

EXPORT OF CHICKEN AND TURKEY HATCHING EGGS AND DAY OLD CHICKS AND TURKEY POULTS TO SYRIA

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.

1. Scope

EXPORTERS MAY USE THIS CERTIFICATE TO EXPORT CHICKEN AND TURKEY HATCHING EGGS ONLY, BUT AT THEIR OWN RISK WHICH CAN BE REDUCED BY ENSURING THE IMPORTER CHECKS THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE BORDER INSPECTORS/ SYRIAN AUTHORITIES.

Please note that this Department will assume, unless informed otherwise by an exporter or by the veterinary authorities in the country of destination, that certificate 390EHC meets Syria's import requirements and, therefore, that it is acceptable to the importing country's authorities, however this cannot be guaranteed. Destination countries may change their requirements at short notice, not inform the Department until after a change has been made, or, in some cases, not inform the Department at all.

It is therefore strongly advised that exporters check with their customers that certificates are acceptable to the authorities in the country of destination in advance of each consignment. This Department will not accept liability should it turn out that certification supplied does not meet an importing country's requirements.

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

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 OV's 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. Clinical inspection

The inspection at paragraph IV a) applies only in the case of day old chicks or poults. In the case of hatching eggs the paragraph should be deleted.

4. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraphs IV b) and c) may be certified on behalf of the Department provided the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) from APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the equivalent in Northern Ireland, which will be sent to them before shipment.

At times when the UK is not officially free of notifiable avian influenza, authority to certify part IV b)(ii) will be given when all origin premises are outside of any disease control zone in place due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry - farms at the time of collection of the eggs and hatcheries at the time of hatching. However, if requirements as stated in an import permit received from the importing authorities differ, this should be raised to the issuing office for advice.

5. Poultry health schemes and Salmonella clearance

Paragraphs IV d), e), f) and g) refer. Membership of a poultry health scheme at paragraph d) may be certified in GB if the flocks of origin have been members of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), or in Northern Ireland if they are members of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS), for at least a 2 year period at the date of collection of the hatching eggs. The certifying OV will receive written confirmation (form 618NDC) that the flocks are currently members of the scheme from APHA Centre for International Trade Exports, Carlisle, or the equivalent in Northern Ireland, prior to export.

The OV (or the flock veterinarian) is responsible to check that testing has been carried out as required by the relevant poultry health scheme/poultry order, that all results have been negative, that the birds remain free from clinical signs consistent with salmonellosis and to confirm that vaccination for the relevant salmonellas has not been carried out in the flock(s) of origin.

With reference to negative test results, the OV is personally responsible for obtaining confirmation that all the test results have been negative. The OV must check the laboratory reports, or receive written confirmation from the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flocks of origin.

The requirements for a control programme for Salmonellas of zoonotic significance (*Salmonella typhimorium*, *Salmonella enteritidis*) are implemented in England by The Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, and the equivalent Orders in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Paragraph g) refers. The OV is responsible to check and certify that the day old birds have not been vaccination for the relevant salmonellas.

6. **Flocks of origin disease clearance for 6 months**

Paragraph IV h) refers. Reference to free from infectious and contagious diseases in this statement to be taken as clinical signs of diseases.

Evidence of clinical signs should be interpreted as including clinically evident symptoms, information derived from flock production and mortality records, laboratory test reports and pathological examinations. Note that the statement refers only to frank outbreaks of clinical disease, and is not intended to refer to conditions which are routinely and effectively controlled by vaccination programmes (eg turkey rhinotracheitis); similarly the absence of clinical colibacillosis does not mean that there is a complete absence of *E.coli*.

7. **Vaccination of Chicks for Marek's Disease**

Paragraph IV i) refers. Syria does not stipulate that the chicks must be vaccinated for Marek's disease. However, if they are vaccinated it is necessary to record the details.

8. **Support certification**

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian, they should complete form 390SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in paragraphs IV d) - statement for the flock(s) of origin only, e), f) and h) of the 390EHC have been met.

9. **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

10. **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

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