

EXPORT OF CAPTIVE BIRDS TO SINGAPORE

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 6575EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 6575EHC. 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 6575EHC may be used for the export of captive birds, including pet birds, from the United Kingdom to Singapore.

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 Certificate System (DECS) 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**

The owner or his agent must apply for the import licence by submitting an online application through GoBusiness Licensing Portal (<https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/licences>) 30 days prior to the arrival of animals.

4. **Notification of arrival**

The importer or agent must make an appointment for the inspection of the bird(s) via the National Parks Bord e-services system at <https://avs-eservices.nparks.gov.sg/eservices/>, at least 5 days prior to arrival.

Animals brought for inspection without a prior appointment will be subject to additional inspection fees.

5. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Paragraph IV (a) can be certified on the basis that HPAI is a notifiable disease in all parts of the UK, as per the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals regulations.

Official Veterinarians may certify Paragraph IV. (b) (i) or (ii) and (d) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle on form 618NDC, or equivalent in Northern Ireland, based on information regarding the farms and premises of origin.

For paragraph IV. (b), the OV must certify one from sub-paragraph (i) or (ii), and delete the other option.

Sub-paragraph (i) aligns to the WOA (formerly OIE) Code Chapter 10.4 on infection with HPAI viruses. The paragraph can be certified 28 days following completion of a stamping-out policy, it is not required to wait a further 28 days following self-declaration of UK country freedom to the WOA.

For sub-paragraph (ii), the '10km surveillance zone' refers to any disease control zones currently in place due to an outbreak of HPAI in poultry as defined by the WOA. The 10km restrictions also apply to pet birds, for which 'farmed establishments' can be taken to mean the origin premises. Suspensions are put in place by the Singapore Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS) on these areas, suspensions can be viewed on the AVS website:

<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/-/media/avs/migrated-content/animals-and-pets/bringing-animals-into-singapore-and-exporting/import-export-other-animals/bird-flu-affected-countries.pdf>

6. **Vaccination History**

Paragraphs IV (c) refer. If the veterinarian responsible for the avian premises of origin cannot certify this statement on the basis of his/her personal knowledge he/she should obtain a written declaration from the flock owner/manager.

7. **Pre-export isolation**

Paragraph IV. (e) refers. The Singapore import conditions do not lay down specific terms for the quarantine premises. Consequently the OV must use his/her discretion to apply the normally accepted principles of biosecurity. Access by people must be restricted to authorised attendants only. Before quarantine commences the facility must be inspected and approved by the OV. As a minimum, one more inspection visit must be made at the end of the isolation period, and this may be the visit at which the export health certificate is completed. The OV may also make one or more additional, unannounced visits during the isolation period at his/her discretion, if he/she feels this is necessary in order to certify this paragraph.

8. **Laboratory testing**

Paragraph IV. (f) refers.

For consignments of 30 birds or fewer, all birds must be tested. For consignments of more than 30 birds, a minimum sample size of 30 birds is required.

Sampling may take the form of an oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs for virus isolation or RT-PCR carried out according to the WOA (formerly OIE) Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines. The test must be carried out at the Avian Virology Unit, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB - Tel. 01932 341111. The OV is advised to contact APHA by telephone well in advance to make sure that the results will be available in good time before the time of export, and to receive any special instructions about taking and sending the samples.

For virus isolation testing, pooling from the same anatomical site is permitted with not more than 10 samples in each pool.

9. **Clinical examination**

Paragraph IV. (g) refers. Note that the import conditions specify that the clinical examination must be conducted 'on the day of export'.

10. **Transport and containers**

Paragraph IV. (h) refers. The owner/exporter's written declaration should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for his/her personal records.

The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for the birds meet the standards laid down by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). They should ask the transporting airline to confirm this, and if necessary provide a copy of the relevant conditions.

11. **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.

12. **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