

**EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPORT OF CHICKEN AND TURKEY HATCHING EGGS AND DAY OLD CHICKS AND POULTS TO LIBYA**

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

1. **Scope of the certificate**

This certificate is for the export of hatching eggs of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) or turkeys *Meleagris gallopavo*) to Libya.

Due to avian influenza outbreaks in the UK, the certificate is not to be used for the export of day-old poultry.

The specifics of regionalisation have not been agreed with the Libyan authorities. Exporters may use this certificate at their own risk, which can be reduced by ensuring the importer checks that it is acceptable to the border inspectors/ Libyan authorities given the HPAI status of the UK at the time of export.

**It is therefore strongly advised that exporters check with their customers that certificates are acceptable to the authorities in the country of destination in advance of each consignment. This Department will not accept liability should it turn out that certification supplied by us does not meet an importing country's requirement.**

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. Means of Transportation**

Paragraph III. c) refers. The OV should write 'air', 'sea' or 'road' as appropriate, and provide the flight number, ship name, or truck registration.

### **4. Export of Hatching Eggs**

In the case of hatching eggs the references to hatcheries or day old birds must be deleted. This applies to paragraphs II. c), and IV. c), k) and l).

### **5. Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV. (a) and b), and the reference to animal health restrictions in c) and d) refer. These statements may be certified by the OV provided that they have received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them by the issuing office (in GB, APHA, Centre for International Trade (CIT)- Exports, Carlisle), or equivalent arrangements in Northern Ireland.

For IV. (a), at times when the UK is not officially free of notifiable avian influenza, authority to certify part IV. (a)(b) will be given when all origin premises are outside of any disease control zone in place due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry - farms at the time of collection of the eggs and hatcheries at the time of hatching. However, if requirements as stated in an import permit received from the importing authorities differ, this should be raised to the issuing office for advice.

IV. c) and d) require that premises are not within any restricted zone in place due to a notifiable disease outbreak, until that zone is lifted. Authority to sign with regards to these notifiable diseases is given on this basis. The certifying OV must make further assurances for non-notifiable diseases, as per following paragraph 6.

Note that there is no regionalisation allowance in IV. b) for Newcastle disease (ND); if the UK is not free from ND then the certificate cannot be used.

### **6. Approval under Directive 2009/158/EC**

Paragraphs IV. c) and d) refer. Directive 2009/158/EC is the European poultry trade Directive. All conditions in the Directive including the requirement for regular official veterinary inspection are fully

implemented in GB by the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), and in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). Therefore membership of either of these schemes means that the premises are officially approved in accordance with Directive 2009/158/EC.

The OV may certify the paragraphs on the basis of membership of either the PHS or NIPHAS, which will be officially confirmed on form 618NDC and sent to the OV by the issuing office (in GB, APHA, Centre for International Trade (CIT)- Exports, Carlisle), or the equivalent in Northern Ireland. The same form will also confirm that the premises are not subject to any animal health restrictions.

7. **Disease Surveillance Programme**

Paragraph IV. e) refers. The disease surveillance conditions are laid down in Directive 2009/158/EC and are therefore a condition for membership of the PHS or NIPHAS. The OV must inspect the laboratory reports to confirm that there have not been any positive results during the past 6 months.

8. **National Surveillance Programme for Salmonellas of Human Concern**

Paragraph IV. f) refers. This paragraph may be certified on the basis that the flock(s) of origin have been routinely monitored bacteriologically as required under the National Control Programme for Salmonella. The programme lays down procedures for the routine monitoring of chicken and turkey breeding flocks for zoonotic Salmonellas, in accordance with EU Regulation 2160/2003. It is implemented in England by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, and the equivalent in the devolved administrations.

The OV is personally responsible for checking that testing has been carried out, and that any suspicion of infection has been ruled out (any doubtful or positive results which have been re-examined and determined to be false doubtfulls or false positives can be regarded as negative).

9. **Clinical Diseases in Flocks of Origin**

Paragraphs IV. g) and h) refer. 'Evidence' should be taken to include clinical observations, production and mortality records, laboratory reports and pathological examinations. However in paragraph h) the addition of the word 'clinical' means that the statement applies only to confirmed outbreaks of clinical disease. Infectious agents which may be present but are effectively controlled by vaccination, or are not clinically significant such as 'normal' *E.coli*, should be disregarded.

10. **Vaccination Records**

Paragraphs IV. j) and k) refer. If it is necessary to provide separate schedules, the paragraph in the certificate must be marked 'see attached schedule'. The attached schedules must contain the same information as listed in the certificate, and must be signed, stamped and dated by the OV in ink of any colour other than black, and firmly stapled to the certificate.

'Officially approved vaccine' means any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of Defra or the equivalent licensing body in another EU Member State. The use of vaccines imported under a VMD issued Special Import Certificate (SIC) or, of autogenous vaccines manufactured and used with the approval of the VMD, can be considered to have the equivalent of a marketing authorisation in the UK.

In the case of turkeys, they are not normally affected by infectious bronchitis, infectious bursal disease, avian encephalomyelitis or Marek's disease and it is not the generally accepted practice to vaccinate turkeys for these diseases. The lines for these diseases may be deleted.

11. **Clinical Examination of the chicks/poults**

Paragraph IV. l) refers. The inspection should be conducted, and the certificate signed and dated, on the same date as the chicks/poults are despatched.

12. **Packing and Transport Conditions**

Paragraph IV. m) refers. In order to certify this paragraph it is necessary for the OV to personally observe the packing materials.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) provides written guidelines for transport conditions including cage design specifications. The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport meet the standards laid down by IATA.

13. **No paragraph i)**

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

14. **Support certification**

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian from the certifying OV, the flock veterinarian must complete 5248SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the requirements in the flocks of origin are complied with.

15. **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](mailto:vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

16. **Welfare of Animals**

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](mailto:WIT@apha.gov.uk)

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House,  
Belfast.