

VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF ZOOLOGICAL (ZOO) BIRDS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 8700EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8700EHC. 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

This certificate covers the export of Zoological (Zoo) Birds 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.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink 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 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

aPVPs certifying DECS produced Export Health Certificates 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.

Countersignature Requirements

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

All requests for countersignature in GB must be submitted to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) at least two working days in advance of the requested date 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

Upon receipt of your ET145 application CITC will liaise with an APHA Veterinarian to make arrangements for countersignature to take place and notify you of the arrangements made.

3. Obtaining Import Permit and further import arrangements

All zoo bird shipments must be accompanied by a USDA import permit. An import permit must be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture; the application must be submitted at least 7 days before shipment of the birds.

Importers must arrange with the port of arrival to have the birds inspected by a USDA port veterinarian. This must be arranged at least 72 hours in advance by contacting the USDA port veterinarian, whose contact information is listed on the import permit.

All birds are subject to 30 day quarantine at a USDA Animal Import Center or a USDA-approved private quarantine facility.

Further information on these matters can be found at:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/live-animal-import/zoological-birds>

4. Identification of the birds

Part II. 1 refers. The zoo birds must each be permanently identified by leg band, tattoo or microchip.

Identification information must be entered into the table on Part I. When the space within the certificate is insufficient to accommodate details of all the birds in the consignment, a separate schedule may be used to identify the birds certified. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the identification section of the certificate, which should be annotated "see attached schedule". The certifying Official Veterinarian must draw a line under the last entry and sign, date and affix the Official Veterinarian stamp in a colour other than black on each page of the schedule and also under the last entry, in order

to prevent the unauthorised addition of more entries. The pages of the schedule must be firmly stapled to the export health certificate and each referenced with the unique reference number at the top right-hand corner of the export health certificate. The corners of each sheet should be turned over, 'fanned', and stamped with the Official Veterinarian stamp.

5. **Clinical inspection**

The birds must be inspected by the certifying Official Veterinarian to a degree the OV deems sufficient to certify the requirements within this certificate.

Paragraph II. 2 refers. The birds must be kept under observation during the 30 days prior to export, without showing any signs of communicable disease during this time.

6. **Vaccination against Avian Influenza**

Paragraph II. 3. refers. The certifying veterinarian should consult veterinary records of the birds, or obtain a declaration by the exporter/owner, in order to certify whether the birds for export have been vaccinated against any H5 or H7 subtype of avian influenza, noting that in some cases zoo birds may have been originally imported into the UK having been vaccinated outside of the UK.

If the birds have been vaccinated, the date and name/manufacturer of the vaccine should be entered accordingly.

7. **Vaccination against Newcastle disease**

Paragraph II. 5. refers. Similarly to the above guidance on avian influenza vaccination, the vaccination status of the birds against Newcastle disease should be noted. Where birds have been vaccinated, this must have been carried out not less than 21 days prior to export and the vaccine must not contain any velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus.

8. **Notifiable disease clearance**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraph II. 4. and 6. with regards to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease as applicable on behalf of the Department provided written authority (Form 618NDC) to do so has been obtained from the APHA Centre for International Trade Carlisle or the issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland.

Clearance will be based on information provided at the time of application, and will be for UK premises only, covering the 90 days prior to export on the basis that the birds have not been kept/resident for the past 90 days in any premises with outbreaks of either HPAI or Newcastle disease, on either those premises or adjoining premises. "Adjoining premises" should be taken to refer to any linked premises with shared facilities.

9. **Commingling of birds**

Paragraph II. 7. refers. This includes the 30 day period prior to the export of the birds, and should be based on knowledge of the premises or attestations received regarding previous premises.

10. **Transport containers**

Paragraph II. 8. refers. Official veterinarians should determine that the birds are to be placed in new or appropriately sanitized shipping containers at the premises from which the birds were to be exported.

If necessary, the OV may ask for a written statement from the management of the establishment.

11. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.).

12. **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.

13. **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