

EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT TO GHANA - 1613EHC

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1613EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1613EHC. 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 certificate

Export health certificate (1613EHC) may be used for the export of fresh poultry meat (including raw meat preparations), poultry meat products and mechanically separated poultry meat for human consumption from the United Kingdom to Ghana.

Fresh poultry meat means all parts of domestic poultry 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. Chilled and frozen meat is considered to be fresh meat.

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 Certificate 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. Suitability for human consumption

Paragraph IV. a) refers. The poultry from which the meat is derived must have been subject to ante- and post-mortem inspection, and found to be free from disease and fit for human consumption. This can be certified on the basis of the presence of oval identification marks, which show compliance with the food safety regulations in force in the United Kingdom.

4. Notifiable Disease Clearance

Paragraph IV. b)(i) refers. This paragraph may be signed on behalf of the Department provided the OV is in receipt of written authority from APHA (on 618NDC, for GB) or DAERA (for NI) which will be sent to the OV before shipment. Authority is based on information of origin premises provided at the time of application.

The farms of origin of the birds from which the meat was derived, and the slaughter and processing premises, must at time of slaughter be outside of any restricted area in place for the control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease, in poultry as defined by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), restricted areas being in place for a minimum of 30 days following confirmation of the outbreak.

Alternatively, paragraph IV. b)(ii) may be certified if the poultry meat/products have been heat treated sufficiently – see the below paragraph.

5. Heat treatment / processing

Paragraph IV. b)(ii) refers. As an alternative to the requirement to originate from an area free from Notifiable Avian Disease, this paragraph may be certified provided that the product, or the poultry meat within the product, has been heat-treated or processed sufficiently for the inactivation of HPAI or Newcastle disease, according to the recommendations of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, found at <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/>.

This sets the time/temperature combinations for each disease, with the recommendations for HPAI in Chapter 10.4.24, and for Newcastle disease in Chapter 10.9.21.

6. Packaging

Paragraph IV. c) refers. The product to be exported must be packaged in

new and clean packaging, suitable to prevent the product from contamination. This should be verified by the OV based on visual inspection or knowledge of the processes at the packaging establishment.

7. **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