Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for the entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of day-old chicks of ratites 8439

October 2025

Contents

No: 8439 NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of day-old chicks of ratites

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS (CO) AND EXPORTERS

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/429

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Directive 2009/158/EC

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 - Model EHC amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of EU legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the EU'.

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch of day-old chicks of ratites to the EU or NI. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

In addition to the relevant export certificate, day-old chicks of ratites transiting through the EU or NI must be accompanied by certificate(s) required by the third country of destination. 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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate is for movements into the EU or NI of day-old chicks of ratites.

It may also be used for day-old chicks of ratites transiting the EU to another third country.

This certificate is to be completed according to the notes for the completion of certificates provided for in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

The certifying OV must check the UK's status in the third country list. GB is listed for all of the relevant commodities. The relevant regulations are Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404 and 2021/405. These regulations have been amended by Implementing Regulations 2021/634 and 2021/606, adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV appointed by APHA on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC. There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Official Veterinarian Training:
https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled, and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.
- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official.

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with this new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8

You can also contact APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744.

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

'Day-old chicks' means poultry less than 72 hours old, as defined in Article 2 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

PART II: CERTIFICATION

II.1 Animal Health Attestation

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestation set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

They must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of Regulation (EU) 2020/692 regarding the health details of the flock of origin and guarantees for Newcastle disease and Avian Influenza (AI).

II.1.1 & (a) – Enter the territory code. GB is listed for all of the relevant commodities. The relevant regulations are Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404 and 2021/405. These regulations have been amended by Implementing Regulations 2021/634 and 2021/606, adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

II.1.1(b) - This can be signed based on the compliance of the UK's surveillance programme with EU guidelines and recognised compliance with Regulation (EU) 2021/404 requirements.

II.1.1(c) - May be certified on the basis that both are notifiable diseases. See Section 4.

II.1.2 – Each option may be certified based on the notifiable disease clearance in Section 4.

II.1.3(a) - The first option may be signed. This can be signed on the basis that vaccination against Avian Influenza (AI) is prohibited unless in an exceptional emergency situation where there is a risk of an outbreak spreading out of control. Vaccination of poultry against AI is not permitted within the EU, except in special circumstances in the face of an unusually high perceived risk of disease. In this case a special Decision will be issued specifying the conditions under which it is permitted. There is no current plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

II.1.3(b) - The first option may be certified on the basis that where poultry have come from the UK. Annex XV of Regulation (EU) 2020/692 relates to the pathogenicity index of the Newcastle disease vaccine. Any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA or the equivalent licensing body in another EU MS and therefore must have an intracerebral pathogenicity index of less than 0.4. Where poultry have been imported additional enquiries must be made to ensure that the vaccines have a suitably low pathogenicity index or that the additional statements can be satisfied.

Otherwise, the OV must inspect movement records and choose the most suitable option.

II.1.4 - The establishment must be named and supplied with a Poultry Health Scheme approval number that appears on a list of establishments drawn up and published by the Commission. This name and unique approval number must be in Box I.11

II.1.4(a) - Check that the approval has not been suspended

II.1.4(b) & (c) - This may be certified on the basis of establishments receiving regular animal health visits from a veterinarian. If the farm of origin is a member of the government Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or an approved farm assurance scheme Farm assurance schemes: evidence of vet visits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk which requires regular veterinary visit then this statement may be certified based on the relevant PHS or relevant farm assurance scheme membership.

The veterinary visits should take place at least once per year and must be a visit of the establishment at flock level for the purpose of detection of, or information on, occurrence of animal disease, or a statutory visit for flock health reasons.

If farms are not part of PHS or a recognized farm assurance scheme that mandate regular veterinary inspections, then a declaration from a private veterinarian confirming veterinary visitations to the farm is performed at least annually (or at a higher frequency if deemed proportionate to the animal health and welfare compliance risk in the holding) is required. A

sample Establishment Veterinary Visitation Attestation form can be found on APHA Official Veterinarian Training (ET242).

II.1.4(d) & (e) - May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the birds and eggs came from holdings in the UK.

II.1.5(a) - Requires that the flock of origin has been resident in the zone for a minimum of 3 months, prior to the collection of the hatching eggs. This may be certified after the OV has checked the movement records of the establishment. If animals have been introduced into the zone from **third countries,** the OV must have sight of the import permits to be satisfied that the health status of the imported flock meets those standards of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and that the country / zone of origin is listed in the Part 1. Section B of Annex V to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. The OV would be advised to keep copies of the import permits for their records. If animals were introduced into the zone from the **EU Member State(s)**, this can be certified after the OV has checked movement records of the establishment and had sight of relevant Import Health Certificate(s), to establish the origin of the imported animals. The OV would be advised to keep copies of the documents for their records.

II.1.5(b) - May be certified after checking the movement records of the establishment
(i) The establishment must be named and supplied with an approval number that appears on a list of establishments drawn up and published by the Commission. Enter the name, address and approval number.
(ii) Check that the approval has not been suspended
(iii) May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances. See Section 4.

II.1.5(c) - The first option may be certified on the basis that vaccination against AI is prohibited unless in an emergency situation where there is a risk of an outbreak. Vaccination of poultry against AI is not permitted within the EU, except in special circumstances in the face of an unusually high perceived risk of disease. In this case a special Decision will be issued specifying the conditions under which it is permitted. There is no current plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

II.1.5(d) - May be certified after the OV has checked the establishments records. One option must be deleted. The OV is advised to keep a copy of the records to support their certification. If the flock has been vaccinated against Newcastle disease, then the second option must be certified, and the table completed.

II.1.6(a) to (d) - May be certified by the OV having personal knowledge of the establishment. The OV may wish to receive a declaration from the owner for their records. Hatching eggs must be labelled using coloured ink/ the stamp must indicate the approval number of the establishment for poultry other than ratites/ in the case of ratites, the stamp must also include the country or territory ISO code as well as the approval number.

II.1.7 - May be certified as required on inspection of the establishment records and on receipt of an owner's declaration.

II.1.8 - May be certified as required on inspection of the establishment records and on receipt of an owner's declaration.

II.1.9 - May be certified as vaccination for AI in the UK is not permitted.

II.1.10 - May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the animals came from holdings in the UK.

II.1.11 - Enter the date of the clinical inspection which should be within 24 hours of loading for dispatch to the EU. The clinical examination must be done within 24 hours of loading and may only be performed by an OV of the country of origin. The OV should be vigilant for highly pathogen AI and Newcastle disease.

II.1.12 - May be certified if all of the points (a)-(e) are complied with at time of loading. Containers must be labelled with name and ISO code of the third country of origin, number of eggs, name, address, and approval number of the establishment of origin, specific identification number of the container, name of the MS of destination.

II.1.13 - Enter the date of dispatch to the EU.

The certifying OV must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Assimilated EU Regulation No 1/2005 and that other parts of the attestation are complied with. See Section 7 on Animal Transport Attestation and Gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. A declaration from the owner / transporter must be sought to confirm relevant requirements have been met.

II.1.14 - This may be deleted. This section is only intended for the export of consignments of birds being exported to Member states granted the status free from Newcastle disease virus without vaccination in accordance with Article 66 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and comply with the points listed. The certifying OV would need to seek the relevant evidence/access to records to satisfy themselves that these requirements on these points are complied with. (a)-(c) may be certified as required on inspection of the establishment records and on receipt of an owner's declaration.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Commodities of poultry or poultry meat can be exported into the EU from the territory code listed in column 2 of the table in Part 1 of Annex V to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. Ensure you are looking at the most up to date version of the Regulation. If the latest consolidated version does not include the latest amendment, this amendment needs to be looked at separately.

If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-0, it can be exported to the EU from the whole territory of the UK. You will have to insert "GB-0" into the "territory code" box on the EHC.

If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-1, it means that the UK is being regionalised because of a disease outbreak. All premises of origin (eg Flocks of origin, slaughterhouse, processing or storage premises as applicable) have to be located in GB-1. The OV must ensure that this information is correct. For up-to-date GB-1 and GB-2 areas please refer to the online interactive map where you have to check whether the premises of origin are all within the GB-1 area using the premises post codes. The interactive map can be found in the link below:

https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7448c737a6cb443a8c851a8fc7da99f3

Areas listed under GB-2 (and detailed as GB-2.1, GB-2.2 etc.) are restricted from exports between the “closing” and “opening” dates listed against those areas.

Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Where it is possible for the CO (OV or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in GB to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland available on the Improve International website in the Export documents
- the ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification available on the Improve International website in the Export documents.
- For any postcodes in Northern Ireland, COs can obtain clearance using the interactive map provided by DAERA that can be found here: AI Trade Map

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last occurrence of the disease, and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM A THIRD COUNTRY [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

Consignments could potentially contain animals which have originated in NI. The certificate/documentation which the animal arrives into GB with may not contain sufficient information for the GB CO to sign the EU EHC.

Disease clearance for animals originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry) can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all livestock animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animals that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a GB EHC. The GB EHC may not contain enough information to allow the CO to sign an EU EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet. The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animals before export from the EU.

This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries and fulfilled a residency period in GB, and GB exporters intend

to export then to the EU. In these cases, COs may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such animals from the Third Country to GB.

GB COs are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB COs to be able to certify the live animals in good time before the export to the EU.

IMPORTANT: "Fresh meat that was imported into the UK from the EU cannot currently be re-exported using this EHC. The fresh meat EHCs can be used only to certify fresh meat imported into UK(GB) from outside the EU SPS zone or produced in the UK(GB)."

NI origin:

Consignments could potentially contain animals or animal products which have originated in NI. For NI origin raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB, or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, this can be certified under the terms of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement and the NI Protocol (NIP). The NIP treats NI as if it is in the EU SPS zone (which includes the EEA/EFTA states). Approved and registered premises in NI continue to implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004 and 853/2004 and Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in Annex 2 to the Protocol. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Regulation (EU) No. 2017/625, Directive (EC) Nos 96/22 and 470/2009 can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

Animal By-Products (ABP) are handled in accordance with EU Regulation 1069/2009, which is implemented by the EU Implementing Regulation 142/2011, and ABP statements for materials originating in NI, can be certified on that basis.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the GB exporter/CO must request this information from the NI exporter. This NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animals or animal products that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a Commercial Document or EU Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC). The Commercial Document may not contain enough information to allow the CO to sign an EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet, The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animal or animal products before export from the EU.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into the EU, the GB exporter/CO must request this information from the EU exporter. This EU exporter may forward the request to the relevant EU vet to provide this information. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals or POAO that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries and further processed in GB, which GB exporters

intend to export to EU (known as Triangular Trade). In these cases, COs may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such commodity from the Third Country to the GB.

GB COs are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB COs to be able to certify the products in good time before the export to the EU.

7. DECLARATION BY MASTER OF THE SHIP

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Chapter 1 of Annex III of Regulation 2021/403, shall be attached to veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of poultry where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey. You can find Master of the ship declaration here:

https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

8. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

The inspection must be carried out within 24 hours of loading. The pre-export inspection should consist of a visual appraisal and, if deemed appropriate, physical examination of the animals for export. Each animal subject to an inspection must be assessed as an individual.

OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required in order to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

9. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and No 1/2002 is implemented under the

Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health. Animals that are injured (i.e. they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted) shall not be considered fit for transport.

10. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Salmonella Control in Poultry

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of Salmonella in poultry is currently implemented through the UK Salmonella National Control Programme that is enforced by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order Regulation 2007 (England), the Control of

Salmonella in Poultry (Wales) Order 2008, the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Breeding, Laying and Broiler Flocks) (Scotland) Order 2009, the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009, and the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order.

For consignments intended to be exported to Finland and Sweden, compliance with Commission Decision 2003/644 (EC) and Commission Decision 2004/235 must be certified. The OV must check the flock records to confirm that the appropriate tests have been carried out at the correct frequency with negative results of zoonotic salmonella species.

Concerning the results of testing, it should be described as positive ONLY if:

- In the case of breeding flocks, *S.hadar, S.virchow*, or *S.infantis* are detected.
- In the case of productive poultry*, S.enteritidis* or *S.typhimurium* are detected.

Poultry Health Scheme

Directive 2009/158 (EC) is currently being committed to through the equivalent Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) in Great Britain. A list of approved Poultry Health Scheme members can be found on the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-health-scheme-list-of-members

Relevant text can be certified based on the establishment committing to the Poultry health scheme for the control and surveillance of specified non-zoonotic mycoplasma and salmonella bacterial species.

11. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here:
https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8

12. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of

completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

13. LEGAL STATEMENT

References in this guidance to "assimilated EU Regulation" should be interpreted as references to assimilated law, as defined under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

14. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 APHA in Carlisle.

This publication is available at Search - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at liveanimalexports.carlisle@apha.gov.uk

PB 8439 NFG

Version History

EHC

2025

II.1.2. – Now has second 'or' option.

II.1.3. – Numbering added to (b) (ii) – (1, 2, 3 and 4)

Footnote 4 – Added regarding Part 1, Section B, of Annex V to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

2024

II.1.5. Updated to now allow the introduction of flocks to zone from a member state. Previously only from a third country.

NFG

Version 9: Published October 2025

References to Vet Gateway updated to Official Veterinarian Training throughout.

II.1.2 – Minor amends to guidance linking to NDC.

Legal Statement: Wording updated.

Version 8: Published 16 June 2025

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE – Section amended to include reference to AI map for NI.

Version 7 Published 31 July 2024

Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 added

Part 2 II.5 (a): Updated to reflect addition of member state flock introduction to zone