EXPORT OF POULTRY MEAT AND POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - 1513EHC.

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN AND EXPORTER

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS: 1513EHC and 618NDC

IMPORTANT
These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with export certificate 1513EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 1513EHC. 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 1513EHC may be used for the export of poultry meat and poultry meat products from the United Kingdom to the United Arab Emirates.

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 – 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. **IMPORT PERMIT**

Exporters are responsible for ascertaining whether an import permit is a compulsory requirement in the importing country, and if so, for ensuring that the importer has obtained the necessary permit.

4. **HALAL CERTIFICATION**

Export health certificate 1513EHC only covers animal health and food safety assurances. The UAE authorities may require additional certification that the meat was produced in accordance with Islamic rite. It is the exporter's own responsibility to provide this certification and to ensure that this and any other additional import requirements are met.

5. **SUPPORT CERTIFICATION**

In situations where certification concerns information outside the knowledge of the certifying OV, they may complete the export health certificate on the basis of appropriate support statements from veterinarians in the slaughter premises.

6. **FITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND POULTRY HEALTH STATUS**

Paragraphs 16.1.1 and 16.1.3 refer. These paragraphs may be certified for UK establishments on the basis of identification marks which demonstrate compliance with UK Food Hygiene Regulations. The regulation requires pre-slaughter farm health reports, and ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, to ensure that only healthy birds are slaughtered for human consumption. The same legislation requires that the slaughterhouse and production premises are approved and supervised by `the Competent Veterinary Authority'. In United Kingdom this means the Food Standards Agency (FSA) or Food Standards Scotland (FSS), or in the case of standalone meat preparations/ products/ storage premises, the local authority, or DAERA for premises in Northern Ireland.

7. **APPROVAL AND SUPERVISION OF THE PRODUCTION PREMISES**

Paragraphs 16.1.2 and 16.1.4 refer. These may be certified on the basis that the poultry meat/poultry meat products come from establishments that are registered with the competent authority as meeting the requirements of the applicable Food Safety and Hygiene Regulations, and the establishments have a HACCP system in place.

For UK premises, there is no requirement for premises to be included on a specific list to export to the UAE, it is only required that the FBO has UK competent authority approval.

8. **RESIDUES**

Paragraph 16.1.5 refers. The UK operates a monitoring programme for residues in meat. The UK national testing plan covers all licensed slaughterhouses in the UK and, on the basis of this testing plan, it can be considered that the meat does not contain levels exceeding the limits permitted in the UK of any veterinary medicinal product, antiparasitic agent, or heavy metal contaminant; nor any beta-agonist; nor any substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action, which do not occur naturally in the meat. This has been assessed as being compliant with GCC requirements, and the certificate can be signed on this basis.

9. **SLAUGHTER AND FEEDING REQUIREMENTS**

Paragraphs 16.1.6 and 16.1.7 refer. The OV should seek assurance that the poultry have not been slaughtered for the purpose of disease eradication or control. This could be verified through methods such as support health attestation or familiarity with the slaughter premises.

It is prohibited for farmed animals for human consumption to be fed waste, and the OV may certify for UK premises on this basis.

10. **REQUIREMENTS FOR UNTREATED AND TREATED POULTRY MEAT**

Section 16.2.1 must be certified where the poultry meat or product to be exported has not been treated sufficiently to ensure the inactivation of avian influenza and Newcastle disease virus in accordance with the WOAH Code.

Section 16.2.2 can be certified where the poultry meat has been treated sufficiently to ensure the inactivation of avian influenza and Newcastle disease virus in accordance with the WOAH Code. See below for details of required treatment.

Each section being certified must be marked in the appropriate box.

11. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

Paragraphs 16.2.1.1 and 16.2.1.2 may be certified by the OV for UK establishments provided they have received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent by APHA Carlisle. In Northern Ireland the local equivalent arrangements will apply.

Paragraph 16.2.1.1 can be certified where the whole of the country is free from infection with high pathogenic avian influenza viruses (HPAI) for a minimum period of (28) days prior to export (for the first section) **or** the zone in which the farms of origin and the slaughter, processing and packaging premises (second section) are located is free from HPAI for a minimum of 28 days prior to export, where stamping out policy and surveillance for AI has been enforced. A stamping out policy is always carried out on HPAI infected premises and surveillance for AI always takes place on AI restricted zones in the UK.

Paragraph 16.2.1.2 can be similarly certified for Newcastle disease, with a minimum period of 3 months required following the stamping out procedure.

12. **FREEDOM FROM SALMONELLA**

Paragraph 16.2.1.3 can be certified on the basis that all chicken and turkey meat and egg-producing flocks in the UK must be tested for Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium under the National Control Plan (NCP). Regular testing for salmonella is also required for poultry meat at production establishments. The OV can certify

freedom from salmonella where the most recent testing was negative, on the basis of records provided for the results of testing carried out under the NCP and under the food safety criteria and process hygiene criteria.

13. **HEAT TREATED POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS**

Paragraph 16.2.2 refers. This paragraph can be certified if the product has been treated to ensure the inactivation of avian influenza and Newcastle disease virus in accordance with WOAH guidelines as per Article 10.4.24 and 10.9.21 respectively of the WOAH Terrestrial Code.

Precautions should also be taken to avoid contact of the product with sources of the virus. Official veterinarians should ensure that all packaging is new or appropriately sanitised.

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:

APHA https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha
DAERA – Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk