

EXPORT OF PET BIRDS (INCLUDING PIGEONS) TO HONG KONG

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 with export certificate 4536EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 4536EHC. 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 covers the export of pet birds (including pigeons) from the United Kingdom to Hong Kong.

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 CITC, 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, 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

aPVPs certifying DECOL 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**

An import permit is required to export birds to Hong Kong. Further information can be obtained from the website of the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/quarantine/gua_ie/gua_ie_ipab/gua_ie_ipab_ibpo/gua_ie_ipab_ibpo.html

4. **Owner/Exporter declaration**

The owner/exporter of the birds must complete a separate declaration, named, signed and dated, including address, telephone number and email address, stating the following details: the premises where the birds have resided in the previous 180 days, the name and address of the consignee in Hong Kong, the details of the birds being exported (as per section I of the 4536EHC).

5. **Identification**

Paragraph I refers. The individual ring, wing, microchip or other numbers must be given. The common and scientific name of the species, as well as the sex and age of the bird must be included. When the space in the bird identification section of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate details of all birds in the consignment, a separate schedule may be used. This schedule must contain the same information as that required in the identification section of the certificate, which should be annotated "see attached schedule". The certifying OV must draw a line under the last entry and sign, date and affix the OV stamp in a colour other than black on each page of the schedule and also under the last entry, in order to prevent the unauthorised addition of more entries. The pages of the schedule must be firmly stapled to the export health certificate and each referenced with the unique reference number at the top right-hand corner of the export health certificate. The corners of each sheet should be turned over, 'fanned', and stamped with the OV stamp.

6. **Clinical inspection**

The inspection at paragraph IV. a) must be carried out within 5 days of the intended date of export.

7. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Official Veterinarians may certify paragraphs IV. b) and e)(i) on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle on form 618NDC, or from the issuing office in Northern Ireland.

This will be based on information provided by the owner/exporter at the time of application of all the premises at which the birds have been present during the 180 days prior to export.

A report of West Nile virus that is not confirmed is not a reported case.

8. **Quarantine facilities**

Paragraph IV. c) refers. The birds for export must be kept in isolation for at least 28 days immediately prior to export. To certify this requirement, the OV must inspect the premises prior to the entry of the birds in order to confirm that they are suitable for isolation. In this context, approval of the isolation premises by the OV can be regarded as equivalent to being government approved.

The Hong Kong import conditions do not lay down specific terms for the isolation premises, except that they must be mosquito "free". Consequently the OV must use their discretion to apply the normally accepted principles of biosecurity. Access by people must be restricted

to authorised visitors only. There must be no contact with any other birds, and none of the people visiting the birds in isolation may have contact with any other birds throughout the isolation period.

Isolation may be allowed to take place within the owner/exporter's home provided that the OV is satisfied that the conditions provide suitable biosecurity.

The OV must personally verify the date of entry into the approved isolation facility, and must be satisfied that the bird(s) will remain in these conditions continuously during the isolation period. During isolation the OV may make additional visits at their discretion if these are considered necessary in order to confirm the continuity of isolation.

Note that at least one visit will be necessary during the isolation period in order to collect the samples described in paragraph IV. d).

9. **Laboratory Samples**

Paragraphs IV. d), e) f) and g) refer. All laboratory tests must be conducted at a government laboratory or officially approved laboratory approved for the test being performed. The tests will be performed by according to the methods laid down in the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. OVs wishing to submit samples for testing should contact the laboratory in advance to enable appropriate arrangements to be made. Advice on the submission of samples should be sought from the laboratory if required. Samples should be submitted to the laboratory allowing sufficient time for tests to be reported before the date of export.

For the virus isolation test it is permissible for samples to be pooled at the laboratory at the rate of 5 to 1. A negative test result for avian influenza virus will be accepted as evidence that the birds are free from H5 and H7 infection.

For RT-PCR, negative RT-PCR for avian influenza A virus matrix gene is acceptable.

The original copy of the laboratory results report form must be attached to the export health certificate to accompany the birds to Hong Kong and must indicate the detail of the test performed and result of the test.

10. **Examination and treatment of Psittacines**

Paragraph IV. f) refers. Clinical examination as per IV. a) must look for signs of avian Chlamydiosis, Pacheco's Disease and Psittacine Proventricular Dilatation Syndrome (PPDS).

Further for avian chlamydiosis, certification is with regards to treatment or testing carried out. OVs should indicate by deletion of the unused option which option has been used.

Treatment is intended to eliminate infection with psittacosis (*Chlamydophila psittaci*). Doxycycline is the preferred antibiotic because it appears to be palatable to birds. It is available under the trade name Ornicure®, further details of which can be seen on the VMD product summary:

https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/productinformationdatabase/files/SPC_Documents/SPC_1023795.PDF

Alternatively, the Psittacines can be tested against avian chlamydiosis with negative results, as per paragraph 9 above.

11. **Notification of arrival**

The importer must provide at least 24 hours notice in advance of the anticipated time of arrival to the Import & Export Officer, during office hours, by:-

Telephone: (852) 2182 1001, or

Fax: (852) 2769 8600, or

Email: foii_airport@afcd.gov.hk

All imported birds upon arrival will be taken for sampling by officers of AFCD. The samples will be arranged for testing against avian influenza virus.

12. **Transport**

The consignment must be transported by air by the fastest and most direct route to Hong Kong as Manifest Cargo. The birds must be carried and caged (with labels) in accordance with the current Live Animals Regulations of IATA (International Air Transport Association). The owner/exporter is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of transport for his/her birds meet IATA standards.

13. **C.I.T.E.S**

This certificate does not provide exemption from other legislation laid down for the protection or conservation of certain wild species, e.g. the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.).

14. **Welfare**

Welfare conditions during transport are laid down by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Exporters must comply with the UK welfare laws relating to the export of animals.

Exporters are also reminded that they must comply with Hong Kong's laws relating to the welfare of animals. Information on these should be obtained direct from the Hong Kong authorities.

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 (CIT) - Exports in Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha#animal-exports>

In Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA trade administration team:

e-mail - tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk

Phone - 0289 0520989