

EXPORT OF POULTRY HATCHING EGGS AND DAY-OLD POULTRY TO AFGHANISTAN

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to the Official Veterinarian (OV) and the exporter. The NFG should have been issued to you together with its related export health certificate. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health certificate. 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 poultry hatching eggs and day old poultry from the United Kingdom to Afghanistan.

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.

OVs should sign and stamp the health certificate with the 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. **Flock of origin inspection**

Paragraph IV. a) refers. The flock(s) of origin must be inspected and found to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease. The date of the latest inspection of the birds comprising the flock(s) of origin should be entered.

4. **Avian Leukosis in the flock of origin**

Paragraph IV. b) refers. The flock(s) of origin must have no history or clinical evidence of Avian Leukosis, for the lifetime of the flock from which the hatching eggs/day old birds originated. This can be verified through clinical records, or if necessary through a support certification from the flock veterinarian.

5. **Poultry Health Scheme Membership**

Paragraph IV. c) refers. Both the flocks of origin and the hatchery must be members of a government supervised poultry health scheme. This means either the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) within Great Britain, or the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) within Northern Ireland. The schemes require regular testing for Salmonella pullorum and gallinarum, with any results indicating the presence of these resulting in the membership being suspended or revoked. Freedom can therefore be verified on the basis of continued scheme membership.

The OV may certify membership of a poultry health scheme provided that they has received written confirmation from APHA (form 618NDC), which will be sent to them before shipment (or the equivalent arrangement in Northern Ireland).

6. **National Control Programme for Salmonella**

Paragraph IV. d) refers. Testing for Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium is mandatory for chickens and turkeys under the National Control Programme for Salmonella. Certifying OVs must verify that flock testing has had no positive results during NCP testing, and the flock can be considered free on this basis.

For other species or chickens and turkeys not under the National Control Programme for Salmonella, equivalent testing must be carried out, with negative results.

7. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV. e) and f) refer. These may be certified on behalf of the Department provided the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) from APHA Centre for International Trade, Carlisle or the equivalent in Northern Ireland, which will be sent to them before shipment.

The 'country' option can be certified when the UK is officially free from the stated disease. Otherwise, either the 'zone' option where all origin premises are outside of a disease control zone in place due to an outbreak of the stated disease, or the 'compartment' option where all farms and hatcheries are within the official GB Compartment Scheme, may be certified accordingly.

8. **Inspection of the day-old birds for export**

Paragraph IV. g) refers. Day-old birds for export must be inspected and found to be free from signs of infectious or contagious disease. This paragraph can be deleted if exporting hatching eggs.

9. **Packaging**

Paragraph IV. h) refers. The eggs or birds for export must be packed into new or disinfected containers. They must not come into contact with other eggs or birds of a lesser health status.

10. **Support Certification**

When the flock of origin is inspected by a different veterinarian, the certifying OV should seek documentary confirmation of compliance from the flock veterinarian. Form 8964SUP (Support Health Certificate) is available for this purpose, to determine that the requirements in paragraphs IV. a), b), c) and d) of 8964EHC with regards to the flock of origin are complied with.

11. **Welfare during travel**

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.

12. **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