

## **EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF DOMESTIC FOWL FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER**

#### **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. Conditions as stated in the health certificate should be compared to those of any import permit received.

#### **1. Scope of the Export Health Certificate**

The certificate is required for exports of chicken hatching eggs for research purposes to the United States of America.

#### **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.

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. Countersignature Requirements**

This certificate must be countersigned by a salaried Veterinary Official of the National Government in the Department of Environmental Food Rural Affairs in Great Britain or Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

In the case of exports to USA, an Official Veterinarian (OV) is an Authorized veterinarian of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or of the Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs (DAERA) \*.

All requests for countersignature must be submitted to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date/time of countersignature using Request for APHA Veterinarian Countersignature of an Export Health Certificate (ET145) application.

The ET145 application can be submitted to CITC by email to [processingteam@apha.gov.uk](mailto:processingteam@apha.gov.uk)

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian\* at your preferred countersigning office/area to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

\*In Northern Ireland, a DAERA salaried Official Veterinarian/ certifying officer is authorised to countersign this certificate.

### **4. Obtaining an import permit**

Paragraph I b) refers. Exporters should be reminded that they must apply for an import permit from the United States of America. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the following website: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/hatching-eggs>

### **5. Clinical inspection**

The inspection at paragraph IV a) must be carried out within 21 days prior to the intended date of export, and during the period of collection of the eggs for export. 'Clinical signs' of disease shall be interpreted as including information derived from flock records, laboratory test records and pathological reports.

### **6. Residence in the United Kingdom**

Paragraph IV b) refers. The Official Veterinarian must obtain a written declaration from the owner/exporter to confirm that all the birds in the flock(s) of origin have been resident in the United Kingdom for at least 90 days prior to export, and that no birds in the flock(s) of origin have been exposed to any communicable diseases of poultry during those 90 days.

7. **Notifiable Disease Clearance.**

Paragraphs IV c), d) and f) refer. The certification contained in these paragraphs may be certified by the OV provided that they has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them by the issuing office, in GB the APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the relevant issuing office in Northern Ireland, before shipment.

The Department will confirm for c) that there has not been any outbreak of Newcastle disease or avian influenza on the premises of origin (farms, and if applicable the hatchery or egg distribution centre), and for d) that the farms of origin are not in any area that has been subject to restrictions for these diseases for 90 days following effective cleansing and disinfection of any infected premises.

For IV f), this refers to movement of the eggs from the farm of origin through to arrival into the US, which must not pass through any area that has been subject to restrictions due to HPAI for 90 days following effective cleansing and disinfection of any infected premises. In the event of ongoing outbreaks in the UK or in any countries of transit, the exporter must obtain disease clearances for those countries, and the exporter should submit a route plan and a written declaration together with the application for this certificate so that the relevant disease clearances can be issued. If there are no ongoing concerns about HPAI, it may be enough to solely specify the countries of transit. In the absence of HPAI in the UK and provided the consignment will only travel within the UK, the 618NDC will confirm that there are no official restrictions due to HPAI in the premises of origin or the UK as a whole, without mentioning the specific transit areas in the UK.

Note that the link within the EHC is no longer valid. The current equivalent website is <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regionalization-evaluation-services/region-health-status>

The route plan, the exporter's declaration and the 618NDC disease clearance document should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

8. **Avian influenza vaccination**

Paragraph IV e) refers. The vaccination of domestic poultry for avian influenza in the UK is forbidden by legislation, except with special dispensation for certain categories of birds.

The OV must certify this paragraph on the basis of their personal knowledge of the premises of origin, supported by written statements which may be considered necessary from the owner and other veterinarians.

9. **Newcastle Disease Vaccination**

Paragraphs IV g) refers. The USA does not specify whether the flocks must be vaccinated. However, if vaccinated, the vaccine must not be derived from a velogenic strain of virus.

In the WOAHP Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines the Newcastle disease virus is differentiated into three classes; in descending order of virulence these are velogenic, mesogenic and lentogenic. The Manual specifies that vaccines should be prepared only from the latter two, less virulent strains. As all vaccines that are licensed for use in the UK must conform with the WOAHP Manual standards, the OV may certify this paragraph on the basis that any Newcastle disease vaccine, if used, had a valid marketing authorisation in the UK.

10. **Testing for EDS**

Paragraph IV h) refers. The test must be carried out within 90 days prior to export, and must be performed by ELISA test in a laboratory of APHA or the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, Stormont (there are no current government approved private laboratories for EDS testing).

11. **Salmonella testing**

Paragraph IV i) refers. In addition to the testing under National Control Plan (NCP) for salmonella, the USA requires microbiological sampling of the poultry shed environment.

An acceptable protocol would be as follows: The samples should be taken from the floor before littering up with fresh bedding and should concentrate on areas of fresh, moist faeces.

A minimum of 60 samples before pooling should be collected per airspace. Samples may be pooled to give 5 samples per pool. Each composite pool should amount to 25 grams composed of five 5-gram pinches collected at random. The testing must be carried out at a laboratory approved under the NCP for salmonella and advice should be taken from the laboratory about the best means of preserving the samples during transport.

In order to certify that there is no knowledge or evidence of the existing Salmonella Enteritidis the OV must also confirm that the results of testing under the NCP for salmonella (where applicable) have been consistently negative during the life of the flock.

12. **Avian Pneumovirus (TRT/SHS) monitoring**

Paragraphs IV j) refers. Testing may be done by whatever serology test is currently in standard use by either APHA or Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, Stormont.

13. **Disinfection of the eggs**

Paragraph IV k) refers. Hatching eggs should be cleaned and sanitized as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, as per the recommendation of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

14. **Packing Materials**

Paragraph IV k) refers. The OV is personally responsible for checking that the packing materials are new, clean and unused.

15. **Support certification**

In certificate 7431EHC, paragraphs IV a), b), e), g), h), i), j) refer. Where the flocks of origin are supervised by a different OV, the final certifying OV must obtain a support certificate 7431SUP from the flock veterinarian, confirming that the conditions of these paragraphs have been met.

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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)