

EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT (INCLUDING RAW MEAT PREPARATIONS), POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS AND MECHANICALLY SEPARATED POULTRY MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION TO MOZAMBIQUE

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS

1. 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.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate (7369EHC) may be used for the export of fresh poultry meat (including raw meat preparations), poultry meat products and mechanically separated poultry meat for human consumption from the United Kingdom to Mozambique.

IMPORTANT: The certificate can only be used to export poultry meat or raw meat preparations derived from poultry slaughtered in the UK.

Fresh poultry meat means all parts of domestic poultry which are fit for human consumption and which have not undergone any preserving process. This includes offals such as livers, gizzards, hearts and necks which have been passed and health-marked fit for human consumption. Chilled and frozen meat is considered to be fresh meat.

3. 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.

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 OV's 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.

4. IMPORT PERMIT

Exporters are responsible for ascertaining whether an import permit is a compulsory requirement in the importing country, and if so, for ensuring that the importer has obtained the necessary permit. The import permit/license number should be entered in the relevant section on the first page of the 7369EHC.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraphs IV a) and c) refer. These statements may be signed on behalf of the Department provided the OV is in receipt of written authority from APHA (for GB) or DAERA (for NI) which will be sent to the OV before shipment. Authority is based on information of origin premises provided at the time of application.

Paragraph a) refers to freedom from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease of the premises (farms) of origin of the birds. At times when the UK is not officially free of these diseases, authority to certify would be given for premises eligible to export to the European Union (i.e. premises outside of any zones restricted for export to the European Union due to disease control restrictions). The authority will relate to birds of UK origin only.

If the flocks of origin were located in another country, freedom from these notifiable diseases must be certified on the basis of the assurances in the health certificate under which the birds were imported into UK, or after receiving official written confirmation of the official disease freedom status of the country/region/premises of origin from the veterinary authority of the country of origin.

Paragraph c) requires that the meat production plants are not subject to restrictions for the control of notifiable diseases. At times when the UK is not officially free of notifiable diseases of poultry, authority to certify c) would be given for premises located outside of any zones in force due to an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease.

6. **HEALTH STATUS OF BIRDS**

Paragraphs IV a) and b) refer. The reference to 'clinically healthy birds' in paragraph a) may be certified on the basis of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England and Wales, Food Standard Scotland (FSS) or DAERA in N. Ireland are responsible for ensuring that all poultry intended for human consumption is subject to ante mortem inspection (which may be largely based on observations at the farm of origin), and post-mortem inspection at an FSA/FSS approved slaughterhouse. All poultry meat which has passed official control inspections will carry the approved oval identification mark on the packaging, as laid down in the UK meat hygiene Regulations, (The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013, and the equivalent in the devolved regions).

7. **UK LEGISLATION**

Paragraph IV d) refers.

The food hygiene legislation is implemented by the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013, and its equivalent in the devolved regions.

If the carcass meat (or its packaging) have been marked with the official oval identification mark, the OV can assume that the meat has met all the requirements of the legislation.

8. **RESIDUE TESTING AND FREEDOM FROM CONTAMINANTS**

Paragraphs IV e) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis of the oval identification mark, which demonstrates compliance with UK Food Hygiene Regulations, and the National Surveillance Scheme for residues (anti-microbials etc).

The UK has in place a statutory veterinary residue surveillance scheme in fulfilment of its obligations retained under the Official Controls Regulation 2017/625 and, Council Directive 96/22/EC. An annual surveillance plan is operated by the VMD under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and respective pieces of regulations in Wales and NI. Samples are analysed from food producing animals for residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances and various contaminants. On the basis of this testing plan it can be considered that the fresh poultry meat/poultry meat products do not exceed the permitted levels of any veterinary medicinal product, pesticides, heavy metal contaminant, and prohibited substances -beta-agonist or any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally in the meat.

9. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraph IV f) and g) may be certified on the basis of identification marks from fully licensed slaughterhouse/s or meat products establishments which demonstrate compliance with the requirements of UK Food Hygiene Regulations.

Paragraph IV h) and j) may be certified on the basis of a written declaration from the responsible person in the establishment.

10. **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