EXPORT OF DAY-OLD CHICKS AND CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS TO ALGERIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

1. **Scope of the certificate.**

This certificate is for the export of chicken hatching eggs or day-old chicks of the species *Gallus gallus* to Algeria.

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 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

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. **Consignment Labelling**

VERY IMPORTANT: The Algerian authorities insist that each box or carton in the consignment must carry a label carrying at least the following details:

- country of origin
- name and address of exporter
- name and address of importer
- description of product
- approval number of establishment of origin (flock of origin for
- hatching eggs, or hatchery for day-old chicks)
- batch number
- strain identification details of parent birds
- age of parent birds
- date of lay

The official veterinarian should ensure that the exporter understands these requirements.

4. **Poultry Health Scheme Membership and Approval numbers**

Paragraphs II c), e) and IV d), h) refer. For UK origin, the approval number required is the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) membership number in GB, or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) number in NI. Membership of PHS/NIPHAS may be certified by the OV provided that they have received written authority (Form 618NDC for GB) before shipment.

For non-UK origin, unless specified within the import permit that origin premises must be within the UK, this is the membership number for an equivalent managed scheme; the OV must receive assurances from the country of origin regarding the approval number and the flock of origin that the scheme is equivalent to the PHS/NIPHAS. The OV can then certify all paragraphs related to the flocks of origin and paragraph IV d) and IV h) regarding PHS.

The additional comment in paragraph IV d) concerning regular veterinary inspections at least every 3 months must be verified by the OV, in discussion if necessary with the veterinarian routinely responsible for the flock(s) of origin. The diseases in paragraph IV h) are covered by the routine monitoring programme required under the PHS or NIPHAS. The OV must be satisfied that the laboratory test results have been negative in all cases throughout the life of the flock(s) of origin.

5. **Clinical inspections**

The inspection at paragraph IV a) must be carried out within 24 hours prior to export. In the case of hatching eggs, no inspection is required, and this paragraph may be deleted.

6. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

The statements in paragraphs IV b) and c) may be certified by the OV provided that they have received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them before shipment by the APHA Centre for International Trade, or from DAERA in Northern Ireland, respectively, for flocks of UK origin. For flocks of non-UK origin, the OV must ensure

that the relevant attestations are supported by the relevant import health certificate, or otherwise they must get the necessary assurances from officials in the country of origin.

For paragraph IV c), the flocks of origin/ the hatchery must be located outside the area of any 10km avian influenza disease control zone for at least 3 months from the day domestic zone restrictions are lifted.

Similarly, IV b) requires at least 6 months from the day domestic zone restrictions are lifted.

7. **Flock Disease Clearance**

Paragraph IV e) refers. 'Evidence' should be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock production and mortality records, laboratory test records, and pathological reports on post mortem examinations. For flocks of non-UK origin, the OV must be satisfied that there was no evidence of the mentioned diseases on the premises of origin, in discussion if necessary with the veterinarian routinely responsible for the flock(s) of origin.

8. **Salmonella Monitoring**

Paragraph IV f) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the flock(s) of origin have been routinely monitored by bacteriological samples as required under the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Order 2006.

If the OV signing the certificate does not have personal knowledge of all the flock(s) of origin, he/she should seek the necessary assurances from the OV(s) responsible for the flock(s) of origin, and this must include an assurance that no other serotypes of Salmonella including S.arizona have been isolated during the past 6 months.

9. **Mycoplasma Testing**

The testing specified at paragraph IV g) 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 must be carried out at a 'government approved laboratory'. In the UK, this means either the Central Veterinary Laboratory of APHA at Weybridge/Lasswade, or the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute at Stormont, or a laboratory which has been officially approved for serology Mycoplasma testing.

For flocks of non-UK origin, testing must be carried out at a laboratory approved to carry out such testing by the government of the country of origin.

10. **Vaccination**

Paragraphs IV j) to m) refer. Where the size of the table is insufficient to accommodate details of all the vaccines used in the flocks of origin, a separate schedule may be used. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in paragraph IV j), which should be annotated "see attached schedule". The certifying OV must draw a line under the last entry of the schedule and sign, date and stamp it in a colour other than black. The schedule must be firmly stapled to the export health certificate and referenced with the unique number of the particular export health certificate at the top right-hand corner. The corners of each sheet should be turned over, 'fanned', and stamped with the Official Veterinarian stamp.

Newcastle disease vaccine: Paragraph IV j). Note that the vaccine must not be used within the last 4 weeks prior to collection of the eggs for export, or for incubation. The OV may wish to obtain a written declaration from the owner/exporter to confirm that no Newcastle disease vaccine has been used on any of the flocks of origin during this time. The vaccine which was used prior to that must be recorded in paragraph IV (j). It must have been either inactivated, or if live, must have been produced from a master seed composed of a lentogenic strain of the virus. European legislation lays down that the master seed for any vaccine used in the European Union must be equivalent to lentogenic, i.e. with an intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) no greater than 0.5 (Commission Decision 93/152/EEC). Consequently if a live vaccine has a current marketing authorisation from a Member State of the EU, it can be assumed to be derived from a lentogenic strain.

Gumboro vaccine: Note that the Gumboro vaccination applied in the flocks of origin must have been been boosted with an inactivated vaccine.

Chick Vaccination for Marek's disease and Gumboro disease: Paragraphs IV l) and m). The Algerian import conditions stipulate that the Marek's disease vaccine used on the chicks must be at least a bivalent type. Any Marek's or Gumboro vaccine that has a marketing authorisation in the United Kingdom will meet the standards laid down in the European Pharmacopoeia.

11. **Contact with infectious disease**

Paragraph IV n) refers. The OV must certify this paragraph on the basis of his/her knowledge of conditions in the hatchery.

In the case of hatching eggs the statement does not apply and the paragraph should be deleted.

12. **Egg Marks**

Paragraph IV o) refers. Exporters must be aware of this requirement by the Algerian authorities. The frequently used method of marking hatching eggs by an indelible stripe, and provision of full recording details on the outer packing, is not accepted as sufficient by the Algerian authorities. In the case of day-old birds this paragraph should be deleted.

13. **Packing and Transport**

Paragraphs IV p) and q) refer. The OV must personally verify the condition of the packing materials and transport. The Algerian authorities do not accept certification on the basis of a written declaration from the owner/exporter.

Vehicles must be disinfected before the crates are loaded for

transport. Under EU Council Regulation EC/1/2005, implemented in Great Britain by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and its equivalent in the devolved regions, any vehicle carrying live poultry must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

A Defra approved disinfectant must be used. Disinfectants are approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (England)Order 2007 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant, and there is a sub-group specifically approved for use with poultry, on the basis of their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses. Defra approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

14. **Shipping conditions**

Paragraph IV r) refers. In order to certify this paragraph the OV must make enquiries of the exporter, and ask to see any relevant supporting documentation. The OV may ask the exporter to provide a signed statement to confirm that the relevant arrangements have been made.

15. **No paragraph i)**

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

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

17. **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.