Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for entry into the European Union or Northern Ireland of day-old chicks other than of ratites 8435

November 2026

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No: 8435 NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of day-old chicks other than of ratites

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICERS (CO) AND EXPORTERS

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to COs and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch of day-old chicks other than of ratites to the EU or NI. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

In addition to the relevant export certificate, day-old chicks other than of ratites transiting through the EU must be accompanied by certificate(s) required by the third country of destination. 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.

[Please note, policies are being reviewed. NFG will be further amended to provide specific guidance. Traders should look at NFGs regularly for any updates]

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/692

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2035

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006

Decision 2003/644/EC

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 - Model EHC amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

Any EU legislation referenced in the certificate must be complied with and EU legislation can be accessed on the following link. You should ensure you use the latest version:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC. Please see link:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017R0625&from=EN

Consolidated legislation

Consolidated texts, which integrate the basic instruments of EU legislation with their amendments and corrections in a single, non-official document, are available. Each consolidated text contains a list of all legal documents, taken into account for its construction.

You can search for consolidated texts by using the 'find results by document number' option on the European Commission website. Once you have selected the relevant legislation, click 'document information', and then scroll down to 'all consolidated versions' and select the most recent version.

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html

Please note that the consolidated text may not contain the latest amendment to the legislation, as it takes several weeks for this to be updated.

Texts provided in this section are intended for information only. Please note that these texts have no legal value. For legal purposes please refer to the texts published in the 'Official Journal of the EU'.

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This EHC is intended for entry into the EU or NI of day-old chicks other than ratites.

It may also be used for these animals transiting the EU to another third country.

'Day-old chicks' means poultry less than 72 hours old, as defined in Article 2 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.The conditions for import to the EU of day-old chicks other than of ratites are different for consignments of less than 20 units, please refer to EHC ref. 8444.

3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OV

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Government Veterinary Officer (e.g. APHA, FSA or FSS employed veterinary officers) or by an OV appointed by APHA on behalf of Ministers in Defra, the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government and who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp, with the OV stamp, the health certificate in ink of a different colour to that of the printing of the EHC. There is no requirement to sign and stamp in a specific colour.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

EHC in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).

EHC should be in English and the foreign language of the Border Control Post (BCP) of entry in the EU. The original copy of the required EHC must accompany the consignment to the BCP of entry.

Listing of the EU MS BCPs can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

The foreign language certificate as received from the APHA Centre for International Trade at Carlisle or via the Export Heath Certificates Online system (EHCO) and bearing the same unique reference number as the English certificate, should be considered an official and accurate translations of the English, as published in EU legislation.

The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical in the English and foreign language editions and to the legislation published by the European Commission. Therefore, the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions as in the English version should be struck through and these deletions should be stamped and initialled in both versions. Both versions must also be signed (as opposed to being initialled) and stamped by the OV, the foreign language certificate is deemed to be a genuine and properly authorised translation of the English version.

This also applies to any instructions in the guidance notes to strike out certain paragraphs or to certify statements that the country is free of certain notifiable diseases etc.

Additional information can be found in APHA Official Veterinarian Training:
https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php

SIGNING AND STAMPING

When signing a certificate, the CO should ensure that the certificate contains no deletions or alterations, other than those which are indicated on the certificate to be permissible and any corrections to permitted entries, subject to such changes being initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the CO. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the 'Notes' section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction 'Keep as appropriate' or 'delete if not applicable'.

- Where the certificate contains optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled, and stamped by the CO, or completely removed from the certificate.
- Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a 'Z' across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.
- There is no requirement for a date and time to accompany each stamp. The date is only entered at the required entry field in Part I of the certificate, and at the end where the CO signs, stamps and dates that action.
- We are aware of some BCPs demanding that all handwritten information in Part 1 of the EHC is initialled and stamped, including handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes. There is no legal requirement in EU legislation that all the hand-written information entered in the certificate must be signed and stamped. It is only in the case of correction, in any part of the certificate, or in the case of statements to be crossed out, that the certifier must add signature (or initials) and stamp. This has been

confirmed by the European Commission. The Commission noted however, in the case of a hand-written certificate, it is expected that the same one person completes the document. If not, the BCP might suspect that empty boxes were completed by another person after the certificate has been signed by the official

You should consider checking with the specific BCP regarding their preference when it comes to the stamping and initialling of handwritten scoring out of otherwise blank boxes in Part I of the EHC.

- **Clarification from the European Commission means that all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually in place of fan stamping and in addition to any permitted alterations. There is no requirement to fan stamp.**
- COs are reminded to consult the NFG prior to the certification of each EHC. NFG will be updated with new information in due course.

Further Information COs should make sure they are familiar with all relevant guidance and other documents relating to EHCs and that they discuss requirements with exporters in advance.

See https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8

You can also contact APHA's Centre for International Trade (CIT) on 03000 200 301.

PART I: DETAILS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

All boxes in Part I of the certificate must be completed. When a box is not applicable/optional, and not filled, please score it through.

Please use a schedule to be attached to the certificate if there is not enough space to fill the information. See Section 'Addition of Schedules' below.

Please complete all the boxes in Part I of the certificate in accordance with the guidance laid down in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, Amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744.

I.27 Identification of the Commodity

In the free text box include the following fields and the relevant data to identify the consignment:

Description of Commodity
CN Code
Species (scientific name)
Subspecies/Category
Quantity

The Harmonised System (HS) Code is a commodity classification system used as a basis for customs tariffs and for international trade statistics.

It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that the HS code is entered correctly and accurately reflects the product(s) being consigned.

Further information on HS Codes can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections and http://madb.europa.eu/madb/euTariffs.htm

The OV should confirm with the exporter that the HS Code used correctly describes the products being consigned

II.1 Public Health attestation

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the public health attestations set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

They must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003 and (EC) Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006, laying down the public health conditions applicable to the Salmonella control programme, and the specific requirements for the use of antimicrobials and vaccines.

II.1.1 - Regulation 2160/2003 lays down a testing programme for certain Salmonellas of human significance: S.*enteritidis, S.hadar, S.infantis, S.typhimurium*, and *S.virchow* for chicken (*Gallus gallus*) *and S. enteritidis and S.typhmurium* for turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). The regulations currently apply ONLY to flocks of the chicken (*Gallus gallus*) and turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo)* species.

The OV must complete details of the most recent Salmonella testing based on his/her knowledge of the flock, an examination of relevant records and laboratory reports from an approved laboratory, and any necessary support statements. The public health assurance in section II.1 must always be certified for chickens and turkeys. If the species being exported is not chickens or turkeys at I.28, none of section II.1. applies and the OV should mark it as 'Not Applicable'.

Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 prohibits the use of antimicrobials as a specific method to control salmonella in poultry, and states that any live salmonella vaccines used for the control of Salmonella must provide an appropriate method to distinguish bacteriologically wild-type strains of salmonella from vaccine strains. All approved live Salmonella vaccines with marketing authorisation fulfil this requirement. The appropriate line should be retained/deleted according to whether antimicrobials have been used. If antimicrobials have been used details of these must be completed indicating the name and active substance of the antimicrobial used.

II.1.2. - This statement may be certified following examination of relevant records and laboratory reports, and any necessary support statements. Again, this is only for Gallus gallus and turkeys.

II.1.3. - This attestation can be deleted if the consignment is not intended for Finland or Sweden. Otherwise, the OV must satisfy themselves that Salmonella testing has been conducted according to the requirements of this decision.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

The OV signing the export veterinary certificate must ensure that the animal health attestation set out in Part II of the veterinary certificate have been complied with.

They must ensure that they are aware of the relevant provisions of Regulation (EU) 2020/692 regarding the health details of the flock of origin and guarantees for Newcastle disease and Avian Influenza (AI).

II.2.1 -
(a) – This will require the zone to be listed as GB-1 at the point the hatching eggs are laid. GB is listed for the export of day-old poultry to the EU. The relevant regulations are Implementing Regulations (EU) 2021/404 and 2021/405. These regulations have been amended by Implementing Regulations 2021/634 and 2021/606, adding the GB and the Crown Dependencies to the relevant lists.

(b) - This can be signed based on the compliance of the UK's surveillance programme with EU guidelines and recognised compliance with Regulation (EU) 2020/692 requirements.

(c) - In case of HPAI, this may be certified on the basis that both are notifiable diseases. See section 4 – Notifiable Disease Clearance.

(d) 'either/or' - In the case of Newcastle disease, the option to be certified will be reflected in the Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC). See section 4 – Notifiable Disease Clearance.

II.2.2. -
(a) - The first option may be signed. This can be signed on the basis that vaccination against Avian Influenza (AI) is prohibited in the UK unless in an exceptional emergency, situation, where there is a high risk of an outbreak spreading out of control. Vaccination of poultry against AI is not permitted within the EU, except in special circumstances in the face of an unusually high perceived risk of disease. In this case a special Decision will be issued specifying the conditions under which it is permitted. There is no current plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

(b) - The first option may be certified on the basis that where poultry have come from the UK. Annex XV of Regulation (EU) 2020/692 relates to the pathogenicity index of the Newcastle disease vaccine. Any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA and therefore must have an intracerebral pathogenicity index of less than 0.4. Where poultry have been imported additional enquiries must be made to ensure that the vaccines have a suitably low pathogenicity index or that the additional statements can be satisfied.

II.2.3 - The establishment (hatchery of origin) must be named and supplied with a Poultry Health Scheme approval number that appears on a list of establishments drawn up and published by the Commission. This name and unique approval number must be in Box I.11

(a) Check that the approval has not been suspended

(b) For GB origin meat, this can be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered (e.g. have a CPH number) and are under the control of APHA. Article 8 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 requires farmers to keep up-to date records of the number of animals in the establishment (including species and, where relevant, identification), movements of animals into and out of the establishment and mortality in the establishment. These records must be kept for at least 3 years. Supporting evidence (e.g. a declaration from the farmer) may be used to support certification.

(c) This may be certified on the basis of establishments receiving regular animal health visits from a veterinarian. If the farm of origin is a member of the Government Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) or an approved farm assurance scheme Farm assurance schemes: evidence of vet visits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) , which requires regular veterinary visit then this statement may be certified based on the relevant PHS or relevant farm assurance scheme membership.

The frequency of veterinary visits should be at least annual and must be a visit of the establishment at flock level for the purpose of detection of, or information on, occurrence of animal disease, or a statutory visit for flock health reasons.

If farms are not part of PHS or recognise farm assurance schemes that mandate regular veterinary inspections, then a declaration from its private veterinarian confirming veterinary visitations to the farm are performed at least annually (or at a higher frequency if deemed proportionate to the animal health and welfare compliance risk in the holding) is required. A sample Establishment Veterinary Visitation Attestation form can be found here: Establishment Veterinary Visitation Attestation Form.

(d) and (e) May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the birds came from holdings in the UK.

II.2.4. -

(a) Requires that the flock of origin has been resident in the zone for a minimum of 3 months, prior to the collection of the hatching eggs. This may be certified after the OV has checked the movement records of the establishment. If animals have been introduced into the zone from **third countries,** the OV must have sight of the import permits to be satisfied that the health status of the imported flock meets those standards of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulation (EU) 2020/692 AND that the country / zone of origin is listed in the Part 1. Section B of Annex V to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. The OV would be advised to keep copies of the import permits for their records. If animals were imported into the zone from the EU Member State(s), this might be certified after the OV has checked movement records of the establishment and had sight of relevant Import Health Certificate(s), to establish the origin of the imported animals. The OV would be advised to keep copies of the documents for their records.

This EHC has no provision for hatching eggs imported from an EU Member State. Therefore, when hatching eggs are imported into GB from an EU Member State, and the eggs subsequently hatch in GB, the day-old chicks are not eligible for export to the EU.

(b) May be certified after checking the movement records of the establishment

i. The establishment must be named and supplied with an approval number that appears on a list of establishments drawn up and published by the Commission. This is a reference to the Poultry Health Scheme. Enter the name, address, and approval number.
ii. Check that the approval has not been suspended
iii. May be certified, on the basis of notifiable disease clearances. See section 4.
iv. May be certified after the OV has checked PHS membership and the laboratory records and medication records for the establishment for the previous 12-month period.

v. May be certified after the OV has checked PHS membership and the laboratory records and medication records for the establishment for the previous 12-month period.

(c) The first option may be certified on the basis that vaccination against AI in poultry is prohibited unless, in an exceptional emergency situation, where there is a risk of an outbreak. Vaccination of poultry against AI is not permitted within the UK, except in special circumstances in the face of an unusually high perceived risk of disease. In this case a special Decision will be issued specifying the conditions under which it is permitted. There is no current plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

(d) May be certified after the OV has checked the establishments records. One option must be deleted. The OV is advised to keep a copy of the records to support their certification. If the flock has been vaccinated against Newcastle disease, then the second option must be certified, and the table completed.

(e) May be certified after the OV has checked the laboratory records for the establishment. The surveillance for the pathogens in this paragraph are covered by the PHS. Keep the relevant section depending on species being exported.

II.2.5. (a) (b), (c) and (d) - May be certified by the OV having personal knowledge of the establishment. The OV may wish to receive a declaration from the owner for their records. Hatching eggs must be labelled using coloured ink/ the stamp must indicate the approval number of the establishment for poultry other than ratites/ in the case of ratites, the stamp must also include the country or territory ISO code as well as the approval number.

The hatching eggs must not have been transported through, unloaded in, or moved to another means of transport when transported by road, sea or by air through an HPAI restricted zone as per Article 99 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

II.2.6 - May be certified as required on inspection of the establishment records and on receipt of an owners' declaration.

II.2.7, II.2.10 & II.2.11 – These points may be certified, if clinical examination is carried out by the same certifying OV, or deleted, if a second OV carries out the clinical examination at time of hatching, and certified through the "Supplementary Health Information" in Section III. of the certificate.

II.2.8 - May be certified as vaccination for AI in the UK is not permitted.

II.2.9 - May be certified, on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the animals came from holdings in the UK. In other words, the flock(s) of origin cannot be under disease control measures relevant to poultry.

II.2.12 - May be certified if each of the points (a)-(e) are complied with at time of loading.

(d) - to avoid substitution of content of the load during the transport process, seal(s) must be affixed to trailer under supervision of an OV. The OV must enter the seal(s) number in section I.19 of the certificate when satisfied that the trailer is sealed correctly, either by having appropriate evidence or by witnessing the sealing in person. (Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 requires that access to the animals must be provided, therefore for welfare reasons the seal(s) may be broken to provide access to the animals during the transport

process if the animals need to be inspected or cared for).Containers must be labelled as per Point 3 of Annex XVI to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 relevant for day-old chicks.

II.2.13 - Enter the date of dispatch to the EU or NI.

The certifying OV must ensure that the transport was cleaned and disinfected with an authorised disinfectant before loading in accordance with the relevant provisions of Retained EU Regulation No 1/2005 and that other parts of the attestation are complied with. See section 7 on Animal Transport Attestation and Gov.uk for further information on approved disinfectants. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. A declaration from the owner / transporter must be sought to confirm relevant requirements have been met.

II.2.14 - This should be deleted except for consignments being exported to a member state or zone thereof which has been granted the status free from Newcastle disease virus without vaccination in accordance with Article 66 of Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and comply with the points listed. The list of member states with this status can be found in Annex X to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620. To certify this point, the OV should seek the relevant evidence/access to records to satisfy themselves that the requirements on these points are complied with. This may require familiarity with the establishment procedures, inspection of the establishment records and/or receipt of an owner's declaration/veterinary declaration that the OV deems sufficient to provide the necessary reassurances to certify these requirements.

If this section is applicable, the OV should only certify one of the three options provided on sub-paragraph (b) and delete the other two options.

4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE

Commodities of poultry or poultry meat can be exported into the EU from the territory code listed in column 2 of the table in Part 1 of Annex V to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404. Ensure you are looking at the most up to date version of the Regulation. If the latest consolidated version does not include the latest amendment, this amendment needs to be looked at separately. Some export certificates for animals and animal products will include statements that will require the OV to certify that specified areas or the entire country of origin are free from certain diseases.

Where it is possible for the CO (OV or Environmental Health Officer (EHO)) in Great Britain to obtain disease clearance themselves, the Centre for international Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance.

COs must check the following sources of disease information for the United Kingdom immediately prior to certification, to ensure disease freedom statements can be certified:

- the Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for Great Britain (ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland) available on Official Veterinarian Training.
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification) available on Official Veterinarian Training.

- For any postcodes in Northern Ireland, COs can obtain clearance using the interactive map provided by DAERA that can be found here: AI Trade Map

AI and territory codes:

If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-0, it can be exported to the EU from the whole territory of the UK. You will have to insert "GB-0" into the "territory code" box on the EHC.

If the commodity to be exported is listed against GB-1, it means that the UK is being regionalised because of a disease outbreak, and the premises of origin is located in a free area. All premises of origin (eg Flocks of origin, slaughterhouse, processing or storage premises as applicable) have to be located in GB-1. The OV must ensure that this information is correct. For up-to-date GB-1 and GB-2 areas please refer to the online interactive map where you have to check whether the premises of origin are all within the GB-1 area using the premises post codes.

Areas listed under GB-2 (and detailed as GB-2.1, GB-2.2 etc.) are restricted from exports between the "closing" and "opening" dates listed against those areas.

Day-old chicks which have been transported through, unloaded or transhipped in an HPAI restricted zone are unable to enter into the EU or NI as per article 5 and article 14 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

Likewise, hatching eggs, from which day-old chicks come, if they have been transported through, unloaded or transhipped in an HPAI restricted zone are also unable to enter into the EU or NI, as per article 99, point B of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, relating to the handling of hatching eggs during transport.

For more information, the interactive map can be found here: Avian Influenza Export Health Certification Check. See APHA Official Veterinarian Training for further guidance.

The Interactive Map differentiates between GB AI zones that have formally been reopened by having opening dates published in the Official Journal and those which are provisionally open. As the EU publishes info notes notifying EU Members States of the lifting of restrictions in areas, these will be highlighted in orange. BCPs might not be aware of this note immediately after publication so it is the responsibility of the exporter to contact the country of destination before the export takes place to ensure that the consignments will not be detained or rejected at the BCP.

For Great Britain:

In the absence of a specific Notifiable Disease Clearance (618NDC) from CITC: COs may certify that the UK has disease free status or region free status for those diseases mentioned in the health certificate, once they have checked the disease list(s) for the last

occurrence of the disease and have ensured it complies with the time frames in the certificate.

In the event of a disease outbreak that affects a CO being able to obtain their own disease clearance, CITC will notify COs to make it clear which disease freedom statements should not be certified and where necessary, will issue a 618NDC notifiable disease clearance if the EHC can continue to be issued for certain regions that retain free status.

In the event of a disease outbreak after the EHC has been issued that affects the disease clearance, COs must not certify the EHC and must contact CITC immediately for advice on whether certification can still take place. If a disease outbreak affects the CO disease clearance procedures for this EHC, a 618NDC will be reinstated by CITC which will be issued with the EHC until a time when CO disease clearance can be reinstated.

NOTE: This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements.

5. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

Certification Support Officers may not be utilised for gathering evidence relating to this certificate.

6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM A THIRD COUNTRY [WHEN APPLICABLE]

NI origin:

Consignments could potentially contain animals which have originated in NI. The certificate/documentation which the animal arrives into GB with may not contain sufficient information for the GB CO to sign the EU EHC.

Disease clearance for animals originating in NI can be completed using auto-clearance NDC found here:
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/notifiable-diseases-northern-ireland

Where regional or local level disease clearance is required, this can be certified upon request on the basis of information from NI in the form of a declaration or a supporting health attestation.

Animal health statements which refer to the prohibition of certain vaccination programmes e.g. against FMD or CSF or ASF can be certified at a national level by the CO on the basis that NI also enforces a ban on such vaccinations in accordance with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry) can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all livestock animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

EU origin:

It is possible that some consignments may contain animals that are of EU origin and were imported into GB on a GB EHC. The GB EHC may not contain enough information to allow the CO to sign an EU EHC.

In such cases, the CO will need further information from the EU member state regarding particular attestations on the EHC that cannot be signed by the CO without support documentation. Thus, the GB exporter must request from the EU exporter an attestation or written declaration from an EU registered vet. The GB exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU vet who has inspected the animals before export from the EU.

This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the GB CO. The GB CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or told otherwise.

Third country origin:

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animals that have been imported to GB from non-EU countries and fulfilled a residency period in GB, and GB exporters intend to export then to the EU. In these cases, COs may obtain a copy of the EHC for the import of such animals from the Third Country to GB.
GB COs are not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU BCP or specifically instructed in the NFG.

It is the GB exporter's ultimate responsibility to obtain any necessary support documents (from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter), to enable GB COs to be able to certify the live animals in good time before the export to the EU.

7. DECLARATION BY MASTER OF THE SHIP

A declaration by the master of the ship, as set out in Chapter 1 of Annex III of Regulation 2021/403, shall accompany veterinary certificates for imports into the EU of poultry where the transport of those commodities includes transport by ship, even for part of the journey. You can find Master of the ship declaration here:
https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/master-of-the-vessel-declaration-8466

8. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and No 1/2002 is implemented under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. Every animal should be fit for the journey that is planned. Animals should be in good health, free of illness, free of significant wounds and able to walk without pain on all legs. Animals that are in sufficiently good health, should be able to withstand the stress of a journey without experiencing any unnecessary pain or distress, and should arrive at their destination in good health. Animals that are injured (i.e.

they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted) shall not be considered fit for transport.

9. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

Section III. Of the EHC "Supplementary health information" refers:

The date of hatching needs to be confirmed by the OV and the inspection must be carried out within 24 hours of loading. The pre-export inspection should consist of a visual appraisal and, if deemed appropriate, physical examination of the animals for export. OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required so as to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

10. ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEMES

Salmonella Control in Poultry

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of Salmonella in poultry is currently implemented through the UK Salmonella National Control Programme that is enforced by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order Regulation 2007 (England), the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Wales) Order 2008, the Control of Salmonella in Poultry (Breeding, Laying and Broiler Flocks) (Scotland) Order 2009, the Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009, and the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Order.

For consignments intended to be exported to Finland and Sweden, compliance with Commission Decision 2003/644 (EC) and Commission Decision 2004/235 must be certified. The OV must check the flock records to confirm that the appropriate tests have been carried out at the correct frequency with negative results of zoonotic salmonella species.

Concerning the results of testing, it should be described as positive **ONLY if:**

- In the case of breeding flocks, *S.hadar, S.virchow*, or *S.infantis* are detected.
- In the case of productive poultry, *S.enteritidis* or *S.typhimurium* are detected.

Poultry Health Scheme

Directive 2009/158 (EC) was replaced by Regulation 2019/2035. These rules are implemented in the UK under the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS). The listing criteria of the premises of origin (including surveillance requirements) are included in the scheme and a list of approved Poultry Health Scheme members can be found on the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-health-scheme-list-of-members

Relevant text can be certified based on the establishment committing to the Poultry health scheme for the control and surveillance of specified non-zoonotic mycoplasma and salmonella bacterial species.

11. ADDITION OF SCHEDULES

When the space in Part I or Part II of the certificate is insufficient to accommodate full details of the consignment a schedule may be used. In the relevant section of the certificate the CO should annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'. A new schedule should be created (typed or clearly written) containing the same information as that required in the certificate. The schedule must include the certificate reference number on each page and must be signed, dated, and stamped by the CO in a colour other than the printed text on each page and under the last entry. The schedule forms part of the certificate. All pages of the certificate, including the schedule, must be sequentially numbered. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines.

Further guidance is available here:
https://improve-ov.com/instructions/instructions.php?ta=8

12. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EHCs

When completing export certification, the CO and, if applicable, FCCO must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. OVs must retain copies of certification documents in accordance with RCVS Certification principles.

https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years. A certified copy of this EHC does not need to be returned to the APHA CITC. For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further details on Post Certifying Procedures, 'certified copies' of certification and the types of documents that should be retained by COs can be found on APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

13. LEGAL STATEMENT

References in this guidance to "assimilated EU Regulation" should be interpreted as references to assimilated law, as defined under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

14. DISCLAIMER

This certificate and NFG are 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 APHA in Carlisle.

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Version History

EHC

2025

II.1(a) – Attestation contains updated legislative reference.
II.2.1. – (d) option now divided into 'either'/'or'.
II.2.7. – Point added regarding contact with other birds since hatching.
II.2.10. – Point added regarding date of hatching.
II.2.11. – Point added regarding clinical inspection prior to loading.
Footnote 9 – Added regarding Part 1, Section B, of Annex V to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

2024

II.2.4. – Updated to now allow the introduction of flocks to zone from a member state. Previously only from a third country.

NFG

Version 19: Published November 2026
II.2.14 – Guidance updated.

Version 18: Published October 2025
References to Vet Gateway updated to Official Veterinarian Training throughout.
Part 2
Numbering updated for several points following addition of new attestation points.
II.2.1. – Guidance added for new (d) either/or option.
II.2.7 & II.2.10-11 – Guidance added for new points covered by OV clinical inspection.
Legal Statement: Wording updated.

Version 17: Published 16 June 2025
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE – Section amended to include reference to AI map for NI.

Version 16: Published December 2024
APHA Gateway links updated.

Version 15: Published 31 July 2024
Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351 added
Part 1 I.27: Amended to reflect EHC options
Part 2 II.2.4 (a) Amended to advise on changes to member state introduction

Version 14: Published March 2024
II.2.9 (d): Amended to add guidance about applying seals to trailers.

Version 13: Published 25 Oct 2023
II.2.4: Amended to add a clarification about the export of day-old chicks from hatching eggs imported from an EU MS.

Version 12: Published 11 July 2023
Notifiable disease clearance: Avian Influenza and territory code section is amended with further update on reformatting of interactive map.

Version 11: Published 16 February 2023:
Section 4 Added guidance regarding movement through a HPAI restricted zone.
II.2.5 added guidance on movement through a restricted zone for hatching eggs.