed sanitizing agent, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and the active ingredient stated within the relevant section. The paragraph should be deleted for the export of day-old poultry.

16. **TRANSPORT CONDITIONS**

Paragraphs IV. 11 and 12 refer. Containers/boxes holding the day-old poultry or hatching eggs must be either new, or if re-used, cleaned and disinfected. Transport vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected, and then sealed prior to loading. Any disinfectant used must be officially approved.

Disinfectants are approved under the Disease of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England) Order 2007, and its equivalent in the devolved administrations (as amended). The list is held at <http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList SI>. Officially approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

The air intake filter does not need to meet any particular specifications. The main criterion is that it should preclude the entry of wild birds to the cargo compartment. The seal on the cargo compartment must be of a type that would be destroyed when the compartment is opened.

17. **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

18. **WELFARE OF ANIMALS**

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by Council Regulation EC 1/2005, implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. Further information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below:

England, Scotland & Wales

Welfare in Transport Team at the APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle, via the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#centre-for-international-trade-carlisle>

Northern Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

DAERA Helpline number 0300 200 7852.

DAERA Helpline email daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852