

EXPORT OF LIVE PET BIRDS OTHER THAN FALCONS AND POULTRY TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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 8937EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 8937EHC. 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 8937EHC may be used for the export of live pet birds from the United Kingdom to the United Arab Emirates. Pet birds are defined as birds accompanied by individual travellers and not more than 5 birds per person, and are not falcons (birds of the order *Falconiformes*) or poultry.

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.

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

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. Premises of origin of the birds

As referred in Paragraph II. b) and throughout Part IV. The listed premises of origin of II. b) should include all premises on which the birds were resident in the 3 months prior to export.

In Part IV., it is referred that "the birds are derived from", with requirements stated accordingly. For each paragraph, these premises can be taken to refer to the premises on which the birds were resident during the stated timescale.

4. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraphs IV.1.a., IV.2. and IV.3. 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). In the case of Northern Ireland, a similar written authority must be obtained from the issuing office of DAERA. Authority will be given for premises specified at the time of application, to certify one part of each section IV.1.a. and IV.2., according to the disease situation in the UK at the time. Unauthorised sections should be deleted.

"Region (zone)" within the certificate, or referred to as "region below", means the first administrative division as reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). For the UK, this is the nation: England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

IV.1.a.i. and IV.2.b. can be certified where no outbreak of HPAI and ND respectively have been confirmed in the region of the premises of origin in the 12 months prior to export.

IV.1.a.ii. and IV.2.a. can be certified if the criteria to certify IV.1.a.i. and IV.2.b. has not been reached. This is applicable for premises which are not within any region with a confirmed outbreak of HPAI or ND in poultry, until the required time has elapsed from completion of a stamping-out procedure, provided the required surveillance has been carried out. For HPAI (IV.1.a.ii.) this is 28 days, in practice this means that there must be no disease control zone in place due to an outbreak within that region at the time of export. For ND (IV.2.a.) the required time is 3 months.

Furthermore, to certify either part of IV.1.a, the premises of origin must not have been within a disease control zone in place for an outbreak of HPAI in poultry during the timescale specified. This would be applicable where the premises has been in a control zone due to an outbreak within a different region.

Paragraph IV.3. requires that the origin establishment has been free from notifiable bird diseases other than HPAI and ND, including low pathogenic avian influenza and pigeon paramyxovirus infection. This can be on the basis of authority from the issuing office, or from personal knowledge or documentary evidence from the origin premises. Alternatively, this can be certified with reference to testing carried out in the previous 3 months with negative results, with no evidence of notifiable disease since that time.

5. Isolation, veterinary supervision and testing

Paragraph IV.1.b. refers. Isolation and testing of the birds is available as an alternative to the regionalisation requirements of IV.1.a.

To certify IV.1.b.i, the birds for export must be kept in pre-export isolation for at least 21 days immediately prior to export. The OV must inspect the premises prior to the entry of the birds in order to confirm that they are suitable for isolation. The birds must be monitored throughout the 21-day period to confirm they have shown no signs of any compulsory notifiable avian disease during that time.

To certify IV.1.b.ii, the birds must be tested for avian influenza after 14 days of the 21-day isolation period, with negative results. The testing method may be prescribed by the import permit. If not, the OV can choose the most appropriate and convenient type of sample to take. The samples must be tested at the avian virology laboratory, APHA Weybridge, and it is strongly recommended to consult the laboratory well in advance for advice about taking and handling the samples. It is particularly necessary to ensure that results can be available in sufficient time to certify that results are negative.

If isolation and testing is a mandatory requirement stated in the import permit, this option should be retained and the OV must ensure the requirements have been met.

6. Clinical Examination

Paragraph IV.4. refers. The examination must be made on the same day as the certificate is signed, which should be within 48 hours prior to the intended time of export.

7. Vaccinations

Paragraph IV.5. refers. Any vaccinations given to the birds in the 6 months prior to export must be entered in the table provided, or on an attached schedule if more space is required. Note that the import permit may include mandatory vaccinations; in this case the OV must ensure they are completed and entered into the table. If no vaccinations are required in the import permit and none have been given to the birds, then the OV must write clearly and in capital letters "None given".

8. Owner's Declarations

Paragraph IV.6. refers. The OV must obtain a declaration to this effect in writing from the owner/exporter, and may carry out any other checks of movement records, etc. which may appear necessary.

The written declaration should not be attached to the certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

9. 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.). Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cites-imports-and-exports>

10. 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

11. Welfare of Animals during transport

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.