

No:

EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF COMMERCIAL CHICKEN (*Gallus gallus*) TO AUSTRALIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER

Associated Documents: 2386EHC 1A, 2386EHC 1B, 2386EHC 1C, 2386EHC 1D,
2386EHC 2A, 2386EHC 2B,
618NDC,
2386NFG.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Scope of the certificate**

This set of certificates is for the export of hatching eggs of domestic fowl to Australia. The certificate can now be used for both Newcastle disease (NDV) vaccinated and unvaccinated flocks.

The complete certification package consists of a number of separate certificates as below. Certificates 1A/B/C/D are completed pre-dispatch and accompany the consignment along with all necessary attachments. Certificates 2A/2B and their attachments are sent by mail following completion of all post-collection testing and certification.

No.	Title	To be signed by
1A	Owner / Manager's declaration	Owner and OV
1B	Flock status and testing	OV
1C	Country disease status	OV
1D	Airport check	OV
2A	Flock status and post-export testing	OV
2B	Country disease status	OV

The certificates 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D together with a copy of the first page of the import permit, the disease clearance form provided by CIT Carlisle to the OV (in GB) or by DAERA to the OV (in NI), schedules of test results and of vaccinations, and any certificates of equivalence, must accompany the consignment to Australia. All documents must be provided to an officer of the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) at the port of entry. Certificates 2A and 2B together with the schedules of test results for Newcastle disease and PMV3 must be sent by airmail to the DAFF officer at the post-arrival quarantine station in Australia as soon as possible after the post despatch test results are available. In any case of doubt the exporter should contact the DAWE Live Animal Import section (tel. 0061 02 6272 4454).

2. **Obtaining Import permit**

A "Permit to Import" must be obtained from the Director of Quarantine at the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). (tel. 0061 02 6272 4454).

3. **Official Signatories**

The owner or the responsible manager of the source flock(s) must sign certificate 2386EHC 1A where indicated. All certificates (including 2386EHC 1A) must be signed where indicated 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.

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.

4. Certificates of Equivalence

If the exporter is not able to meet certain conditions in the health certificate, DAWE is willing to consider alternative, equivalent conditions on a case-by-case basis. The exporter must apply to the Director of Quarantine at DAWE giving the reasons why they consider the alternative conditions to provide equivalent assurances. If DAWE agrees they will provide the exporter with a 'Certificate of Equivalence' (CoE).

The OV must delete the relevant paragraphs and write "*This consignment is certified in compliance with the alternative assurances in the certificate of equivalence attached to this certificate*" against the relevant paragraph on the health certificate and confirm this by applying the OV stamp and his/her initials. The OV must sign, stamp

and date each page of the certificate of equivalence **in ink of any colour other than black** to confirm that the alternative conditions have been met.

Note that the CoE must be endorsed by a government Veterinary Officer, as in paragraph 3 above. To do this the government Veterinary Officer must write either at the bottom of the CoE text, or if there is insufficient space, on the reverse of the final page, in clear handwriting:

' I confirm that (name) is an Official Veterinarian authorised by the UK competent authority to certify this certificate'.

The Veterinary Officer must then add his/her signature, official stamp and date. The writing and stamp must be **in ink of any colour other than black**.

Finally the certificate of equivalence must be stapled to the health certificate to which it relates.

5. **OFFICIAL STAMP ON EVERY PAGE**

Each separate page of each certificate and each page on any other attachments such as vaccination schedules or laboratory reports must be SIGNED, STAMPED and DATED by the OV, using ink of any colour other than black.

6. **Definition of 'Flock of Origin'**

In the context of this export, a 'flock' may be interpreted as 'a group of poultry of the same health and vaccination status kept on the same premises and constituting a single epidemiological unit'. This would normally mean that a 'farm' can be regarded as a single 'flock'.

7. **Transport**

Certificate 1D paragraph 2.a refers. Unless written authority is received from DAWE prior to export, the consignment must travel on a direct flight to Australia or via the airports specified in the certificate. Alternative intermediate stops/airports must be approved by DAWE in writing.

The eggs may not be accompanied in transit by other eggs or birds except by written approval of DAWE.

The eggs must be packed in such a way there will be no leakage in the event of the eggs breaking during transport (Certificate 1D paragraph 1b. refers).

The airport OV may certify paragraph 2.a and b either by receiving the required information in writing from the handling agent at the airport or by receiving a veterinary declaration from the exporting company who will have received this information from the handling agent prior to the date of export.

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE INSTRUCTIONS

Health Certificate 1, Part A [2386EHC 1A]

8. **Vaccination History**

Paragraph IV (1-4) refer. If preferred, a schedule may be attached. The certifying OV should write 'see attached schedule' in the table. The schedule must contain the same information as listed on the table. It must be stamped, signed and dated by the OV on each separate page and firmly stapled to the certificate.

9. **Age of Source Flock**

Paragraph IV (5) refers. The Australian import conditions require the source flock to have a minimum age of 32 weeks. DAWE has made it clear

that a Certificate of Equivalence (CoE) will NOT be issued to allow the import of eggs from younger flocks.

10. **OV countersignature**

The OV should be aware that, by countersigning the statements by the owner/manager, he/she is making him or herself responsible for the accuracy of those statements. He/she should ask for whatever supporting evidence that may seem appropriate.

Health Certificate 1, Part B [2386EHC 1B]

11. **Biosecurity Programme**

Paragraph IV (4) and (5) refer.

'Dedicated staff' means that staff routinely working with the source flock must not also work with any other flocks during the prescribed pre-export isolation period (90 days). Company staff who normally work elsewhere, such as the company veterinarian or specialised blood sampling teams, may enter the source flock premises provided that they observe the company's prescribed interval since visiting any other premises, and undergo the full showering and clothing change procedures before entry.

'Movement control and disinfection of vehicles.' It is acceptable for essential vehicle movements onto the premises, such as feed delivery or egg collection, provided that the wheels are disinfected at the point of entry, and drivers disinfect their footwear and do not go further from their vehicles than is strictly necessary for their delivery/collection function.

'Epidemiological contact'. The biosecurity programme is intended "to minimise the introduction of disease". Hence the statement is intended to cover only realistic and controllable risks, and theoretical risks that are beyond human control such as visiting wild birds should not preclude certification.

If the OV is satisfied that the above controls on personnel and vehicle movements have been scrupulously observed, and that feed and other fomites which may carry the relevant pathogens have been suitably treated and controlled, he/she may certify this statement. If the OV has knowledge of any premises on which the named diseases have been present in the past 6 months he/she must make sufficient enquiries to be satisfied that no direct contact has taken place

12. **Premises disease clearance**

Paragraph IV (6) refers. Evidence of disease should be interpreted as clinical signs as well as information from production and mortality records, laboratory reports and pathological examinations. Note that the statement refers only to frank outbreaks of clinical disease, and not to agents which are routinely or effectively controlled by vaccination.

13. **Laboratory Samples**

Paragraphs IV (7), (8), (9) (10) and (11) refer. These laboratory tests must be conducted at APHA laboratories. The tests carried out by APHA conform to the guidelines laid down in the WOA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, and therefore are 'WOAH approved' as required in paragraph (12).

Veterinary surgeons wishing to submit large numbers of samples for testing should contact the receiving laboratory well in advance to enable appropriate arrangements to be made for such numbers. Advice on the submission of samples may be sought from the laboratory in question. Samples must be submitted in time for results to be reported before the date of export, taking into account the maximum

test turnaround times as described by APHA here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879503/ExportPriceList.pdf .

The number of samples necessary to achieve a 99% confidence of detecting the disease if there was a 5% or a 0.5% disease prevalence is given in the following table:

Flock Size	Numbers to be Sampled	
	For 0.5% prevalence:	For 5% prevalence
901 - 1000	601	86
1001 - 1200	642	87
1201 - 1400	674	87
1401 - 1600	699	88
1601 - 1800	720	88
1801 - 2000	737	88
2001 - 3000	792	89
3001 - 4000	821	89
4001 - 5000	840	89
5001 - 6000	852	90
6001 - 7000	861	90
7001 - 8000	868	90
8001 - 9000	874	90
9001 - 10000	878	90
> 10,000	919	90

Note that separate tests are required for Newcastle disease (APMV-1), and APMV-3.

In the case of Newcastle disease serology testing of vaccinated flocks, most birds should show a positive titre because they have been vaccinated. When the same birds are re-tested approximately 21 days later a rising titre would indicate the presence of active virus transmission within the flock. Consequently it is essential (and required by the certificate) that the birds are individually marked at the time of the first blood sampling, and that each sample bears the bird's identification, so that the titres for each individual bird can be compared between the first and second sampling. A result would be considered significant if there were greater than a two fold dilution increase (greater than 1:1024 [\log_2^{10}]).

Most vaccinated birds should show a titre below 1:1024 [\log_2^{10}]. However an occasional bird may show a titre higher than this, and some birds may show no titre at all. A result would be considered significant if there were greater than a twofold dilution increase in titre at the second sampling.

If it is preferred to present the results in paragraph 12 on a separate schedule, this may be done as described in paragraph 8 above.

14. **Salmonella Freedom**

Paragraph IV (9) (i) refers. DAWE has approved the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) and the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) as an assurance of freedom from *Salmonella pullorum* and *S.gallinarum*, because they conform with Directive 2009/158/EC.

DAWE has also approved the Salmonella National Control Programme (NCP) in breeding chicken flocks as an assurance of freedom from *S.enteritidis* because it conforms with EU Regulation 200/2010.

The OV can certify this paragraph provided that the flocks of origin are current members of the PHS or NIPHAS, and the NCP, and they have carried out the necessary routine tests with negative results. The redundant options MUST be deleted.

15. **Individual Identification of 100 birds**

Paragraphs IV (8) and (11) refer. In the case of birds that have been vaccinated, DAWE requires the same 100 birds to be re-tested at least 14 days after the collection of eggs for this consignment (whilst the eggs or chicks are still in quarantine in Australia). Repeat serology testing applies only to Newcastle disease and avian pneumovirus testing of vaccinated flocks.

16. **Approval of Laboratories**

Paragraphs IV (9), (10) and (12) refer. Pre-export tests must be carried out in laboratories officially approved/accredited for the specific pathogen/test for the purposes of the poultry health schemes under Directive 2009/158/EC (PHS/NIPHAS) or the National Control Programs for control of salmonella in poultry. This is especially important in the case of Salmonella arizona, since monitoring/testing for this pathogen is not a requirement in the case of chickens under the 2009/158/EC Directive (PHS/NIPHAS).

DAWE has confirmed that any laboratory in the UK which has been officially approved by the UK authorities to carry out testing for poultry health scheme or National Control Programme purposes can be considered *ipso facto* to have approval by DAWE.

Health Certificate 1, Part C [2386EHC 1C]

17. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV (1) and (2) refer. These paragraphs may be certified by the official veterinarian on the basis of the written notifiable disease clearance received from APHA CIT Carlisle or DAERA in NI. For the purposes of certification, avian influenza should be understood as notifiable highly pathogenic avian influenza type A infection in poultry.

Please note that the written notifiable disease clearance form must be attached to the EHC. (The same requirement applies for 2386EHC 2B.)

Health Certificate 1, Part D [2386EHC 1D]

This part of the EHC has to be certified by the Official Veterinarian at the airport of dispatch.

Please refer to paragraph 7 above.

Health Certificate 2, Part A [2386EHC 2A]

18. **Laboratory Samples**

Paragraphs IV (2), (3) and (4) refer. As paragraphs 13 to 16 above.

19. **Premises disease clearance**

Paragraph IV (6) refers. As paragraph 12 above, also taking into account the requirement to follow up a weekly mortality over 0.5% or a drop in quantity, quality or fertility/hatchability of the eggs produced by the source flocks by a veterinary investigation and a report.

Health Certificate 2, Part B [2386EHC 2B]

20. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs VI (1), (2) and (4), as paragraph 17 above. For the purposes of certification, avian influenza should be understood as notifiable highly pathogenic avian influenza infection in poultry.

21. **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