

EXPORT OF CAPTIVE BIRDS (OTHER THAN POULTRY) TO INDIA

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 8916EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8916EHC. 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 8916EHC may be used for the export of captive birds (other than poultry) from the United Kingdom to India.

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**

All live animal exports to India must apply to the Government of India for the relevant documentation to permit import. Exporters are responsible for ascertaining what documentation is required for their import, and for ensuring that they, or the importer in case of transfer of ownership, have obtained the necessary documentation.

It is required to obtain a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) for each shipment from the Animal Quarantine and Certification Service of India (AQCS). The NOC will only be issued upon submission by the importer of the final stamped health certificate with test reports and flight airway bill. The NOC will reflect details of the flight, arrival time, and the import license number.

4. **Pre-export establishment monitoring and treatment requirements**

Paragraphs IV. (b) (ii) b), (d), (h) and (i) refer.

The birds must be kept under veterinary supervision for the 45 days prior to export, including in isolation for the 30 days prior to export. The pre-export isolation must be approved and monitored/supervised by an OV. The OV must visit and inspect the facilities that will be used for pre-export isolation of the birds and be satisfied that these facilities are suitable for that purpose. The OV must check and record the identity of the birds in isolation.

The OV must visit the isolation premises as often as they consider necessary to confirm the status of the birds and the requirement for the premises to be "regularly inspected". Specifically, the OV must visit the isolation premises at the approval/start of isolation and at the time of examinations, treatment and sampling for pre-export testing as required in the certificate.

During the isolation period the birds must be kept isolated from any other birds other than those included in this isolation. Access by all other birds and animals must be forbidden.

The birds must also be treated against Avian Chlamydiosis using chlortetracycline within the 45 days prior to export.

5. **Clinical examination**

Paragraph IV. (a) and (b) (ii) a) refer.

The birds must be examined on the date of certification and found to show no signs of the diseases mentioned in IV (a).

If option (b) (ii) is certified, note that those import conditions specify that the clinical examination must be conducted "on the day of export"; therefore the final examination, certification and export must all be on the same day.

6. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Paragraph IV. (b) (i) refers. Official Veterinarians may certify this paragraph 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.

This is applicable at times when the UK is officially free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI), and also requires that sero-surveillance testing for H5/H7 avian influenza has been carried out and found only negative results in the 45 days prior to export.

7. **Laboratory testing**

Paragraph IV. (b)(ii)c) and (e) refers.

If certifying IV.(b)ii), for times when the UK is not free from avian influenza, the birds must be tested for avian influenza in the 14 days prior to shipment with negative results. Sampling may take the form of an oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs for virus isolation or RT-PCR carried out according to the WOAHP Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines. The testing must be carried out at the Avian Virology Unit, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Weybridge. 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.

It is suggested that for consignments of 30 birds or fewer, all birds should be tested. For consignments of more than 30 birds, a minimum sample size of 30 birds is required. For virus isolation testing, pooling from the same anatomical site is permitted with not more than 10 samples in each pool.

However, if correspondence is received from the Indian authorities to suggest a different level of testing is acceptable for a particular shipment then that alternative testing regime can be used. Note that testing must at least meet the requirements of the Indian authorities as stated in any correspondence regarding the specific export.

Serological tests as specified in IV. (e) must be performed with negative results, at a laboratory approved to undertake such testing.

For (i), Mycoplasmosis testing must be carried out twice within the quarantine period, at least two weeks apart.

For (ii), Salmonellosis testing must be carried out within the 30 days prior to export.

8. **History of disease in the premises**

Paragraph IV. (c) refers. If the certifying veterinarian cannot certify this statement on the basis of their personal knowledge they should obtain a written declaration from the owner/manager.

9. **Vaccination History**

Paragraphs IV. (f) and (g) refer. The birds must not have been vaccinated against HPAI. The certifying veterinarian should obtain a written declaration from the owner. Other vaccinations must be specified within the table in (g).

10. **Transport and containers**

Paragraph IV. b) (ii) d) and (j) refer. The birds must be transported in new or appropriately sanitized containers.

The owner/exporter's written declaration should not be attached to the

certificate, but should be retained by the OV for their personal records.

For travel by air, 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