

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

**Health certificate for dispatch of certain birds,  
other than poultry, intended for dispatch to  
the European Union or Northern Ireland**

**November 2020**

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No: 8231 NFG

**Health certificate for dispatch of certain birds, other than poultry, intended for dispatch to the European Union or Northern Ireland**

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (NFG) FOR THE CERTIFYING OFFICIERS**

**1. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

[Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 139/2013](#) as amended

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Please note that Official Control Regulations 2017/625 have repealed Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, 882/2004 and Directive No 96/23/EC.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

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 European Union'.

**IMPORTANT**

**These notes provide guidance to Certifying Officers and exporters. The NFG should have been issued to you together with the relevant export certificate applicable for dispatch of certain birds, other than poultry, intended for dispatch to the European Union or Northern Ireland. The NFG should not be read as a standalone document but in conjunction with the health 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 model export health certificate may be used for dispatch to the EU or NI of animals of the avian species. However, it shall not apply to: poultry, birds imported for conservation programmes, pet animals, birds intended for zoos, circuses, amusement parks or experiments, racing pigeons or birds imported from Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, and the Vatican City State.

## **3. CERTIFICATION BY AN OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV)**

In **England, Scotland and Wales**, this certificate must be signed by a Veterinary Officer of the Department or by an Official Veterinarian (OV) appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Government or the Welsh Government as such and holding the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ (V)) authorisation.

OVs must sign and stamp the health certificate with the OV stamp in ink of a different colour to that of printing.

The OV should also keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least three years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later.

### **EHCs in foreign language/s of the EU Member States (MSs).**

EHCs in the foreign language/s of the EU MS where the Border Control Post -BCP- (A list of EU BCPs can be found here: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en)) of entry is situated and the EU MS of destination is/are required and this/these must accompany the consignment.

The EHCs in the foreign language (as received from the APHA CSC at Carlisle and bearing the same unique reference number as the EHC in English) should be considered official and accurate translations of the accompanying EHC in English.

Every word in the foreign language EHCs is an accurate translation of the English version. The (sub-) paragraphs / options and how they are numbered and formatted is identical too. Therefore, when the same phrases/sentences in the foreign language versions/s as in the English version is/are struck through, the former can and must be signed (as opposed to being initialled) by the OV as a genuine and proper authorised translation of the EHC in English.

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.

The foreign language version/s of the EHCs must be attached to the English version so as to create one indivisible single document, by stapling and fan-stamping all the different language versions.

The EHC accompanying the consignment will then comprise the original English EHC and any required additional EHCs in the foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any) at the bottom, all stapled together, then collectively 'fan stamped' so that each leaf carries a part of a single stamp/watermark so that removing a page or replacing it would be detectable.

## **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 lay down on Commission Decision 2007/240/EC that can be accessed via this link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32007D0240>

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**

### **II.1 Health Attestation**

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

They must ensure that they are aware of the provisions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 139/2013, laying down the animal health and quarantine conditions of certain birds for dispatch into the EU or NI.

II.1.1, II.1.2 – These statements can be certified based on a written declaration from the exporter/owner

II.1.4 – This can be signed on the basis that these diseases are notifiable in the UK.

II.1.6 – This can be certified based on the absence of specific notifiable disease clearance of Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease (from APHA as per section 4), as the UK is currently free from both diseases.

II.1.7 – This can be signed based on the OV’s knowledge of the holdings or a written declaration from the approved establishment.

II.1.8 – This can be certified based on the results from the tests performed as described.

II.1.9 – This can be certified based on vaccination against avian influenza being prohibited in the UK, except in emergency circumstances.

II.1.10 – This can be certified based on a written declaration from the owner/exporter or the veterinary records as the OV deems necessary. If the birds have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease the details of this must be entered as indicated.

## **II.2 Transport of the birds**

The Official Veterinarian signing the export health certificate must ensure that the requirements set out in Part II of the health certificate have been complied with.

## **4. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE**

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 Certifying Officer (CO) (Official Veterinarian (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) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway
- the UK Status for Non-Notifiable Diseases Relevant to Export Certification (ET152) available on the [Exports > Certification Procedures](#) page of the APHA Vet Gateway.

### **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. The CSOs must be authorised by the APHA and they must hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Animal Health Professional) (OCQ (AHP)-CSO) qualification.

## **6. CONSIGNMENTS OR PARTS OF THE CONSIGNMENT ORIGINATING FROM NI, EU MEMBER STATES OR FROM THIRD COUNTRIES (TRIANGULAR TRADE).**

### **NI origin:**

Consignment could potentially contain animals or animal products which have originated in Northern Ireland. For raw materials which have then been processed into a final product in GB, or are presented in their original state and bearing a UK(NI) identification mark, the CO can certify certain matters relating to EU compliance at a national level.

Where the EHC refers to matters of compliance indicated by EU approval status of the premises of origin or manufacture in NI, compliance can be certified on the basis that from 1st January 2021, under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and UK and the Ireland / Northern Ireland Protocol, approved and registered premises in Northern Ireland will implement the full requirements of Regulation (EC) Nos. 852/2004, 853/2004, 2017/625 and all relevant supporting EU legislation as set out in Annex 2 to the Protocol. This compliance is indicated by the presence of the EU oval health and identification marks applied to the products in the required EU format, for products placed on the market in NI.

Some examples, but not a complete list, of how assurance can be established at national level are listed below.

Compliance with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 can be certified if the products originate in an EU approved premises in NI, and bearing the EU oval ID mark.

Public health statements referring to compliance with EU requirements for testing for residues as set out in Directive 96/23/EC, (repealed by OCR Regulation 2017/625) 96/22 (EC) and 470/2009 (EC) can be certified by the CO on the basis of a national residue surveillance programme implemented in NI under The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for residues and maximum Residues Limits) Regulation (NI) 2016. This forms part of the UK national surveillance programme.

With regards to controls for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, guidance provided in this document relating to statements about the method of slaughter of animals in GB also applies to animals slaughtered in NI and can be certified by the CO on that basis.

Disease clearance for animals or products 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 accord with EU regulations.

Statements relating to implementation of a national system for identification and registration of bovine animals can be certified on the basis of the requirement to register all bovine animal births, moves and deaths on the DAERA database.

Animal welfare statements can be certified by the CO on the basis that relevant inspections, monitoring and controls are implemented in NI through The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (NI) 2014 as amended, in compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into NI, the exporter must also request this information from the exporter in NI. The NI exporter may forward the request to the relevant NI CO to provide the necessary information requested by the UK exporter/ CO. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

### **EU origin:**

It is possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of EU origin and were exported to the UK on a Commercial Document or Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC). The Commercial Document may not contain enough information to allow the Certifying Officer (CO) to sign an 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 further information. Thus, the UK exporter must request from the EU exporter a written declaration or a replica 'Third Country to EU' certificate completed to the extent possible that will provide the required information to the CO to certify the relevant attestations on the EHC. The exporter may wish to obtain these directly from the EU CO who has inspected the animal products before export from the EU.

When the certificate requires specific information to be included, such as the date of slaughter or the date of introduction into the EU member state, the exporter must also request this information from the EU member state exporter. The EU exporter may forward the request to the relevant EU CO to provide the necessary information requested by the

UK exporter. This supporting information must be in writing and kept by the UK CO. The CO is not required to attach it as a supporting document to the EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise. Exporters/COs must be aware that in some cases, the certificate does not provide an option to re-export EU origin products eg EU origin meat being re-exported as meat.

### **Third country origin:**

It is also possible that some consignments may contain animal products that are of non-EU (Third Country) origin, which UK exporters intent to export to EU (known as Triangular Trade). In these cases Certifying Officers may obtain the necessary supporting information from a copy of the original EHC used for import of these products into the UK.

The CO in the UK is not required to attach a copy of the Third Country EHC as a supporting document to the UK-EU EHC, unless requested by the EU Border Control Post or told otherwise.

It is the UK exporter's responsibility to ensure timely request of information from the EU member state exporter/Third Country exporter, to allow the EHC to be signed and stamped in good time before export to the EU.

## **7. CLINICAL EXAMINATION**

OVs must subject the birds on the day, within 48 hours, or on the last working day prior to dispatch to a clinical inspection and found free of obvious signs of disease.

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.

## **8. ANIMAL TRANSPORT ATTESTATION**

Transport requirements are set out in section II.2 of the health certificate.

### **Animal Welfare**

Council Regulation EC No 1/2005 (EC) 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 and all animals should be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury of unnecessary suffering. The conditions related to fitness of animals for transport during the intended journey are set out in Article 3(b) and Annex I, Chapter I of Council Regulation 1/2005. 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 injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport.

### **Sanitisation**

If the place of loading and holding of origin is different, then the OV must obtain a written declaration from the owner/transporter/exporter that the animals were transported from the



holding in vehicles previously cleansed and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and “in such a way as to provide effective protection of the animals’ health status”. This means transport without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status. In this case, where a consignment is grouped in an assembly centre and comprises animals that were loaded on different dates, the date at which the journey commenced for the whole consignment is considered to be the earliest date when any part of the consignment left the holding of origin. OVs should also receive a declaration from the exporter/transporter that the animals will be transported to the place of destination in vehicles which have first been cleaned and disinfected with a Defra approved disinfectant and without coming into contact with cloven hoofed animals other than those of a similarly certified level of health status.

## **9. 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 certifying officer 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 certifying officer in a colour other than black on each page and under the last entry. Any blank spaces in the schedule or the certificate should be struck through with diagonal lines. The schedule must be firmly stapled to the EHC, the pages of the certificate including the schedule should be numbered and the complete document (EHC and schedule) should be “fan stamped” as a precaution against tampering. Further guidance is available here: [http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External\\_OV\\_Instructions/Export\\_Instructions/Certification\\_Procedures/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm)

## **10. CERTIFIED COPIES OF EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES**

When completing export certification Certifying Officers (CO) (Official Veterinarians (OV) and Environmental Health Officers (EHO)) must make photocopies of, or scan and save all documents they certify. This includes all documents that:

- are certified with the COs signature and stamp
- form part of any export documentation
- will accompany the consignment, or
- any support documentation (documentation provided by the CO at the premises of origin to enable the CO at the premises of loading to certify the final export certificate).

Examples of export documents required to be saved are:

- Export Health Certificates (EHC)
- Supplementary certificates
- Schedules to EHCs.

Where it is impossible to copy documents at the premises immediately after certification then a photocopy of the certificate could be made before travelling to the place of certification, and the certification details transposed onto the copy at the same time as completing the certificate. When a paper copy is made, mark the photocopy as 'Certified Copy' and initial.

COs must retain copies of all export documentation for a period of two years.

Return of export documents to the Centre for International Trade - Carlisle (CITC) are only required for the following live animal export commodities:

- cattle
- pigs
- sheep
- goats
- Camelids.

This should be done by scanning and emailing the documents on the same day as certification.

These certified copies are required to enable APHA to provide information to other Competent Authorities on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy cases found in herds subsequent to export, to enable the country of destination to take the appropriate notifiable disease action.

For the purposes of completing routine Quality Assurance checks on export certification, CITC may request certified copies of certification from COs.

Further information:

Please visit APHA Vet Gateway for further information in certification procedures:

[http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External\\_OV\\_Instructions/Export\\_Instructions/Certification\\_Procedures/index.htm](http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm)

## 11. **LEGAL STATEMENT**

The existing EU legislation that the UK already complies with will be incorporated into our domestic law as “retained EU law” under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. References in our guidance and certification to such EU instruments should be taken to be references to this “retained EU law”. Under the Withdrawal Act we will ensure that current EU standards remain in force, without amendment, in the immediate months after our EU

exit as part of UK domestic law (apart from corrections to make the EU legislation fully operable).

## 12. **DISCLAIMER**

This certificate and the 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 the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Carlisle, via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

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