

EXPORT OF EGGS/EGG PRODUCTS TO HONG KONG - 7847EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS: 7847EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 7847EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 7847EHC.

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

Export health certificate 7847EHC may be used for the export of eggs/egg products, from UK source flocks, for human consumption to Hong Kong.

2. 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 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. **SUPPORT CERTIFICATION**

Paragraph IV a) refers. The eggs to be exported, or used in the product to be exported, must originate from UK flocks. In situations where the flock of origin is attended by a different veterinarian (or Egg Marketing Inspector (EMI) for APHA if they have the knowledge to confirm) from the certifying OV, the latter may complete the export health certificate on the basis of appropriate support statements from the Attending Vet or EMI covering the flock(s) of origin.

4. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV b) refers. This paragraph may be certified provided the Official Veterinarian has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them by the APHA Exports in Carlisle, or in the case of Northern Ireland, from the issuing office of DAERA.

A premises of origin would be considered to be within a zone free from Notifiable Avian Influenza if it is not within a disease control zone in place due to an outbreak of avian influenza.

Further requirements on origin premises are stipulated by the Centre for Food Safety of Hong Kong (CFS). This enforces additional suspension on the import of poultry meat and products, including poultry eggs, from areas affected by avian influenza, until such time as CFS confirms suspensions have been lifted. These suspensions are placed on the district (or equivalent) in which any outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is confirmed in poultry, and can be in place for a significant period after the domestic restricted zone has been lifted.

Notification of restrictions are published by CFS at https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_ifc.html. Exporters are advised to consult the APHA Centre for International Trade, or DAERA in Northern Ireland, for further details.

5. **FREEDOM FROM POULTRY DISEASES AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCES**

Paragraph IV d) refers. This statement should be interpreted in the context of the certificate being for eggs for human consumption. It is not certifiable if the eggs are suspected to be contaminated by infections which would prohibit normal trade in table eggs (without requiring heat treatment) - for example evidence of *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, Notifiable Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease in the flocks of origin. Eggs may be deemed to be free of harmful substances if their domestic sale is not restricted due to an investigation for a residue violation.

6. **EXPORTER/MANUFACTURER'S DECLARATION**

Paragraphs IV c), d) and e) refer. These paragraphs may be certified on the basis of:

EITHER:

familiarity with the factory processes in place, supported by relevant

documentation and/or suitable records (such as treatment/testing records, commercial documentation, veterinary certification);

OR:

The manufacturer/exporter or EMI for APHA may supply a declaration including exactly the same wording as the matters to be certified. This must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process and is aware of the requirements. The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence. The Certifying OV should examine the declaration and, if required, make any other enquiries that he/she may consider appropriate to verify the statement. Where possible, supporting evidence (for example, health certificates for raw materials, showing their country of origin, or documentation of other relevant details) should be called for and put on file. Official Veterinarians should keep a copy of the declaration for record purposes.

Official Veterinarians should ensure that all packaging is new or appropriately sanitised.

The RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct 2000 states that [Veterinary Surgeons] "must not recklessly confirm what other people have stated".

7. **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