

EXPORT OF POULTRYMEAT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO - 7771EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but always in conjunction with certificate 7771EHC. 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 fresh poultry meat to Kosovo (fresh meat is defined as not being processed or subject to any other preservative treatment apart from freezing. This would include whole carcasses or smaller cuts from carcasses, and poultry meat mince and mechanically recovered poultry meat (MRM)). The conditions in the certificate are identical to the conditions in the EU model certificate in EU Regulation 798/2008 for the import of fresh poultry meat from Third Countries into the EU.

This Department has not been able to obtain official confirmation from the authorities in Kosovo that they will accept regionalisation of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to allow imports from areas in the UK other affected regions. This poultry meat certificate, as envisaged by the OIE, does **not** require assurances for low pathogenic avian influenza. **EXPORTERS MAY USE THIS CERTIFICATE, BUT AT THEIR OWN RISK WHICH CAN BE REDUCED BY ENSURING THE IMPORTER CHECKS THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE BORDER INSPECTORS/ KOSOVAN AUTHORITIES.**

Please note that this Department will assume, unless informed otherwise by an exporter or by the veterinary authorities in the country of destination, that certificate 7771EHC meets Kosovo's import requirements and, therefore, that it is acceptable to the importing country's authorities, however this cannot be guaranteed. Destination countries may change their requirements at short notice; not inform the Department until after a change has been made; or, in some cases, not inform the Department at all.

It is therefore strongly advised that exporters check with their customers that certificates are acceptable to the authorities in the country of destination in advance of each consignment. This Department will not accept liability should it turn out that certification supplied by us does not meet an importing country's requirement.

2. Official Signature

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.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with an OV 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.

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. **PART I: Details of despatched consignment**

The issuing office of APHA or DAERA will complete a certain amount of information in type written script. The OV/AVI must complete the remainder in legible handwriting.

Box 1.2. This number will be supplied and filled in by the issuing office of APHA in Carlisle.

Box 1.3. DEFRA is pre-printed.

Box 1.4. APHA or DAERA town (the town where the OV's local APHA or DAERA office is situated)

Box 1.7. The ISO code for the whole of the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland is GB.

Box 1.8. Region of origin: give the county where the cutting plant or cold store of despatch is located. For the ISO code write GB.

Box 1.9. Country of destination: Write Kosovo in both boxes 9 and 10; the ISO code should be left blank, as Kosovo has not yet been assigned a code under the ISO system.

Box 1.11. Give details of the final cutting plant or cold store.

Box 1.15. Under 'Documentary references' write 'health certificate'.

Box 1.16. BIP in RKS means 'in the republic of Kosovo'. The exporter must provide the BIP information to the OV.

Box 1.17 Under CITES write 'not applicable'.

Box 1.19. Insert the commodity code 02.07.

Boxes 1.20. and 1.22. In 1.20 put the total net weight, and in 1.22. put the number of packages, boxes or containers.

Boxes 1.25. and 1.27. Tick the boxes

Box 1.28. Under 'approval number of the establishment' give the Food Standards Agency (FSA) approval number of the premises at which the meat was cut or packed for export. For the cutting plant and cold store it is not necessary to provide the addresses, but only the FSA approval numbers. The information in this box may repeat the information in box 1.11.

4. **Section II.1. Public Health Attestation**

Knowledge of Kosovan regulations may be overlooked, provided that the alternative of conformity with EU regulations can be certified. The specified EU regulations are all applicable to the production of fresh poultry meat within the EU. Fresh meat may be marketed for human consumption within the EU only if it has been slaughtered, cut or further processed, and cold-stored, in premises which must all be officially approved and supervised by the local competent authority, in accordance with the EU Food Hygiene Regulations. In the UK the competent authority is the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

The FSA is also responsible for checking and ensuring that any meat entering an approved premises has complied with all EU Food Hygiene regulations prior to arrival. The official EU oval health mark is taken as evidence of that compliance. If the OV is certifying meat to be exported from a cutting or processing plant or cold store which is FSA approved and supervised, the OV may certify compliance with all EU Food hygiene regulations on the basis of FSA supervision. This would apply to the whole of section II.1, sub-paragraphs (a) to (f).

5. **Section II.2. Animal Health Attestation**

Notifiable Disease Clearance (See also paragraphs 8 and 12 below)

Section II.2.1. Freedom from highly pathogenic avian influenza and Newcastle disease

In the line titled 'territory of code' the OV must write 'GB'. The line titled 'compartment' must be deleted.

The ISO code for the country of origin entered in Section II.2.1 will be applicable to the whole territory of the country of origin **except any areas under restriction** according to EC 798/2008 due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease under the principle of Regionalisation/Zoning at the time of signature of the certificate or at the time of slaughter of the birds from which the meat was produced, as applicable.

Freedom from highly pathogenic avian influenza and Newcastle disease, and absence of any animal health restrictions, may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be provided by the issuing office [in GB, APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle; or the relevant issuing office in N. Ireland].

Note that the 'absence of any animal health restrictions' applies only to notifiable poultry disease; therefore only notifiable avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

6. **Section II.2.2 Avian influenza Vaccination**

The vaccination of domestic poultry for avian influenza in the UK is forbidden under EU regulations, except with special dispensation at times of particular risk (EU Directive 2005/94/EC). The UK has never applied to the EU for approval of the use of AI vaccination in domestic poultry, and the OV may certify on that basis.

The OV must delete the alternative sub-paragraph requiring details of the vaccination, in cases where it has been given.

7. **Section II.2.3 Flock Residency**

In the line titled 'territory of code' the OV must write 'GB'. The line titled 'compartment' must be deleted.

The meat must have been derived from birds which were kept in the UK since hatching, or were imported to the UK as day old chicks in accordance with the EU Regulation 798/2008. The OV may certify this on the basis that the meat has been cut and packaged, and held in a cold store, within the UK which are under the supervision of the FSA. It is part of the responsibilities of the FSA to ensure that no meat enters any approved premises unless it meets all the requirements of EU Food Hygiene legislation, which includes the above details (see paragraph 5 above).

8. **Section II.2.4. Animal Health Restrictions**

Note that the 'absence of any animal health restrictions' applies only to the notifiable poultry diseases specified elsewhere in this certificate; therefore only highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease (ND).

The statements in this section referring to animal health restrictions, and outbreaks of notifiable disease, may be certified on receipt of authority in form 618NDC confirming that farms of origin are not within 10km of an outbreak confirmed in the 30 days prior to slaughter, which is fully in line with the minimum time required before lifting official restrictions from the 10km around the infected premises.

9. **Section II.2.5. (a) Date of Slaughter**

The OV may obtain information about the slaughter dates from the exporter or his agent.

10. **Section II.2.5. (b) Slaughter under disease control programme**

The fact that the meat is handled and stored in premises under the supervision of the FSA (paragraph 5 above) may be taken as confirmation that the meat has not been slaughtered under any official disease control programme. Further evidence comes from the presence of the official EU oval health mark

11. **Section II.2.5. (c) Contact with Disease during transport**

The OV may obtain information about the route and conditions of transport prior to slaughter from the exporter or his agent. The OV may assume that if notifiable poultry disease was not present in the

relevant regions of the United Kingdom during the time of transport to slaughter, and the route did not pass through any infected regions, the slaughter birds did not come into contact with any infected birds

12. **Section II.2.6. (a) Slaughterhouse Conditions**

The statements in this section referring to animal health restrictions, and outbreaks of notifiable disease close to the slaughterhouse(s), may be certified on the same basis as in paragraph 8 above. They will be covered by the form 618NDC.

13. **Section II.2.6. (b) Contact with poultry or meat of a lower health status.**

The statements in this section referring to contacts with poultry or meat of a lower health status may be certified on the same basis as in paragraph 5 above.

14. **Section II.2.7 - Newcastle disease Vaccination - special assurances**

The whole of this section applies only to certain Third Countries in which Newcastle disease vaccine controls may not be equivalent to the EU, and does not apply to countries of origin within the EU (as explained in footnote number 8 at the bottom of the certificate). The OV must cross out the whole of section II.2.7 if the birds/meat are of EU origin only.

If the birds or the meat were imported into the EU, this should have been under the relevant model certificate for the import of poultry into the EU and from a country/zone included in the Schedules of Regulation 798/2008/EC as eligible. In this case, the OV may certify this section on the basis of having sight of a copy of the specific certificate used to import the birds/meat into the EU. If the birds/meat were certified as equivalent to EU Newcastle disease vaccination policy, then the whole of this section should also be crossed out.

15. **Section II.3. Animal Welfare Attestation**

This section may be certified on the same basis as in paragraph 5 above. If the birds were slaughtered at an approved slaughterhouse within the EU the OV may assume that the provisions of the EU legislation have been met.

16. **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