

EXPORT OF DAY-OLD POULTRY AND HATCHING EGGS OF POULTRY FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO INDIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 311EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 311EHC. 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 is for the export of hatching eggs and day-old birds of domestic poultry species to India.

The certificate also provides scope for the export of live poultry other than day-old poultry; in this case further guidance should be sought from the Animal and Plant Health Agency prior to finalising planning of the shipment.

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.

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. Import Permit

An import permit is required, which the importer can obtain by applying to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD). All conditions within the import permit must be complied with.

4. Certificate sections

For the export of day-old poultry, the following sections should be deleted as they are not applicable: IV. 2, 6, 8 (entire section).

For the export of hatching eggs, the following sections should be deleted as not applicable: IV. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

In all cases, IV. 9 should be deleted, as vaccination against avian influenza is not permitted in poultry in the UK.

5. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraphs IV. 1, 5, 8 (a) or (b), (e), (f) refer. These paragraphs may be certified by the OV provided that they have received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them by APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle for GB, or the relevant issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland prior to shipment. Authority will be based on information on the location of origin premises informed to the issuing office at time of application. Authority will only be given for premises in the UK, and the below refers as such. For non-UK premises, equivalent assurances must be sought from the authority of the origin country.

Where sections include statements other than notifiable disease clearance, i.e. for sanitizing eggs, this does not form part of the authority and the OV should ensure that the requirements have been met - see paragraph 8 below for further details.

Authority may be given for certification in circumstances where the paragraphs are not applicable due to the commodity being exported (refer to part 4 above); in this case, the non-applicable paragraphs should be deleted.

When the whole of the United Kingdom is officially free from the said disease according to the criteria of WOAHP, permission will be given to certify using the "country" option.

When the UK is not officially free of the said disease, the "zone" option may be certified. A premises is considered to be in a "zone" free from the said disease if it was outside of any disease control

zone in place due to an outbreak of that disease, according to the timescales given in that particular paragraph.

Note that in the case where the UK is free of one disease and not the other, for example if it is free from ND but not from HPAI, then the relevant options can be applied for each disease independently.

There is currently no agreement to certify using the "compartment" option; this must be deleted in all cases, as well as the unused country/zone option.

6. **Freedom from Poultry Health Scheme diseases**

Paragraphs IV. 3, 4(i), 7, 8(d) [compliance with 6.4 only], 8(g) [for freedom from fowl typhoid and pullorum disease and compliance with 6.4 only] refer.

The Official Veterinarian OV should check that the flocks and hatchery are members of the PHS (or NIPHAS in Northern Ireland) and check PHS/NIPHAS testing records on farm to ensure compliance before certification. If clarification is required over membership, the OV should consult APHA, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle (or DAERA in Northern Ireland).

The WOA (formerly OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code chapter 6.4. (2017 version, revised to chapter 6.5 for subsequent versions) lays down conditions for hygiene and disease biosecurity procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries. These conditions are implemented in Great Britain by the government supervised Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). Consequently any flock or hatchery which is a member of the PHS/NIPHAS applies and exceeds the conditions laid down in the WOA/OIE Code.

The Schemes require premises to carry out testing for *S.Gallinarum* (fowl typhoid) and *S.Pullorum* (pullorum disease), and therefore any member farms can be certified free from those diseases on that basis.

With regards to avian mycoplasmosis, the Schemes require premises with chickens and turkeys to carry out testing for *M.gallisepticum*, and for turkeys to test for *M.meleagridis*; the latter is not applicable to chickens as non-susceptible. Member farms with chickens and turkeys can be certified as free on that basis. For other poultry species, additional testing may be required to demonstrate freedom from these diseases.

7. **Infectious Laryngotracheitis and Infectious Bronchitis**

Paragraphs IV. 4(ii) and (iii), 8(d) refer. The OV must take care to delete all the inappropriate parts. Vaccination for each of these diseases is not obligatory, but if it has occurred the details of the latest vaccination must be provided.

In paragraphs 4(iii)a) and 8(d) it is stated that the flocks are free from IB or ILT. This should be based on serological results, and the company must provide the serology results to the OV.

In the case of unvaccinated flocks, the negative result will be clear. However, in the case of flocks that have been vaccinated for either IB or ILT the serological results after vaccination can be difficult to interpret. Together with the serology results the company must provide the OV with a declaration stating that the titres are consistent with vaccination.

In addition, for both vaccinated and unvaccinated flocks, the OV must be provided with a declaration (in the form of a 311SUP, or an

equivalent written declaration signed by a responsible member of the company) that the flocks have not shown any clinical signs suggestive of IB or ILT up till the time of despatch.

The OV may certify each of the sub-paragraphs on the basis of **both** the serology results together with (if relevant) the company declaration about consistency with vaccination, **and** the declaration about freedom from clinical signs.

The laboratory reports showing the serological test results must **NOT** be attached or sent with the health certificate. The OV should retain them together with the company declarations for reference purposes.

8. **Sanitisation of egg surfaces**

Paragraph IV. 8(b), (c), (f) and (g) refers. The WOAHO/OIE Code provides very rudimentary guidance in section 6.5.5.4. (6.4 in 2017 version): "Hatching eggs should be cleaned and sanitised as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions."

The UK does not have any procedure for official approval of egg sanitising agents, and it is up to the OV to exercise their professional veterinary judgement to approve the agent in use.

9. **Clean packing materials**

Paragraph IV. 10 refers. The OV must personally verify that the materials are clean and either new or appropriately sanitized.

10. **Support certification**

In cases where the 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 (311SUP) provided by the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for those flocks. The support health certificate will be issued by APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle at the same time as the export health certificate.

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

12. **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.