

EXPORT OF CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS AND DAY OLD CHICKS TO IRAN

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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to the Official Veterinarian (OV) and the exporter. The NFG should have been issued to you together with its related export health certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate. 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. Conditions as stated in the health certificate should be compared to those of any import permit received.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate is for the export of hatching eggs or day old birds of the chicken species *Gallus gallus* to Iran.

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.

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. **GENERAL HEALTH STATEMENTS**

Paragraphs IV a) and b) refer. 'Clinical evidence' should be interpreted as including observed clinical symptoms, information from flock production and mortality records, laboratory sample results and pathological reports.

4. **MYCOPLASMA TESTING**

Paragraph IV c) refers. For M.gallisepticum the routine testing carried out under the rules for a poultry health scheme (PHS/NIPHAS) will meet the conditions for this paragraph. For M.synoviae it is necessary to conduct an additional test because this is not covered under the requirements of the PHS/NIPHAS. It will be sufficient if the last set of samples taken for M.gallisepticum testing under the PHS is also tested for M.synoviae. These tests must all be carried out at a laboratory approved by Defra or DAERA for Mycoplasma testing under the PHS.

5. **POULTRY HEALTH SCHEME MEMBERSHIP**

Paragraph IV d) refers. This paragraph may be certified by the OV provided that they have verified, either from personal knowledge or by receiving written confirmation from APHA-CIT Carlisle (or the relevant team in N. Ireland), that the hatchery is a current member of the PHS or NIPHAS.

It is the responsibility of the certifying veterinarian to further check that all the test results for the flock(s) have been negative.

6. **FLOCK VACCINATION**

Paragraph IV e) refers. Any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA. The use of vaccines imported under a VMD issued Special Import Certificate (SIC) or, of autogenous vaccines manufactured and used with the approval of the VMD, can be considered to have the equivalent of a marketing authorisation in the UK.

If there is insufficient space in the table, the OV may attach a separate schedule providing the same information as the table. The schedule must be signed, stamped and dated by the OV in ink of any colour other than black, and firmly stapled to the certificate. The table must be annotated 'see separate schedule'.

7. **VACCINATION OF DAY-OLD CHICKS**

Paragraph IV f) refers. Note that the Iranian import conditions normally specify that a bivalent vaccine must be used.

8. **WOAH STANDARDS**

Paragraph IV g) refers. This paragraph applies only in the case of day old chicks, and must be deleted in the case of hatching eggs. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE) Terrestrial

Animal Health Code lays down conditions for hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries. These conditions are incorporated in the United Kingdom government supervised poultry health scheme (PHS/NIPHAS). Consequently, any flock or hatchery which is a member of the PHS/NIPHAS applies and exceeds the conditions laid down in the WOAHA Code.

Paragraph IV g) may be certified by the OV provided that they have verified, either from personal knowledge or by receiving written confirmation from APHA-CIT Carlisle (or the relevant team in N. Ireland), that the hatchery is a current member of the PHS/NIPHAS; AND the OV must personally verify by personal knowledge or by reference to any relevant records that none of the specified infections have been isolated at the hatchery during the past 6 months.

With reference to yolk sac infections, it is accepted that a small incidence (typically about 0.1%) of yolk sac infections is normal in eggs from clinically healthy flocks. The paragraph can be certified if the incidence is of this order, but not if there is a significantly higher incidence indicating a real clinical problem.

9. **FEED DEFICIENCIES**

Paragraph IV h) refers. This statement must be provided by the veterinarian responsible for the flock(s) of origin, based on his/her clinical experience and observations.

10. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE**

Paragraphs IV i) and j) may be certified provided the OV has received written authority (form 618NDC) from APHA-CIT Carlisle, or the relevant authority in NI, which will be sent to them prior to export.

With reference to the definition of HPNAI affected zones in paragraph j), this should be applied around any outbreak of HPNAI in poultry as defined by the WOAHA Terrestrial Manual. In addition to UK domestic disease control procedures, Iranian import requirements must also be adhered to. These require that no exports of poultry are allowed from **premises within 25km** of a confirmed outbreak premises, until 3 months after effective cleansing and disinfection of the affected premises.

For any avian influenza outbreak that is not HPAI in poultry according to the WOAHA definition, the affected zone is defined according to UK domestic disease control procedures.

For further information, please contact: APHA Centre for International Trade - Carlisle.

In the case of flocks of origin located in another country, hatching eggs from those flocks should have been imported into the UK accompanied by the appropriate import documentation, which will provide some of the necessary official clearances about the flocks of origin. The OV must inspect the import documentation and any relevant official clearances issued by the Competent Authority to make sure that they are in order and that they have the supporting evidence to certify these paragraphs.

11. **SUPPORT CERTIFICATE**

Paragraphs IV a), c), d), e) and h) refer. When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the flock veterinarian should complete form 1018SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in these paragraphs are complied with. The support health certificate will normally be provided by the APHA-CIT Carlisle at the same time as the export health certificate.

For flocks of origin located in another country, the relevant import documentation must be checked.

12. **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

13. **WELFARE CONDITIONS DURING TRANSPORT**

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.