EXPORT OF DAY OLD CHICKS, DAY OLD TURKEY POULTS, AND DAY OLD DUCKLINGS TO EGYPT

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

IMPORTANT
The 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 via the appropriate address in the link given below.
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha#animal-exports

1. **Scope of the certificate**

This certificate covers the export of domestic species of day old chickens, turkeys and ducks to Egypt.

2. **Official Signature**

This certificate may be signed by an OV appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, the 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 certifier must keep a copy for their own records.

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

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. **Clinical inspection**

The inspection in paragraph IV.a) must be carried out within 24 hours of the intended time of export. In paragraph IV b) the flocks of origin must be inspected within 28 days prior to the date of export.

4. **Flock Disease History**

Paragraph IV.b) and c) refers. 'Evidence' shall be interpreted as including clinical signs, information derived from flock production and mortality records, laboratory test reports and pathological examinations.

5. **Poultry Health Scheme Membership**

Paragraph IV.d) refers. Membership of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme may be certified on behalf of the Department provided the OV has received written confirmation which will be sent to them by the issuing APHA/DAERA office before shipment.

6. **National Control Programme for Salmonella**

Paragraph IV.e) refers. The National Control Programme lays down procedures for the routine monitoring of chicken and turkey flocks for zoonotic Salmonellas. The OV should check the relevant laboratory reports to verify that all test results were negative for the past 12 months in the flock(s) of origin and hatcheries for the referred to salmonellas.

Where the certifying OV is not personally responsible for the flocks of origin or the hatchery a support statement concerning the test results must be obtained from the veterinarian covering the flocks of origin and the hatchery referred to in paragraph II b) and c).

In the case of ducks, a programme of testing similar to that of the statutory testing of chickens and turkeys is undertaken by companies on a voluntary basis. The flocks of origin must be negative for the last 12 months.

Where the certifying OV is not personally responsible for the flocks of origin a support statement concerning the test results must be obtained from the veterinarian covering the flocks of origin.

7. **Notifiable Disease Clearance.**

Paragraphs IV.f) and g) may be certified on behalf of the Department provided the OV has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to them before shipment.

If authority is given to certify IV.g)(b), the premises are considered in a 'region officially free from NAI' if the flocks of origin and the hatchery are outside of any zone established around an infected premises for disease control purposes.

The GB Compartment Scheme is not currently recognised by the Egyptian authorities, therefore it is not possible to certify IV.g)(c) for birds originating from a Compartment.

8. **Test requirements for avian influenza**

Serological testing for **all 15 haemagglutinin sub-types** of avian influenza is required with negative results. Part IV.j) of the 5308EHC requires avian influenza serology testing of flock(s) of origin **within 28 days of export** (for turkey and duck flocks), or **within 21 days of export** (for chicken flocks).

Flocks testing positive for any H sub-type will not be eligible for export to Egypt. The OV should verify that samples were submitted to APHA Weybridge/Lasswade or to another UK laboratory accredited by UKAS for the specific avian influenza serological test undertaken. UKAS Accreditations can be viewed at: https://www.ukas.com/find-an-organisation/

The exporter should make arrangements in advance with the laboratory to obtain the necessary data about the materials for the avian influenza test.

The number of samples necessary to give 95% confidence of detecting infection at a prevalence of 5% is given in the following table:

Number of birds in flock	Number of samples to be taken
up to 20	all
20-29	20
30-39	25
40-49	30
50-59	35
60-89	40
90-199	50
200-499	55
500 or more	60

The Agar Gel Immunodiffusion Test (AGID) is recommended because it will detect antibodies to all sub-types of avian influenza. The alternative Haemagglutination Inhibition (HI) test is specific for each subtype, and if this test is requested it is necessary to specify that all H sub-types are tested. Elisa tests with indirect and competitive formats can also be considered as an alternative test.

Further post import tests might be conducted by the Egyptian authorities on arrival into Egypt, to verify that day old poultry are free from avian influenza antibodies.

9. **Vaccination History**

Paragraphs IV.h) refers. Concerning vaccination against avian influenza, the vaccination of poultry for avian influenza in the UK is not practiced, and the paragraph can be certified on this basis.

10. **Packing Conditions**

Paragraph IV.k) refers. The statement from the owner/exporter that day old chicks are shipped in new, clean and un-used containers should not be attached to the health certificate, but should be retained by the OV for record purposes.

11. **Support certification**

When the flocks of origin are inspected by a different veterinarian

they should complete form 5308SUP (Support Health Certificate), certifying that the included requirements relating to the flocks of origin are complied with.

12. **No paragraph i)**

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

13. **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:

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.