

EXPORT OF DAY-OLD CHICKS AND CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO INDIA

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPORTER AND OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

IMPORTANT

These notes provide guidance to Official Veterinarians (OV) and exporters. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) should have been issued to you together with export certificate 311EHC. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with certificate 311EHC. 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.**

This certificate is for the export of chicken hatching eggs and day old domestic chickens (*Gallus gallus*) to India.

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 must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in any ink 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

aPVPs certifying DECOL produced Export Health Certificates must return a legible, scanned copy of the final EHC to the relevant DAERA Processing Office within 1 working day of signing.

Good quality photographic copies will be accepted by the department, where obtaining a scanned copy is not feasible - for example, where 'on site' certification is undertaken and scanning facilities are not available.

For record purposes, a copy of the final Export Health Certificate and associated Support documents should be retained by the aPVP for a period of 2 years from the date of certification.

The Department will carry out periodic audits of all aspects of export certification to ensure that a high standard of certification is being maintained.

3. **Import Permit**

An import permit is required, which the importer can obtain by applying to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F), Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001. The permit normally requires the importer to provide a 15 day advance notification of the arrival of the consignment to the Animal Quarantine and Certification Services Station at the port of entry. The exporter is advised, for the first few consignments at least, to similarly notify UKTI (British High Commission), to enable them to liaise with DAHD&F as necessary.

4. **Clinical inspections**

The inspection at paragraph IV (a) must be carried out on the date when the certificate is signed, which must be within 24 hours prior to the intended time of export.

5. **Notifiable Disease Clearance**

Paragraphs IV (b), (c), (g) and (h) refer. These paragraphs may be certified by the OV provided that he/she has received written authority (Form 618NDC) which will be sent to him/her by APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle for GB, or the relevant issuing office of DAERA in N. Ireland, within 10 days before shipment. The definition of 'notifiable' AI can be found in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

For the options country/region/compartments freedom, the ideal option is country freedom.

In the case where the UK HAS been affected by a recent outbreak, but the OV thinks that the export might be able to proceed on the basis of options (ii) or (iii), the OV should consult the issuing office [in GB, APHA, Centre for International Trade - Exports, Carlisle CA3 8DX; or the equivalent issuing DAERA office in N. Ireland]. The UK will need to obtain written agreement from the Indian veterinary authorities before one if these options can be used.

The OV must be careful to delete all those lines that do not apply. However in the case of the alternatives "day old chicks/hatching eggs" it is not necessary to make a deletion because the '/' is understood to be equivalent to 'or'.

6. **Freedom from Poultry Health Scheme diseases**

Paragraphs IV (d) and (j) refer. Confirmation that the flocks and hatchery are members of the PHS (or NIPHAS in Northern Ireland) will be provided by APHA, Centre for International Trade, Carlisle (or DAERA in Northern Ireland).

The Organisation International d'Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code chapter 6.4. lays down conditions for hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries. These

conditions were incorporated and extended in EU Council Directive 2009/158/EC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in live poultry and hatching eggs. In Great Britain the government supervised Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) fully implements Directive 2009/158/EC (and in Northern Ireland it is implemented by the Northern Ireland Poultry Health and Assurance Scheme [NIPHAS]). Consequently any flock or hatchery which is a member of the PHS /NIPHAS applies and exceeds the conditions laid down in the OIE Code.

7. **Infectious Laryngotracheitis and Infectious Bronchitis**

Paragraphs IV (e) and (f) refer. The OV must take care to delete all the inappropriate parts. Vaccination for each of these diseases is not obligatory, but if it has occurred the details of the latest vaccination must be provided.

In sub-paragraph (ii) of each paragraph it is stated that the flocks are free from IB or ILT based on serological results. The company must provide the serology results to the OV, and in the case of unvaccinated flocks the negative result will be obvious.

However in the case of flocks that have been vaccinated for either IB or ILT the serological results after vaccination can be difficult to interpret. Together with the serology results the company must provide the OV with a declaration stating that the titres are consistent with vaccination.

In addition, for both vaccinated and unvaccinated flocks, the OV must be provided with a declaration (in the form of a 311SUP, or an equivalent written declaration signed by a responsible member of the company) that the flocks have not shown any clinical signs suggestive of IB or ILT up till the time of despatch.

The OV may certify each of the sub-paragraphs (ii) on the basis of **both** the serology results together with (if relevant) the company declaration about consistency with vaccination, **and** the declaration about freedom from clinical signs.

The laboratory reports showing the serological test results must **NOT** be attached or sent with the health certificate. The OV should retain them together with the company declarations for reference purposes.

8. **Vaccination for Avian Influenza**

Paragraph IV (k) refers. The vaccination of poultry for avian influenza in the UK is forbidden under EU regulations, except with special dispensation from the EU Commission at times of particular risk (EU Directive 2005/94/EC). The UK has never sought permission to vaccinate poultry.

9. **Sanitisation of egg surfaces**

Paragraph IV (l) refers. The OIE Code provides very rudimentary guidance in section 6.4.5.4.: "Hatching eggs should be cleaned and sanitised as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions."

The UK does not have any procedure for official approval of egg sanitising agents, and it is up to the OV to exercise his/her professional veterinary judgement to approve the agent in use.

10. **Clean packing materials**

Paragraph IV (m) refers. The OV must personally verify that the materials are new, clean and unused.

11. **Location of parent flocks**

Paragraph IV (n) refers. In order to certify this paragraph the certifying OV may rely on a signed statement, which may be either a statement from the flock veterinarian on form 311SUP, or an equivalent written declaration signed by a responsible member of the Company.

12. **Support certification**

Paragraphs IV (d), (e), (f), (j) and (n) refer. In cases where the OV is not personally responsible for the flock(s) of origin, he/she may certify the statements referring to those flocks on the basis of a support certificate (311SUP) provided by the veterinarian who is regularly responsible for those flocks. The support health certificate will be issued by APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle at the same time as the export health certificate.

13. **No paragraph 'i'**

Paragraph notation goes from (h) to (j), omitting (i) to avoid confusion, as the symbol 'i' is used to denote sub-paragraphs.

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha>

DAERA - Email: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk

15. **Welfare**

Exporters and transporters must comply with all the legislation for the welfare of live animals during transport. The welfare conditions required during transport, are set out in Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (as retained), implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, with parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales.

If transported by air, animals should also be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards.

Information about welfare during transport in Great Britain and the necessary requirements can be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Agency: Welfare in Transport Team

Centre for International Trade

Eden Bridge House

Lowther Street, Carlisle

CA3 8DX

Phone: +44 (0) 3000 200 301

E-mail: WIT@apha.gov.uk

Or, in the case of Northern Ireland, DAERA at Dundonald House, Belfast.