

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS AND EXPORTERS

EXPORT TO HONG KONG OF POULTRY MEAT AND POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS OF UNITED KINGDOM ORIGIN - 3732EHC

PLEASE NOTE: notes for guidance (NFG) are not intended to operate as standalone documents, but must be read in conjunction with the appropriate export health certificate.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

Export health certificate 3732EHC may be used for the export to Hong Kong of poultry meat and poultry meat products, including poultry feet, of United Kingdom origin only.

2. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

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 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. ESTABLISHMENT APPROVAL LISTING WITH HONG KONG AUTHORITIES

Any establishments involved in the export of poultry meat, and their products (other than those which have been fully cooked or subjected to a process of preservation), must be specifically listed, for the applicable commodities and functions, by the authorities in Hong Kong in advance of the arrival of consignments.

For applicable commodities, prior to exporting certifiers and exporters must ensure that all slaughter, cutting, processing and storage premises are included on the list, for the applicable commodities and functions, at https://www.ftp.cfs.gov.hk/web/establishment/apprEstablishmentEnquiry?lang=en_GB.

If any establishments are not listed, exporters can contact APHA Centre for International Trade at exports@apha.gov.uk to be given details on how to be added to the list.

The certifying OV will need to be provided with evidence by the Food Business Operator that the meat in the product being exported has come from those slaughterhouses and processing plants as specified on the Export Health Certificate and which are approved for export to Hong Kong. Certification should not be made if any of the premises are not listed for the appropriate commodity and function. Any consignments arriving into Hong Kong without being listed correctly may have the goods confiscated and fines applied.

4. IMPORT PERMITS

Prior to export, the importer should apply to the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in Hong Kong for an import permit. Exporters should seek appropriate assurances from importers that a licence for importation of the poultry meat/products has been obtained.

5. TRADER REGISTRATION NUMBER

Paragraph III (c) refers. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) encourages inclusion of the Trader Registration Number (TRN) of the consignee/importer in the health certificate whenever possible, to facilitate the source tracing of food consignments. The TRN is a number allotted to the Hong Kong importers by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department of the Government of Hong Kong. This can be verified on CFS websites under the following links.

The link for searching/ verifying the valid TRN of a registered food importer / food distributor in Hong Kong:

<https://www.fics.gov.hk/ie/tr/traderrecord/tray/index.htm>

The link for searching/ verifying the valid Exemption Number (equivalent to the TRN) of an exempted food importer / food distributor in Hong Kong:

<https://www.fics.gov.hk/ie/tr/traderrecord/tray/index2.htm>

6. CLARIFICATION OF PARAGRAPH IV. (b)

This paragraph means that the poultry meat and poultry meat products were prepared and packed hygienically in approved premises, i.e. meat plants approved by the Food Standards Agency / Food Standards Scotland. In the case of poultry feet, the fitness of the carcass they originate from must be linked to the fitness of the feet to enter into the food chain so that the feet can receive the identification mark. If this cannot be done, individually or through a batching system, the feet must be treated as an animal by-product.

7. OFFICIAL DISEASE CLEARANCE

Paragraphs IV. (c) and (f), and the parts of IV. (d) and (e) regarding

evidence of HPAI in the establishments refer. The Official Veterinarian may certify these paragraphs provided written authority to do so has been obtained from Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle on Form 618NDC, or the equivalent for exports from Northern Ireland. Clearance is given according to information provided on application. If premises of origin of the presented product for export differs from those given on application, the OV should consult the issuing office.

IV. (c) requires that the "premises of origin", by which is meant the premises from which the live birds originated as well as the slaughter, processing and cutting locations, are not within 10km of a confirmed Newcastle disease outbreak location in the 6 months prior to certification.

IV. (f) requires that farms of origin, slaughter and processing premises are not within an area subject to restriction by the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong, due to outbreaks of notifiable avian disease. Such restrictions are put on any region (district or equivalent) in which an outbreak of HPAI is confirmed, until lifted by CFS. Restriction notices are published by CFS at https://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/import/import_ifc.html. Queries regarding restricted regions should be directed to the issuing office.

Clauses within IV. (d) and (e) require that the farms of origin and the slaughter premises have had no evidence of NAI in the 21 days prior to slaughter. This clearance can be given on the basis of no confirmed HPAI cases within those premises. Attestations regarding flock residency (for (d)) and ante- and post-mortem inspections (for (e)) are not part of the official disease clearance and must be verified by the certifying OV.

8. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Paragraph IV. (d) refers. The certifying Official Veterinarian must obtain the necessary confirmation that the birds from which the poultry meat / poultry meat products for export to Hong Kong is derived meet the residency requirement described in this paragraph.

9. RESULTS OF ANTE- AND POST-MORTEM INSPECTIONS

Paragraph IV. (e) refers. This paragraph may be signed on the basis of personal knowledge of the certifying Official Veterinarian of the results of ante- and post mortem examinations of the birds from which the poultry meat / poultry meat products for export to Hong Kong is derived.

In the case of poultry meat / poultry meat products intended for export to Hong Kong originating from another premises in the UK, this paragraph may be certified on the basis of the presence of the oval identification mark on the packaging.

10. RESIDUES STATEMENT

Paragraph IV. (g) may be signed on the basis that all licensed poultry slaughterhouses in the United Kingdom (UK) are included in the statutory monitoring programme for anti-microbiological and hormone residues, implemented in the UK by the Animal and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 or parallel legislation for the devolved authorities of Wales and Northern Ireland.

11. 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