

## **EXPORT OF CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS AND DAY-OLD CHICKS OF DOMESTIC FOWL TO ZIMBABWE**

### **NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER**

#### **1. Scope of the certificate.**

This certificate may be used for the export of hatching eggs or day old chicks of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) to Zimbabwe, including the export of day-old chicks hatched from imported hatching eggs.

#### **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.

The health certificate must be signed and stamped with 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](mailto: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. Import Permit**

Exporters should be reminded that the importer must apply for an import permit from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Zimbabwe. The permit number should be entered in III c).

The import permit should be reviewed to ensure the requirements align with the conditions in the 834EHC. If any condition required by the import permit is not contained in the 834EHC, the issuing office should be consulted before proceeding.

### **4. Flock health requirements**

Paragraphs IV c), d), e), h), q), t), and u) refer. These paragraphs can be certified on knowledge of the flock history, or after inspection of the records of the farms of origin.

### **5. Support certification**

Paragraphs IV a), c), d), e), f), g), h), l), o), q), r), s), t), and u) refer. When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the flock veterinarian should complete form 834SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in these paragraphs are complied with. The support health certificate will be provided by the issuing office (in GB, Centre for International Trade Carlisle) at the same time as the principal certificate.

In the case of flocks of origin located in other countries, hatching eggs from those flocks should have been imported into the UK accompanied by a valid health certificate, which will provide some of the assurances about the flocks of origin. The OV must inspect the certificate(s) to make sure that they are in order. Where any assurance with regards to the flock(s) of origin is not provided in the certificates above, it is the exporter's responsibility to get the necessary statements from the flock veterinarian and make them available to the certifying OV.

Evidence of disease should be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock production and mortality records, laboratory test records and pathological reports.

### **6. Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV b), j), k) and w) refer. These paragraphs may be certified provided the Official Veterinarian has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them by the issuing office (in GB, APHA Exports in Carlisle). In the case of Northern Ireland, a similar written authority must be obtained from the issuing office in Northern Ireland.

IV. b) requires no cases of Newcastle disease (ND) to have been confirmed at the premises of origin, or at the hatchery, or within a radius of 10km during the past 30 days.

IV. j) requires no cases of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) to

have been confirmed at the premises of origin during the past 3 months.

IV. k) (i) can be certified when the UK is officially free from HPAI. Otherwise, to certify option k) (ii), the farms of origin at the time of egg collection, and if applicable the hatchery at the time of hatching, must be outside of any 10km disease control zone in place for the control of HPAI. Restrictions last on disease control zones from the date of disease confirmation until the zone becomes eligible for export to the EU. However, if the import permit states a different requirement for HPAI regionalization, this overrides the above interpretation.

IV k) (iii) can be certified if all origin farms and the hatchery are in the GB Compartment Scheme.

IV w) requires that farms and hatcheries are free from any movement restrictions in place due to FMD.

In the case of day-old chicks hatched from imported eggs, some of the official clearances will be contained in the import certificate. If necessary, it is the exporter's responsibility to get the relevant statements from the competent authority in the country of origin and make them available to the certifying OV.

## **7. Clinical inspection**

The flock inspection at paragraph IV a) must be carried out within 28 days prior to shipment. The inspection of day-old birds at paragraph IV x) must be carried within 24 hours of export. IV x) should be deleted if exporting hatching eggs.

## **8. Salmonella Monitoring**

Paragraph IV f) refers. Paragraph IV f) may be certified on the basis that the flock(s) of origin have been routinely monitored as required under the National Control Plan for Salmonella or an equivalent official programme in the country of origin of the flocks. If the OV signing the certificate does not have personal knowledge of all the flock(s) of origin, they should seek the necessary assurances from the OV(s) responsible for the flock(s) of origin.

## **9. Poultry Health Scheme Membership**

Paragraphs IV g) and r) refer. The OV can certify membership of a UK poultry health scheme - in Great Britain the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) and in Northern Ireland the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) - provided written authority has been received on form 618NDC. This form will certify membership alone, and the OV must satisfy themselves by inspecting the relevant laboratory records that the test results have all been negative.

In the case of day-old chicks hatched from imported eggs, this official assurance may be contained in the import certificate. If necessary, it is the exporter's responsibility to obtain the relevant statements from the competent authority in the country of origin and make them available to the certifying OV.

## **10. Disinfection of the eggs**

Paragraph IV m) refers. The eggs must be disinfected as soon as possible after collection, and certainly prior to admission to the hatchery, as per the recommendations of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

#### 11. Mycoplasma synoviae test

Paragraph IV s) refers. The test must be carried out either at a UK Government laboratory, a laboratory approved under the PHS/NIPHAS or a laboratory officially approved in the country of origin for serological testing for Mycoplasma. The numbers to be tested for 95% confidence/ 5% prevalence are as follows:

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

#### 12. 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 sub-paragraphs.

#### 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, via the link or e-mail address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>  
DAERA - Email: [vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

#### 14. Welfare of Animals

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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.