

EXPORT OF FROZEN POULTRY MEAT (INCLUDING MECHANICALLY RECOVERED POULTRY MEAT) TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA - 1236EHC

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1236EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1236EHC. 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 1236EHC may be used for the export of frozen raw poultry meat (including mechanically recovered poultry meat) from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa.

The certificate can only be used to export meat/MRM derived from poultry hatched, reared and slaughtered in the UK.

'Poultry meat' means all parts of domestic fowls which are fit for human consumption and which have not undergone any preserving process. This includes offals such as livers, gizzards, hearts and necks which have been passed and health-marked fit for human consumption, and mechanically recovered meat (MRM) derived from poultry meat as above.

The temperature of frozen product must not exceed -18°C during storage and transport.

The EHC must only contain one slaughter establishment and one cutting establishment in each respective section. Where consignments originate from multiple premises, this necessitates the use of multiple corresponding export health certificates. See Section 7 below for further details.

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.

OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any colour **OTHER THAN BLACK.**

Certified Copy Requirements

Certifiers are only required to return a certified copy of EHCs for the following EHC types:

- If the commodity is cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or camelids
- EHCs where the certifier cannot submit certifier feedback

If you are required to return a certified copy to CITA, email a scanned copy to certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk.

Retain a copy of all EHCs and supporting documentation certified for two years.

Certifiers are not required to return certified copies of other EHCs issued, however, CITA 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.

3. **IMPORT PERMIT**

The exporter's importing agent in Republic of South Africa (RSA) must obtain a Veterinary Import Permit from the South African authorities for each consignment. Certification must not be provided unless a copy of the Veterinary Import Permit has been received by the certifying OV. Both the certificate and the import permit must be presented with the consignment at the port of entry.

4. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraph IV. (b) i), (d) and (e) may be signed by the OV on behalf of the Department provided receipt of written authority (form 618NDC) which will be sent by Centre for International Trade, Carlisle, or the issuing office in Northern Ireland, before shipment. Clearance is given based on information of origin premises provided at time of application.

Regarding IV. (b) i), when the UK is officially free of notifiable avian influenza (NAI) authority can be given for the whole of the UK. When the whole UK is not officially free of NAI, the requirement for the 'administrative territory' to be officially free can only be used if advised by the South African authorities. This is considered to be at the 'nation' level, i.e. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Though IV. (b) i) requires the origin farm(s) to be in a free territory, further stipulations from the South African authorities require that all premises, from farm of origin through to pre-export storage, are within a permitted territory. Notifiable disease clearance will be assessed and provided on this basis. The OV must verify that all premises of origin of the final consignment are covered by the disease clearance provided.

5. **CONSIGNMENTS IN TRANSIT AND SUBSEQUENT DISEASE OUTBREAKS**

Exporters should note that in the event of an outbreak of NAI, the South African Directorate of Animal Health will impose a cut-off date for consignments originating from the previously disease-free territory (as described in Section 4 above), by applying **a 14-day period prior to the outbreak start date**. The outbreak start date corresponds to the earliest known date of occurrence of the disease at the establishment (e.g. onset of clinical signs or as determined through epidemiological investigation) as reported on the WOAHS Information System <https://wahis.woah.org/#/event-management>. This date may precede the outbreak confirmation date, in some cases by 14 days or more.

Consignments destined for South Africa whose final packaging date falls after the cut-off date will be rejected and will either be destroyed or returned to the UK at the importer's expense.

Please also note that a reefer container will be regarded as a single

consignment and will be handled as one entity. It will not be permitted for cartons within a container to be sorted according to production dates.

6. **HEALTH STATUS OF BIRDS**

Paragraph IV. (c) i) and iv) refers. This may be certified on the basis of identification marks showing compliance with UK Food Hygiene Regulations. Further information to assist assessment of clinical status and alert for ante and post-mortem inspections may be gained from the Food Chain Information (FCI), Collection and Communication of inspection results (CCIR) etc required under the UK Food Hygiene Regulations.

7. **ORIGIN**

The South African authorities have confirmed that their import permit conditions require that **a separate certificate must be completed for each separate sourcing abattoir and / or cutting plant**. Consignments may be held at the border and / or rejected where multiple sources are specified. As such, only one abattoir and one cutting plant must be entered in the relevant sections under paragraph II. on the certificate, and a separate certificate must be used for product sourced from any others.

Paragraphs IV. (c) ii) and iii) refer. These may be certified on the basis of familiarity with slaughterhouse procurement arrangements or the examination of producer records; or of statements from the producers' veterinary surgeon(s). RSA requires the poultry to be hatched, reared and slaughtered in the UK.

Paragraphs IV. (b) ii) and iii) can be certified on knowledge of or receipt of documents from the farm(s) of origin to confirm no psittacosis (in the last 6 months) or non-notifiable avian influenza viruses (in the last 3 months) have been confirmed. 'Administrative territory' does not apply to either of these sub-paragraphs.

Paragraph IV. (j) (first clause) requires the slaughter and cutting premises (but not processing or storage premises) to be specifically approved by the authorities of the Republic of South Africa. **Exporters and Official Veterinarians must ensure that slaughter and cutting premises are included on the South African list at:**

<http://webapps1.daff.gov.za/VetWeb/abattoirsEstablishment.do>

For further information on obtaining a listing on this site, please contact exports@apha.gov.uk, or daeratradeexports@daera-ni.gov.uk for premises in Northern Ireland.

Paragraph IV. (j) (second clause) can be certified on the basis of the UK identification mark showing compliance with UK Food Hygiene Regulations.

8. **HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraphs IV. (g), (h), (k) may be certified on the basis of the UK oval identification mark, which demonstrates compliance with the UK Food Hygiene Regulations, and the National Surveillance Scheme for residues (anti-microbials etc). Note that for IV. (g) equivalency is confirmed by the South African authorities and is not for the OV to ascertain.

9. **LABORATORY TESTING AND SAMPLING**

Paragraph IV. (l) may be certified on sight of laboratory test results relating to the consignment in question and meeting the parameters stated, with not less than one representative sample taken per 1000 kg of meat. A maximum number of five (5) samples may be pooled for testing purposes.

10. **CONTENT AND TREATMENT OF THE PRODUCT**

Paragraphs IV. (m) and (n) may be certified on sight of supplementary declarations or other form of information regarding production processes being provided to the certifying OV.

11. **PACKAGING AND TRANSPORT**

Paragraphs IV. (o), (p) and (q) refer. Certifying OVs should consult with the exporter to ensure they are aware of and are complying with the packaging and transport requirements. If necessary, this paragraph can be signed on the basis of a confirmatory document from the exporter.

The South African authorities require that the name, address and veterinary approval number of the slaughterhouse, the cutting/processing plant, and the cold store are clearly marked on the outside of each carton.

12. **MECHANICALLY RECOVERED MEAT (MRM)**

Mechanically recovered meat or meat in anatomically unrecognisable cuts shall be transported to the Republic of South Africa only in sealed shipping containers and may not be sent as bulk break; i.e. not as loose cartons of meat which are transported in the hold of a vessel together with other cargo.

13. **SUPPORTING DECLARATIONS**

Where declarations are relied upon to support the completion of this certificate, these must be signed by someone who has knowledge of and responsibility for the relevant parts of the production process and/or declared intended use. The managing director (or equivalent) of the company should provide a letter giving the name(s) and job title(s) of those authorised to give the declaration and the basis on which the declaration is made.

The declaration should include a clause indicating that the signatory is aware that making a false declaration is an offence and that he/she accepts full responsibility if any problems arise with the export should there be any dispute relating to the matters being declared.

Where possible, supporting evidence should be called for and put on file.

14. **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