

EXPORT OF CAPTIVE BIRDS TO CANADA

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 344EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 344EHC. 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 certificate**

This certificate may be used for the export of captive birds including toucans, thrushes, robins, finches, chaffinches, canaries and other songbirds, as well as psittacines such as parrots, parakeets, cockatoos, cockatiels, macaws, lorries, amazons, lovebirds, budgerigars, conures, kakas, keas, lorikeets, you-yous and kakapos, and other captive birds.

2. **Exemptions for pet birds**

A **pet bird** means a personally owned and cared-for bird, and applies only to species commonly known as 'caged' birds, such as psittacines (birds in the parrot family), songbirds, toucans, canaries, finches, and cardinals. The expression does not apply to pigeons, doves, species of wild or domesticated fowl, or game birds.

The number of birds that may be imported as personal pets is subject to the approval of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). As a general guideline only, the number of psittacines that may be imported under the following conditions is limited to five, while the number of all other pet birds that may be imported under the following conditions is limited to 20.

At times when Canada officially recognise the UK as being free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), as per <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/status-by-disease/countries-recognized-as-free-from-the-disease/eng/1343108465347/1343108628931>, this health certificate may not be required provided an import permit has been obtained from the CFIA.

Further detail, including eligibility criteria and necessary information, can be seen at <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/imports/import-policies/live-animals/2011-8/eng/1320852296518/1320852383374>

It is the owner's responsibility to clarify with the airline if other certification, e.g. possibly veterinary certification in regards to the fitness of the birds for the intended journey, is needed before accepting an animal or bird for transport.

3. **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.

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 OV's 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

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.

4. Obtaining Import permit

Exporters must obtain an import permit. Consult <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/imports/permit-application/eng/1374511671189/1374511696513> for further details on the application process.

The 344EHC and the original import permit must accompany the birds to Canada. Both documents must be made available to an inspecting veterinarian at the first Canadian port of entry.

5. Identification of the birds

The birds to be exported must each bear an individually numbered leg/wing band, microchip or alternatively the bird(s) shall be shipped in a container(s) each bearing a securely fastened and

numbered official Government seal. The seal is to be placed to ensure that birds cannot be added or removed. The numbers should be entered at paragraph I on the health certificate.

If there is insufficient room at paragraph I to list the consignment then a schedule should be firmly attached and each sheet must be serially numbered, have the export health certificate number and import permit number added and be signed and stamped by the issuing Official Veterinarian.

6. **Description List**

When the space in the bird identification section of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate details of all birds in the consignment, a separate schedule may be used to identify the certified birds. 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 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 reference number of the particular export health certificate at the top right-hand corner. The corners of each sheet should be turned over, 'fanned', and stamped with the Official Veterinarian stamp.

7. **Transport requirements**

The consignment must be shipped on a direct flight from the United Kingdom. Transshipment through another country requires written authorisation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

8. **Clinical Examination**

Paragraphs IV d) and h) refer. The birds must be clinically examined for signs of infectious or contagious disease at two separate points; once within 30 days of export and again within 24 hours of export. The final examination must confirm that the birds are fit to travel by the means arranged.

9. **Residency of birds**

At paragraph IV e) i., the 60 days residence mentioned must not include any quarantine period. References to the premises of origin (as entered at paragraph II.c) should be interpreted as the premises where the birds have been in isolation for at least the 21 days prior to export.

10. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

The certification contained in paragraphs IV a) and b) may be signed on behalf of the Department provided the certifier is in receipt of written authority from the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Great Britain, or DAERA in Northern Ireland which will be sent to the certifier before shipment. Clearance will be for premises specified at the time of application.

For IV b) in the case of outbreaks of HPAI in the UK, disease control zones are applied prohibiting any export from a Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone applied round any infected premises. For the purposes of this EHC, this restriction is in place from the date the zones were put in place until the zones are lifted. Any areas outside of these restricted zones can be considered as a 'free' zone.

CFIA also impose restrictions on birds travelling through affected areas. A route plan must be submitted to the issuing office for verification, detailing the movement of the birds from the premises of origin to the point of departure.

11. **Avian influenza vaccination**

Paragraph IV c) refers. Vaccination against avian influenza is not permitted in the UK, except under emergency measures when it is specifically authorised by exception. The paragraph can be certified on this basis.

12. **Laboratory Testing for AI**

Paragraph IV f) refers. Cloacal (faecal) swabs are needed from each bird for testing purposes. Samples can be pooled to a maximum of 5 swabs per vial. In the case of small birds, individual swabs from fresh faeces from each bird is acceptable as an alternative to cloacal swabs but, if this option is used, fresh faecal swabs must not be pooled and must be kept separate in individual vials.

The cloacal/faecal swabs must be submitted to the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) Weybridge/Lasswade or the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in Northern Ireland. It is recommended that the veterinarian carrying out the sampling should contact VLA/AFBI well in advance to get any necessary advice about the handling of samples, and to make arrangements with the laboratory.

13. **No paragraph (i)**

The omission of paragraph IV i) is deliberate to avoid confusion, as the symbol 'i' is used to number indented paragraphs.

14. **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.

15. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other formalities laid down specifically for the protection of certain wild species e.g. C.I.T.E.S. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cites-imports-and-exports>