

EXPORT OF GAME BIRD CARCASSES TO HONG KONG - 517EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) 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 517EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 517EHC. 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 is for the export of wild game bird carcasses, shot within the UK, and exported in chilled or frozen form, to Hong Kong.

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

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 On-Line (DECOL) 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

Exporters should be aware that the consignment must be accompanied by an official import permit from the government of Hong Kong. It is the responsibility of the importer to obtain the import permit well ahead of the shipment date, and the exporter is advised to confirm that this has been done before proceeding with the export. In the absence of an import permit, the Hong Kong authorities may refuse entry into Hong Kong.

4. Trader registration number

Paragraph III (e) 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>

5. Transshipment and sealing of containers

Paragraph I(e) refers. If consignments are transhipped through a country other than the country of origin, two options are available:

- a) Consignments conveyed in sealed refrigerated containers (temperature records, declarations and any other evidences as required by the import permit issued by the Hong-Kong authorities): The seal number applied to the refrigerated container must be entered at paragraph I(e) of the certificate. In any other case this paragraph must be deleted.
- b) Consignments conveyed other than in sealed refrigerated containers: a transshipment certificate issued by the competent health authority of the transit country must be obtain with the statements required at the import permit issued by the Hong-Kong authorities.

6. Origin of the products

Paragraph II refers. The game birds must have been shot in the wild in the United Kingdom. It is not necessary to state the precise location

at which they were shot.

Then they must have been delivered to a Game Handling Establishment approved by the FSA (Food Standards Agency) or FSS (Food Standards Scotland), where they were plucked, eviscerated, inspected, and chilled. Details of the Game Handling Establishment must be given in sub-paragraph (b).

Sub-paragraph (c) is for details of the establishment at which the consignment is packed for export, and where the export health certificate is completed. This may or may not be the same address as in sub-paragraph (b).

The UK approval number of the establishments should be entered, in addition to the name and address.

7. Post-mortem Inspection

Paragraphs IV (a), (b) and (c) refer. Food hygiene regulations in the UK require game bird carcasses to be processed at an approved Game Handling Establishment, and inspected there by an officer of the food safety competent authority. The oval health mark will be added, which confirms that the carcasses satisfied all the regulations, and were inspected and found fit for human consumption.

8. Notifiable disease clearance

Paragraph IV (d) refers. This 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 in Northern Ireland.

This will apply on condition that the carcasses are derived from game birds which originated from areas outside of any NAI disease control zones for a minimum of six months.

Note that game bird is not included in import suspensions of poultry and poultry products put in place by the Hong Kong authorities, therefore areas restricted for poultry do not apply to the 517EHC.

9. 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