Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Notes for Guidance: Export Health Certificate for the entry into the European Union and Northern Ireland of less than 20 heads of poultry other than ratites 8444

November 2026

Contents

1. Applicable Legislation
2. Scope of the Certificate
3. Certification by an Official Veterinarian (OV)
    Part I: Details of the Consignment
    Part II: Certification
4. Notifiable Disease Clearance
5. Collection of evidence
6. Consignments or parts of the consignment originating from NI, EU member states or from third countries (triangular trade)
7. Declaration by master of the ship
8. Clinical examination
9. Animal Transport Attestation
10. Animal Health Schemes
11. Addition of Schedules
12. Certified Copies of Export Health Certificates (EHC)
13. Legal Statement
14. Disclaimer

No: 8444 NFG

EHC for entry into the EU or NI of single consignments of less than 20 heads of poultry other than ratites

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OV AND EXPORTER

1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403

Council Directive 96/22/EC

Council Directive 96/23/EC

Commission Decision 2011/163/EU

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003

Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006

Decision 2003/644/EC

Decision 2004/235/EC

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Regulation (EU) No 2016/429

Regulation (EU) No 2017/625

Regulation (EU) 2010/367

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

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292

Commission Decision Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905

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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers (CO) and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch to the EU or NI of single consignments of less than 20 units of poultry other than ratites, hatching eggs and day-old chicks thereof. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the veterinary certificate.

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]

2. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

This certificate is for movements into the EU or NI of single consignments of less than 20 heads of poultry (other than ratites).

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

This certificate is to be completed according to the notes for the completion of certificates provided for in Chapter 4 of Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235

Definitions

'Breeding poultry' means poultry 72 hours old or more intended for the production of hatching eggs, as defined by Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2020/692

'Productive poultry' means poultry 72 hours old or more, reared for the production of meat, eggs for consumption or other products or for restocking supplies of game birds, as defined by Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2020/692

'Poultry intended for slaughter' means poultry to be transported directly to a slaughterhouse as defined by Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2020/692

'Day old chicks' means poultry less than 72 hours as defined by Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

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 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 this 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 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.

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

PART II: CERTIFICATION

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

II.1 Public Health Attestation (to be deleted for transit through the EU)

II.1.1 and II.1.2 -

The national surveillance scheme implements Council Directive 96/22/EC (and 2017/625), which is transposed into national legislation by The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 and parallel legislation in Wales. Said provisions fulfil the guarantees covering live animals provided by the residues plans submitted in accordance with Article 6(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292. The UK is listed in Annex -I to Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/405 for the concerned animals covered under this EHC.

The UK has a surveillance programme in place to monitor residues of authorised veterinary medicines, prohibited substances, and other contaminants in animals covered under this EHC. The Directive and Regulations prohibit the routine administration of the hormones mentioned to livestock. Administration for therapeutic and zootechnical reasons is allowed. The paragraph can be certified on this basis but a written declaration from the owner/exporter to this effect should be obtained as part of due diligence.

II.1.3 – For further information in Salmonella testing please check the guidance linked to this EHC: Salmonella Guidance Notes.

Only applies to species of *Gallus gallus* or turkeys. 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 on the basis of 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.

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.1.4 - Only applies to species of *Gallus gallus* or turkeys. May be certified after the OV has checked the laboratory records for the establishment.

II.1.5 - Delete if the consignment is not intended for Finland or Sweden. If the consignment is destined for Finland or Sweden, then one of the options must be certified after the OV has checked the laboratory records depending on the intended use of the animals.

II.1a - This attestation must be certified from 3 September 2026 where the European Union is the final destination.

For UK origin animals the attestation may be certified on the basis of the UK Veterinary Medicines Regulations, the UK Maximum Residue Limit legal framework, and Great Britain's listing in the relevant EU third-country list.

Certifying Officers should note that Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2598, to which the attestation refers, has been repealed and replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1189. The relevant third-country list is now contained in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405, as amended.

II.2 Animal Health Attestation

Keep the correct term that best describes the commodity being exported. The animals being exported must be poultry for breeding/production/slaughter or day-old chicks. This certificate is not suitable for ratites.

II.2.1 - This certificate is for one consignment of less than 20 animals.

II.2.2

(a) – Enter the territory code. GB is listed for all of the relevant commodities. 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) & (d) - 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).

II.2.3 - The first option may be signed. This can be signed on the basis that vaccination against Avian Influenza (AI) is prohibited. There is no plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

II.2.4 - There are two possible sections for this paragraph 'Breeding/Productive/Slaughter Poultry' OR 'Day Old Chicks' – see below the headers marked with an asterisk (*) which correspond to the two sections. The section chosen needs to match the option chosen in II.2 and listed in I.27.

*** Breeding/Productive/Slaughter Poultry: The following guidance numbered II.2.4.1 to II.2.4.8. is for breeding poultry/productive poultry/poultry for slaughter. See below for day old chicks.**

II.2.4.1 - 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 or the equivalent licensing body in another EU Member State 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.2.4.2 (a) - May be certified after the OV has checked the movement records of the establishment. If animals have been introduced from third countries then the OV must have sight of the import permits to be satisfied that the health status of the introduced flock meets those standards of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulation (EU) 2020/692 AND that the country of origin is listed in the regulations. 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. The OV would be advised to keep copies of the import permits for their records.

II.2.4.2 (b) & (c) - The certifying OV would need to seek the relevant evidence/access to records to satisfy themselves that these requirements are complied with.

II.2.4.3 (a) & (b) - Should be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered by APHA (you can register following the instructions in the form Voluntary Poultry Registration Form - Keeper of Fewer Than 50 Birds (publishing.service.gov.uk))and receive regular animal health visits from a farm veterinarian. Frequency of such visitation is proportionate to the risk. Records (numbers, movements, mortalities, medicines) of animals should be kept for 3 years. The name and unique registration number must be in Box I.11.

II.2.4.3 (c), (d) & (e) - May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances (see section 4 NDC) as the birds came from holdings in the UK.

II.2.4.4 (a) - May be certified on the basis that vaccination against AI is prohibited. There is no current plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

II.2.4.4 (b) - 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. The OV should enter the last vaccination and confirm that all administrated vaccines comply with both the general and specific criteria of Annex XV to Delegated regulation (EU) 2020/692. If flocks of origin were introduced from another country, the vaccination detail included in the import certificate can be used as evidence.

II.2.4.4 (c) - The clinical examination must be done within 24 hours of loading and may only be performed by an OV of the country of origin. The OV should be vigilant for highly pathogenic AI and Newcastle disease.

II.2.4.5 (a) - May be certified on the basis that vaccination against AI is prohibited. There is no current plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

II.2.4.5 (b) - May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the birds and eggs came from holdings in the UK.

II.2.4.5 (c) - Enter the date of the clinical inspection. The clinical examination must be done within 24 hours of loading and may only be performed by an OV of the country of origin. The OV should be vigilant for highly pathogenic AI and Newcastle disease.

II.2.4.5 (d) - May be certified after the OV has checked the laboratory records for the establishment. Keep the relevant section depending on species being exported.

II.2.4.6 (a) to (e) - May be certified if all of the points (a)-(e) are complied with at time of loading. Containers must be as per the requirements laid down in Annex XVI to Regulation (EU) 2020/692. (c) one option must be chosen.

II.2.4.7 - Enter the date of dispatch to the EU.

The certifying OV must ensure that the means of 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 9 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.

The OV will need a declaration from the transporter to confirm the cleansing and suitability of transportation.

II.2.4.8 - 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 certify it in one of the two following manners:

-keep the first 'EITHER' section containing (a), (b) and (c) and delete the EITHER/OR options under 'OR'.

Or

-the first 'EITHER' section should be deleted and one of the EITHER/OR options below 'OR' should be deleted.

*** Day old chicks: The following is guidance numbered II.2.4.1 to II.2.4.8. is for day old chicks. See above for poultry animals older than 72 hours, destined for all pathways (Slaughter/Breeding/Production).**

II.2.4.1 - The first option may be certified on the basis that where chicks 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 or the equivalent licensing body in another EU Member State 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.2.4.2 (a)-(c) - The certifying OV would need to seek the relevant evidence/access to records to satisfy themselves that these requirements are complied with. (c) may require a declaration from the owner.

II.2.4.3 (a) & (b) - Should be certified on the basis that the farm and animal establishments are registered by APHA and receive regular animal health visits from a farm veterinarian. Frequency of such visitation is proportionate to the risk. Records of animals should be kept for 3 years.

II.2.4.3 (c), (d) & (e) - May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances as the birds came from holdings in the UK.

II.2.4.4 (a) & (b) - Will require the OV to have personal knowledge of the operations of the establishment or require a declaration from the owner of the flock of origin and/or the flock of origin responsible veterinarian. If animals have been imported from third countries, then 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 of origin is listed in the regulations. 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. The OV would be advised to keep copies of the import permits for their records.

II.2.4.4 (c) - Will require a declaration from the owner of the flock of origin. If the flock of origin is UK based, then the first option may be certified on the basis that vaccination against AI is prohibited. There is no plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

II.2.4.4 (d) - Will require a declaration from the owner of the flock of origin. If the flock has been vaccinated with Newcastle Disease virus vaccine, then the vaccines must comply with Annex XV to Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and the table will need to be completed. This will require a declaration from the veterinarian responsible for the care of the flock of origin.

II.2.4.4 (e) - Will require a declaration from the owner of the flock of origin or a declaration from the veterinarian responsible for the care of the flock of origin. May be certified after the OV has checked the laboratory records for the establishment. Keep the relevant section depending on species being exported. The second 'or' option refers to '*Anas spp*.' This covers all species of the *Anatidae* family, including ducks and geese.

II.2.4.4 (f) - Will require a declaration from the owner of the flock of origin.

II.2.4.4 (g) - The clinical examination must be done within 24 hours of loading and may only be performed by an OV of the country of origin. The OV should be vigilant for highly pathogenic AI and Newcastle disease.

II.2.4.5 - May be certified on the basis that vaccination against AI is prohibited. There is no plan to apply vaccination against AI in the UK even in an outbreak situation.

II.2.4.6 - May be certified on the basis of notifiable disease clearances, as above, as the birds came from holdings in the UK.

II.2.4.7 - Enter the date of the clinical inspection. The clinical examination must be done within 24 hours of loading and may only be performed by an OV of the country of origin. The OV should be vigilant for highly pathogenic AI and Newcastle disease.

II.2.4.8 - Will require a declaration from the owner of the establishment.

II.2.4.9 (a) to (e) - May be certified if all of the points (a)-(e) are complied with at time of loading. Containers must be as per the requirements laid down in Annex XVI to Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

II.2.4.10 - Enter the date of dispatch to the EU.

The certifying OV must ensure that the means of 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 9 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.2.4.11 - This should be deleted except for consignments ~~are~~ 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 ET171 Notifiable disease occurrence list for Great Britain and Northern Ireland available on the Improve International website in the Export documents
- the ET152 UK status for non-notifiable disease relevant to export certification available on the Improve International website in the Export documents.
- 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

Avian Influenza 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. All premises of origin (e.g. 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.

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

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.

From 3 September 2026, where a consignment contains animals obtained from non-EU third-country origin and the European Union is the final destination of the consignment, the Certifying Officer must be satisfied that these products comply with the antimicrobial medicinal products attestation in Part II of this certificate, “Attestation as regards Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905”.

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 be attached to 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. CLINICAL EXAMINATION

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. Each animal subject to an inspection must be assessed as an individual.

OVs must use their professional judgement to determine the level of inspection required in order to ensure that no animal is exported which shows signs of infectious disease and that animals are fit to travel to their intended destination.

9. 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.

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.

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 on APHA Official Veterinarian Training.

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.

© Crown copyright 2021

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit Open Government Licence (nationalarchives.gov.uk) or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at Search - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at liveanimalexports.carlisle@apha.gov.uk

8444 NFG

Version History

EHC

Published October 2025

II.1(a) – Attestation contains updated legislative reference.
II.2.2. – (d) option now divided into 'either'/'or'.
Footnote 7 – Added regarding Part 1, Section B, of Annex V to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404

Published 30 August 2024

Part II:
II.1 (a) - Attestation about the administration of antimicrobial medicinal products is added.
Notes - Footnote 20 is added.

Published 31 July 2024

Part II:
II.1: Opening sentence 'I, the undersigned official veterinarian'… replaces previous **II.1.3**
II.1.2: Amended from residue plans to control plans in accordance with **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292** and **Commission Decision Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405**
II.1.3 replaces previous **II.1.3.1** and wording is amended whereby 'entry into' is now 'date of loading for dispatch to'
II.2.2 (a): Legislative reference amended to **Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404**
II.2.4.2 and **II.2.4.4**: 'imported' changed to 'introduced'
II.2.4.6 replaces previous **II.2.4.5 (b)**
II.2.4.7 replaces previous **II.2.4.5 (c)**
II.2.4.8 replaces previous **II.2.4.5 (d)**
II.2.4.9 replaces previous **II.2.4.6**
II.2.4.10 replaces previous **II.2.4.7**
II.2.4.11 replaces previous **II.2.4.8**

NFG

Version 14: Published November 2026
II.2.4.8 and **II.2.4.11 –** Guidance updated.

Version 13: Published August 2026
II.1a – Guidance amended regarding antimicrobial attestation.
Section 6 – Guidance added regarding third country origin animals.

Version 12: Published October 2025
References to Vet Gateway updated to Official Veterinarian Training throughout.
II.2.2. – Guidance added for new (d) either/or option.
Legal Statement: Wording updated.

Version 11: Published 16 June 2025
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE – Section amended to include reference to AI map for NI.

Version 10: Published December 2024
APHA Gateway links updated.

Version 9: Published 30 August 2024
Applicable Legislation: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905 added
Part II: II.1 (a) - Guidance is added about the attestation related to antimicrobial medicinal products.

Version 8: Published 31 July 2024
Applicable Legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292, Commission Decision Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 added
Part I: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235, amended by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2744 added
II.1-2: Guidance given for control plans attestation
II.1.4 replaces previous **II.1.3.2**
II.1.5 replaces previous **II.1.3.3**
II.2.4: Guidance reformatted
II.2.4.5 replaces previous **II.2.4.5 (a)**
II.2.4.6 replaces previous **II.2.4.5 (b)**
II.2.4.7 replaces previous **II.2.4.5 (c)**
II.2.4.8 replaces previous **II.2.4.5 (d)**
II.2.4.8: Paragraph added to explain how to complete branched EITHER/OR options.
II.2.4.9 replaces previous **II.2.4.6**
II.2.4.10 replaces previous **II.2.4.7**
II.2.4.11 replaces previous **II.2.4.8**

Version 7: Published 11 July 2023
Section 4: Notifiable disease clearance: Avian Influenza and territory code section is amended with further update on reformatting of interactive map.