EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS AND DAY OLD POULTRY OF DOMESTIC CHICKENS, TURKEYS AND WATERFOWL TO ISRAEL

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER
Associated documents: 304EHC, 304SPT, 304SUP.

IMPORTANT
These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 304EHC. **The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate** 304EHC. **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 and validity of the certificates**

The 304EHC (and 304SPT) may be used for the export of hatching eggs or day-old birds of domestic fowl, turkeys or waterfowl to Israel.

304SPT is a **supplementary certificate** required by the Israeli authorities at times when the United Kingdom is affected by outbreaks of avian influenza. **Additional notes for completion of the 304SPT can be found in parts 18-20 of this document**.

Please note that the certificates **are valid for only 3 days** from the date of signature. Exporters are therefore advised to ensure that the consignment reaches Israel within 3 days of the date of signature of the certificate.

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. **Clinical inspection**

The inspection at paragraph IV a) must be carried out within 24 hours before shipment.

4. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV b)i) or b)ii), and c) may be certified if the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them by APHA or DAERA before shipment.

IV c) must be certified in all cases.

For IV b), the OV must check the 618NDC to see which of the options b)i) or b)ii) has been authorized, and must delete the other option.

If certification of b)i) has been authorized, both b)ii) and b)iii) may be deleted. This will be the case when the whole of the UK is officially free from notifiable avian influenza, having provided self-declaration to the WOAH (formerly OIE).

Certification of b)ii) can be authorized when origin premises have not been in any zone subject to restrictions due to an outbreak of notifiable avian influenza for the past 3 months.

If certification of b)ii) has been authorized, b)iii) must be certified **in addition** to b)ii). Paragraph b)iii) is **not an alternative option** to the certification of b)i) or ii). The certifying OV must ensure that the conditions in the referred 304SPT are complied with in order to certify this paragraph. **See parts 18-20 of this document for guidance on completion of the 304SPT.**

5. **Membership of a Government supervised poultry health scheme**

Paragraphs IV d) and n) refer. The Official Veterinarian 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).

In respect of paragraph IV n), the OV must satisfy themself that the chicks were hatched in the hatchery as stated in II c).

6. **Salmonella Monitoring (1)**

Paragraph IV e) refers. In the case of chickens and turkeys this paragraph may be certified on the basis that the flock(s) of origin have been routinely monitored bacteriologically as required under a government supervised national control programme for Salmonella (NCP).
In the case of waterfowl, the UK national control plan does not yet apply to them. The paragraph may be certified only if the flock owner has been applying a testing programme similar to the national control programme on a voluntary basis for at least the past 6 months. The OV should ask to see documentary evidence of the laboratory testing results.

7. **Salmonella Monitoring (2)**

Paragraph IV h) refers. The OV should delete the appropriate lines. If any isolations have been made, the particular serotype must be recorded, even if it is not of clinical significance.

8. **Salmonella monitoring (3)**

In paragraph IV o) the blood samples are to be taken from birds **not less than 4 months of age**. The certificate contains two options for assurances in regards to Salmonella pullorum-Gallinarum:

Paragraph IV o)(i)

Concerning the statement that 'all commercial flocks in the UK are officially free from Salmonella pullorum-gallinarum', the Israel authorities have confirmed in writing that 'commercial flocks' should be interpreted as meaning breeding flocks that are members of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). Therefore the OV may certify this statement on the basis that PHS/NIPHAS flocks are routinely tested for S.p/S.g, and membership would be revoked in the event of a positive result.

Concerning the statement that 'the establishment(s) of origin at paragraph II(b) has/have been officially free from S.p/S.g for more than 24 months', the OV must confirm by checking the laboratory reports that the appropriate testing has been carried out and all results have been negative during the past 24 months in each establishment.

The testing specified at paragraph IV o)(i) requires blood samples to be taken from a representative sample selected at random from each flock of origin. The number of samples per flock must be sufficient to give a probability of 95% that infection will be detected if the prevalence is at least 5%. The number of samples necessary to achieve this is given in the following table:

Number of birds in flock	Number of samples to be taken
up to 20	all
20-29	20
30-39	25
40-49	30
50-59	35
60-89	40
90-199	50
200-499	55
500 or more	60

Testing can be carried out at any laboratory officially approved for PHS/NIPHAS purposes and any serology test approved for PHS purposes can be used as appropriate(the Rapid Slide test or the Tube Agglutination tests). This test does not need APHA supervision.

Paragraph IV o)(ii)

Provided the flock(s) of origin are maintained as isolated groups with no added birds, this test is valid for the entire period of lay of the flock(s), on condition that it is carried out no more than 12 months prior to export. The rapid serum agglutination (RSA) test must be approved by DEFRA and carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions under DEFRA supervision (this means that an Animal Health Officer must be present during the blood sampling and testing procedures). The sampled birds may be individually identified in order to identify inconclusive/ positive reactors. Any inconclusive/positive reactors must be re-sampled as appropriate and retested by bacteriology with negative results in order to eliminate any suspicion of disease in the flock.

9. **Freedom of Ducks and Geese from DVH, DVE and GVH**

Paragraphs IV f) and g) refer. If the certifying OV is not the same as the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for the flock(s) of origin, they must rely on a statement of clinical freedom from the flock veterinarian on certificate 304SUP. See paragraph 15. below.

10. **Freedom from Mycoplasma synoviae**

Paragraph IV j) requires blood samples to be taken from a representative sample selected at random from each flock of origin. The table in paragraph 8 above shows the number of samples required for 95% probability/5% prevalence.

The sampled birds must be individually identified in order to identify inconclusive/positive reactors. The serology test must be carried out either by the APHA, or by a laboratory that holds a current approval for serology testing for Mycoplasma under the Poultry Health Scheme. If any samples give positive or inconclusive results to the serology test, those birds must be re-sampled and the samples must be forwarded to APHA as soon as possible for re-testing by the ELISA or PCR test. Post mortem examination of Mycoplasma reactors must be carried out in a laboratory of the APHA after making prior arrangements with the Senior Veterinary Investigation Officer.

11. **Clinical disease freedom**

At paragraph IV k) 'evidence' shall be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock records, laboratory test records and autopsy reports.

12. **Laboratory Samples**

Paragraphs IV l) and m) refer. These laboratory tests must be conducted at laboratories of the APHA or the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland. Before submitting samples for testing, OVs should contact the laboratory to enable appropriate arrangements to be made, and to obtain any necessary advice about the handling of samples (particularly with reference to paragraph IV m). Samples must be taken in sufficient time for the results to be reported before the date of export.

13. **Freedom from Antibiotics etc**

Paragraph IV p) refers. To certify paragraph IV p), the OV should obtain a written declaration from the owner/manager of the

flock(s) of origin stating that they have not been treated with therapeutic antimicrobials, or if treated, the necessary withdrawal times have been observed.

The term "therapeutic antimicrobial" should be read as referring to antibiotics used in treatment of clinical conditions. The hatching eggs/day old chicks may be tested in Israel for the presence of therapeutic antimicrobials.

14. **Freedom from Toxic Agents etc**

Paragraph IV q) refers. The certifying OV may need to rely upon a signed statement (form 304SUP) from the regular flock veterinarian. The latter may ask the flock owner/manager for a written statement in the case of any uncertainty. See also paragraph 15 below.

The Israeli import conditions require that "the Israeli authorities have been notified of any findings regarding infectious or toxic agents at least 48 hours prior to exports". You are asked to confirm that you are aware of this requirement, so that the absence of any notification can be assumed to confirm the absence of any information about infectious or toxic agents.

15. **Support Statements from Flock Veterinarian**

In cases where the certifying OV is not the regular veterinarian at the flock(s) of origin, it will be necessary for the certifying OV to rely on support statements from the flock veterinarian. The support certificate 304SUP will be issued by APHA/DAERA at the same time as the main certificate 304EHC.

16. **No paragraph IV i)**

Note that the paragraph notation in the certificate reads IV h) to IV j) with paragraph IV i) omitted. This is intentional in order to avoid confusion as roman numeral 'i.' is used to number indented paragraphs.

17. **Welfare of Animals**

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.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team
Centre for International Trade
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street, Carlisle
CA3 8DX
Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301
E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.

NOTES FOR COMPLETION OF 304SPT

The supplementary certificate (304SPT) is required by Israel only at times when the UK has been affected by an outbreak of avian influenza. If the OV or the flock veterinarian has any doubt they should consult APHA Carlisle, Centre for International Trade. Tel 03000 200 301.

18. **Notifiable Disease Clearance.**

Paragraph II a) refers. This paragraph may be certified if the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by APHA or DAERA before shipment. Origin premises must not, at time of certification, be within the 10km restricted zone in place due to any outbreak of Notifiable Avian Influenza.

Paragraph II b) refers. The exporter must inform APHA/DAERA about the route from the farm or hatchery of origin to the airport of departure. On the basis of this information APHA/DAERA will be able to provide a 618NDC statement, provided that the consignment has not travelled through any 10km restricted zone in place due to an outbreak of Notifiable Avian Influenza.

19. **Compartment Statement**

Paragraph II c)i) refers. If all origin premises are in an approved Compartment, APHA will provide confirmation on form 618NDC. This provides an exemption from the testing requirements, and so II c)ii) and all of III can be deleted.

20. **Avian Influenza Testing**

Paragraph II c)ii) refers. If any origin premises are not in an approved Compartment, it is necessary to carry out the listed tests for avian influenza. Sixty birds must be selected at random on the farm of origin. The same birds may be used for all 3 tests. It is advisable to identify each bird with cross reference to each sample, in case of any inconclusive or apparent positive results.

Samples for PCR testing under III a) or III b) must be submitted to the APHA laboratory at Weybridge. It is advisable for the veterinarian in charge of the sampling to contact the laboratory well in advance, to advise them of the forthcoming tests, and to get any advice or equipment for the procedures.

Samples for ELISA testing under III c) may be tested either at APHA, or at a government approved laboratory which uses an ELISA test accredited under ISO 17025.

21. **Disclaimer: Applicable to both Certificates**

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