

## EXPORT OF RACING PIGEONS TO ZIMBABWE

### NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

#### IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should be issued together with export certificate 8864EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8864EHC. 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 certificate

This certificate 8864EHC is for export of racing pigeons to Zimbabwe.

#### 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](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**

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. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV. 2. a) and b) refer. These paragraphs may be certified by the OV provided that they have received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent by (in GB) APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the relevant issuing office in Northern Ireland before shipment.

For a), country or zone should be indicated as per written authority. 'Country' is applicable when the entire UK is officially free of HPAI. When this is not the case, 'zone' can be certified for locations outside of a restricted zone put in place for the control of HPAI. 'Compartment' is not applicable to pigeons.

For b), the 50km restriction is applicable from confirmation of any HPAI outbreak, including those outside of the territory of the UK, until any restricted zone put in place for the control of the outbreak has been lifted.

4. **Pre-export isolation & Veterinary examination and supervision**

Paragraphs IV. 1., 2.c), 3.a), 3.b) and 3.f) refer.

The birds must be individually identified at the onset of isolation.

The birds for export must be kept in a loft or quarantine facility under veterinary supervision where the all-in, all-out principle was observed for at least 21 days prior to shipment.

The OV must inspect and approve the loft or quarantine facility prior to the entry of the birds in order to confirm that they are suitable for isolation. The OV must use his/her discretion to apply the normally accepted principles of biosecurity.

The OV must personally verify the date of entry into the approved isolation facility, and must be satisfied that the bird(s) will remain in these conditions continuously during the isolation period. There must be no contact with any other birds, and none of the people visiting the birds in isolation may have contact with any other birds throughout the isolation period. During isolation the OV may make additional visits at his/her discretion if these are considered necessary in order to confirm the continuity of isolation and that the loft remains free from signs of infectious and contagious diseases.

A clinical examination must be conducted within 48 hours of the intended time of export to ensure the birds are clinically healthy and free of external parasites and fit to travel.

6. **Avian Influenza Test**

Paragraph IV. 3.c) refers.

Sampling must be carried out during pre-export isolation to test for avian influenza. Sampling should be carried out according to the WOA manual of standards for diagnostic Tests and Vaccines Chapter 3.3.4., and the protocols shown on page 2 of the 8864EHC. The samples must be tested at the avian virology laboratory, APHA Weybridge, and it is strongly recommended to consult the laboratory well in advance for advice about taking and handling the samples. It is particularly necessary to ensure that samples are taken early enough for the result

to be available in advance of the export date. A copy of the test results should be attached to the 8864EHC and summary details should be added in paragraph IV. 3.c).

The laboratory results must also be emailed to the Zimbabwean authorities at [vetpermits@gmail.com](mailto:vetpermits@gmail.com) and [drswiswa@gmail.com](mailto:drswiswa@gmail.com) before the shipment of the birds.

7. **Newcastle disease vaccination**

Paragraph IV. 3.d) refers. Complete if the birds have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease within 3 months prior to shipment. (attach schedule if required). Delete if not applicable.

If the veterinarian responsible for the premises of origin cannot certify this statement on the basis of his/her personal knowledge he/she should obtain a written declaration from the flock owner/manager.

8. **Chlamydiosis Treatment**

Paragraph IV. 3.e) refers. Treatment is intended to eliminate infection with psittacosis-ornithosis (chlamydiosis). Doxycycline is the preferred antibiotic because it appears to be palatable to birds.

9. **Insecticide Treatment**

Paragraph IV. 4. refers. The birds must be treated for ectoparasites with an insecticide suitable for use on live birds, within the 7 days prior to export.

10. **Welfare**

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](mailto:daerahelpline@daera-ni.gov.uk)

DAERA Textphone 18001 0300 200 7852

11. **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)