

**VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPORT OF HATCHING EGGS OF CHICKENS (*Gallus gallus*) AND TURKEYS (*Meleagris gallopavo*) FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CANADA FOR BREEDING PURPOSES**

**NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER**

**1. Scope of the certificate**

This certificate can be used for the export of hatching eggs of domestic chickens (*Gallus gallus*) or domestic turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) to Canada.

**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](mailto: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 Certification 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 importer is responsible for obtaining an import permit from the local office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). A copy of the permit must accompany the birds during shipment and must be available for inspection by the Canadian authorities at the airport of entry to Canada.

4. **Consignment details on page 1**

Boxes 1.3. and 1.4. The central competent authority is Defra. The local competent authority is 'APHA', or 'DAERA' in Northern Ireland.

Box 1.7. The ISO code for the whole of the UK is 'GB'.

Box 1.8. The region of origin should be the county. The ISO code should be left blank.

Box 1.9. The ISO code for Canada is 'CA'.

Box 1.11. Premises of origin is the farm(s) where the eggs were laid.

Box 1.13. Place of loading may be the farm, or a specialised egg collection centre, or another collection location such as a hatchery. The approval number is the number allocated by the Poultry Health Scheme or the Northern Ireland Poultry health Assurance Scheme.

Box 1.15. 'Aeroplane' should be ticked, the flight number included as identification.

Box 1.19. The commodity code for hatching eggs of poultry is '0407 1110 2001'.

5. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraph II.1.1. and II.1.4 (2<sup>nd</sup> part) refer. These paragraphs may be certified provided the Official Veterinarian has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them by the issuing office (in GB, APHA Exports in Carlisle, or in Northern Ireland the issuing office of DAERA). This is based on details of origin premises provided at the time of application.

For II.1.1, the flocks of origin must be in a country or zone recognised as officially free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (as defined by WOA). To certify the 'zone' option, the origin flocks must be outside the area of any 10km disease control zones.

Additionally, when in transit to Canada, the hatching eggs must not travel through any active disease control zones as per the requirements of CFIA. A route plan of the movement of the eggs from the farm(s) of origin to the point of departure is required to be submitted to the issuing office.

To certify II.1.4. (the 2<sup>nd</sup> part following the "AND"), the parent flocks must participate in an official avian influenza surveillance programme recognised by the CFIA. The official avian influenza surveillance programme, which is recognised by CFIA, includes passive surveillance (the notification of any suspicion of notifiable disease) and active surveillance (the annual domestic poultry survey conducted by the UK). The flocks of origin participate in the sense that they belong to the national pool of premises from which individual farms may be chosen for testing. It is not relevant whether farms have been subject to testing as part of this surveillance.

6. **Avian influenza restrictions and links**

Paragraph II.1.3. refers. The parent flock must not be subject to any official animal health restrictions and contain no epidemiological link to an establishment where NAI or ND has occurred during the past 30 days. The OV should determine this either from records in the farms of origin or from assurance received from the flock veterinarian on supplementary certificate 7721SUP.

7. **Residency requirement**

Paragraph II.1.2. and II.2.4. (1<sup>st</sup> part) refers. The birds comprising the flocks of origin must have been within a disease-free zone, as per notifiable disease clearance of II.1.1., for the 42 days prior to export, and the hatching eggs must be derived from parent flocks which have been kept on a premises free from NAD and ND for a minimum of 21 days prior to the collection of the eggs. If the OV does not have personal knowledge of the flocks of origin, they should ask to consult the movement records, or obtain a written statement from the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flock(s) of origin. This can be made on the supplementary certificate 7721SUP. The support statement should not be attached to the certificate, but should be kept by the OV for record purposes.

Note, GB Compartments are currently not recognised by CFIA.

8. **Avian Influenza vaccination**

Paragraph II.1.5. refers. If the OV does not have personal knowledge of the flocks of origin, they should obtain a written statement from the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flock(s) of origin.

9. **Newcastle Disease vaccination**

Paragraph II.1.6. refers. Canada does not specify that the flocks must, or must not be vaccinated. If vaccinated, however, the details of the vaccine must be given. The option that it is not applicable should be crossed out.

10. **TRT Vaccination and Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs II.1.7. and II.1.9 refer. Avian Pneumovirus is also known as Turkey Rhinotracheitis (TRT) or Swollen Head Syndrome (SHS). If a live vaccine has been used in the flocks of origin, it must have been at least 10 weeks before the start of the collection of the eggs for export to avoid the potential risk of excretion of live vaccine virus.

11. **Examination of flocks of origin**

Paragraph II.1.8. refers. A veterinarian must have carried out an inspection of each flock of origin within the last 30 days.

'Evidence' of infection should be taken to include clinical signs, data from production and mortality records, laboratory results and pathological examinations.

Certification can be made regarding this inspection, and of the statement that the flocks have no contact with wild birds or with poultry of a lesser health status, on personal knowledge of the flocks of origin or based on statements provided by the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flock(s) of origin. This can be made on supplementary certificate 7721SUP.

12. **Disease surveillance programmes for Salmonellas**

Paragraphs II.1.10. refers. For S.pullorum and S.gallinarum the relevant programmes are the testing under the PHS or NIPHAS.

For S.enteritidis and S.typhimurium the relevant testing is carried out for the salmonella National Control Programme, implemented in the UK by The Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order.

The certifying OV use their personal knowledge of the flocks of origin or should ask for a written assurance from the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flocks of origin that the tests have been carried out as required, with negative results in every case. Detail can be given using supplementary certificate 7721SUP

Any doubtful or positive results which have been re-examined according to the current PHS or NIPHAS protocols and determined to be false doubtful or false positives can be regarded as negative.

13. **Full Vaccination Programme for the Flocks of Origin**

Paragraphs II.1.11. refers. A vaccination programme should be stapled to the health certificate. It should be signed, stamped and dated by the certifying OV, using ink of any colour other than black.

14. **Egg Collection and Sanitisation**

Paragraph II.1.12 refers. Dates of egg collection can be provided by the veterinarian who is normally responsible for the flocks of origin.

The eggs must be sanitised in accordance with industry standards. The UK authorities do not have a procedure or for approval of commercial products for egg sanitisation. In the absence of any such official approval procedure, the OV may use their own clinical judgement about the approval of the method.

The OV may certify the procedures surrounding collection and sanitisation in one of two ways; either the OV or another veterinarian must have been present during the processes to personally observe them, or the OV/veterinarian must **(i)** visit the premises on a frequent and routine basis during which these processes are regularly observed and confirmed to be satisfactory, **and (ii)** have received a written record from a responsible person confirming that they have been carried out in the normal way to a

satisfactory standard in respect of this particular export consignment, **and (iii)** have sufficient familiarity with the establishment and confidence in its management practices to have no reasonable doubt about the processes in this particular case.

15. **Packaging Materials and Transport Vehicle**

Paragraphs II.1.13. and II.1.14. refer. The certificate implies that the OV will certify a future event, but this is not consistent with the principles of the RCVS. However, it would be normal for the OV to certify the health certificate on the day of despatch. In this case they will be able to examine and verify the condition of the packing materials at the time of completing the certificate.

The exporter must ensure that the boxes are marked as prescribed, showing the hatchery and country of origin, and a unique identification code which must also be written in box I.23 of the health certificate.

Note also that the transport agent is required to provide a written statement, which must be attached to the health certificate, stating that the transport vehicle to the airport has been cleaned and disinfected before the eggs are loaded.

16. **Support Certification**

In cases where the OV is not personally responsible for the flock(s) of origin, they may certify the statements referring to those flocks on the basis of a support certificate **(7721SUP)** provided by the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for those flocks. The support health certificate will be issued by, in GB, APHA Centre for International Trade Carlisle, or the relevant issuing office of DAERA in Northern Ireland, at the same time as the export health certificate.

17. **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: [DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk)

18. **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.