

EXPORT OF PET BIRDS TO ARGENTINA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

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 8758EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8758EHC. 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 covers the export of pet birds to Argentina.

For the purposes of this certificate, "pet birds" refers to birds, other than poultry species, that are kept in captivity for non-commercial or non-production purposes. Birds intended for sport, falconry and biological control are excluded.

A maximum of five birds are permitted to be considered as pet birds. The birds must be accompanied by the owner or consigned by him/her for non-commercial transit or transfer of ownership. The birds must have resided at the owner's address for the 60 days prior to export.

Captive non-poultry birds not meeting the above criteria may instead use certificate 8139EHC for the export of captivity birds (wild or ornamental) to Argentina.

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.

OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the 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 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.

3. **Import Licence**

Exporters are responsible for ascertaining whether an import permit is a compulsory requirement in the importing country, and if so, for ensuring that they, or the importer in case of transfer of ownership, have obtained the necessary permit.

4. **Origin of the birds and owner's declaration**

The birds must be kept from birth or at least sixty (60) days prior to dispatch to under the care of their owner in their domicile of origin.

As referred in paragraph IV 1. on arrival in Argentina the owner of the bird(s) must present a written statement that the bird(s) remained in the home of origin for the sixty (60) days immediately prior to the export.

5. **Notifiable avian disease in the UK**

Though not specifically mentioned within the conditions of the certificate, exporters and OV's should ensure that all requirements are met regarding the movement of birds in relation to any control zones in place due to outbreaks of notifiable avian disease.

Restriction zones can be seen on the [APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map](#), or for Northern Ireland the [DAERA Avian Influenza Map Viewer](#).

Further detail is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.

6. **Pre-export quarantine and Clinical examination**

Paragraph IV. 2 refers. The birds must have been kept under official supervision in pre-export isolation at the domicile of origin for a minimum period of twenty-eight (28) days prior to departure.

"Official supervision" means that the OV must be confident that the isolation requirements have been sufficient to "effectively protect from contact with any other birds". The OV should discuss with the owner how this will be achieved.

If the OV is not already familiar with the owner's home/facilities, the OV must visit before isolation begins, and inspect the home/facilities that will be used for pre-export isolation of the birds and agree how the birds will be managed during isolation. The OV must be satisfied these are suitable for that purpose and check and record the identity of each of the birds in isolation. The OV may request photographic/video evidence to demonstrate that isolation requirements are being kept through the isolation period.

In the 28 days prior to export the birds must be kept isolated from any other birds other than those included in this isolation. The birds should be kept permanently housed during the isolation period and not allowed to exercise outside, unless an outside enclosed area can effectively prevent any contact with other birds (including contact with wild birds or their droppings). The number of people having contact with the birds in isolation should be minimised. If the owner has any other birds on the premises which are not part of the export consignment:

- These birds must be kept physically separate for the duration of isolation and should not share the same airspace. Alternatively, these birds may be kept in co-terminus isolation with the birds to be exported.
- Steps should be taken to minimise the risk of indirect contact by not moving items (e.g., feed/water bowls, bedding etc.) between non-isolating and isolating birds and through the use of personal protective equipment and disinfectant as appropriate.

If required, a Defra approved disinfectant used at an appropriate dilution rate for the control of Avian Influenza virus should be used.

The birds must be inspected by an Official Veterinarian in the **48 hours prior to departure** and found to show no clinical signs of infectious or parasitic diseases of the species.

7. **Vaccination History**

Paragraphs IV. 3.2 and 4.2 refer. If the official veterinarian cannot certify this statement based on his/her personal knowledge of the bird(s) he/she should obtain written declaration/evidence from the owner/exporter.

8. **Newcastle disease and Avian Influenza testing**

Paragraphs IV. 3.1 and 4.1 refer. PCR is currently the only permitted method of diagnosis for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. Any other diagnostic protocol for HPAI and/or ND must be communicated in advance to Defra, who will contact SENASA for approval.

Samples should be taken during the isolation period, at least 14 days from commencement of the 28 days pre-export isolation. Samples must be sent to the APHA Weybridge laboratory or the Biosciences Institute of Stormont in Northern Ireland. The OV should discuss the requirements with APHA in advance, including the submission of samples for both AI and ND tests together and discuss turnaround of results for certification and export purposes.

When samples are being taken, the OV should inspect the birds to ensure that there is no evidence of avian influenza.

9. **Additional treatment**

Paragraphs IV. 5 and 6 refer. During the pre-export isolation period the birds must be treated with antibiotics approved by the Competent Authority, effective against *Chlamydochloa psittaci* according to the

doses and indications recommended by the manufacturer. When necessary, veterinarians may need to refer to the manufacturer for advice and if necessary, follow the 'cascade' procedures.

Birds must not receive any vaccine during the pre-export isolation period and must be treated against internal and external parasites with products approved by the Competent Authority for the species in question.

The details of treatments must be indicated in the relevant section of the certificate and should include the active ingredient of the product used, date and doses.

10. **Attestation at the place of departure**

Section V refers. The birds must be inspected by an Official Veterinarian at the point of departure from the UK and must not show evidence of communicable disease. The inspection, and certification of part V, may be carried out by the same or different Official Veterinarian as that which certified after part IV.

11. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g., the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.). Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Department at the address given below:

Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS)
Zone 1/17, Temple Quay House,
2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB
Tel: 0117 372 8774
Fax: 0117 372 8206

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.

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.

13. **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:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk