INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN DAY OLD CHICKS

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN (OV) AND EXPORTER

1. KEY DOCUMENTS

The following key documents must be read and understood prior to completing and signing the Intra-trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) for day old chicks:

- Day Old Chicks-NFG - this document
- Day Old Chicks-Flock-CKL - checklist procedures regarding the flock of origin
- Day Old Chicks-Hatchery-CKL - checklist procedures regarding the hatchery
- Poultry-Salmonella-NFG – Guidance for exports to Finland and Sweden

2. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE:

Official Veterinarians may certify membership of the Poultry Health Scheme and the following paragraphs of the Checklists on behalf of the Department provided written authority to do so has been obtained from the local Animal Health Divisional Office on form TRACES NDC:

- A1, A2, A3 and A4 (a) or (b) of Day Old Chicks-Flock-CKL
- B4, B5, and B6 (a) or (b) of Day Old Chicks-Hatchery-CKL

The TRACES NDC must bear the same certificate reference number as the ITAHC (or Checklist) to which it relates.

3. SCOPE:

This ITAHC 90/539 IV 2 may be used for the export of day old poultry to another Member State of the European Union, or to Switzerland. Exports of live poultry and hatching eggs to countries within the European Union are harmonised under Council Directive 90/539/EEC (as amended). Under separate EU legislation, poultry movements between Switzerland and the EU Member States are treated in the same way as movements within the EU.

Poultry is defined in the Directive as “fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quail, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites, reared or kept in captivity for breeding, the production of meat or eggs for consumption, or for re-stocking supplies of game”. Note that the Checklists and Notes for guidance refer only to day old ‘chicks’ for the sake of simplicity, but they should be taken as applying to day old birds of any of the poultry species.

Some sections of the ITAHC require the OV to certify compliance with Articles in the Directives rather than itemising each condition separately. The Checklists are provided in order to explain each of those conditions, and if the answer to each question in the Checklists is ‘YES’, the consignment will comply with the relevant Articles of the Directives.
4. **CHECKLISTS:**

Checklist A (Day Old Chicks-Flock-CKL)

(a) **Separate consignments**
A separate ITAHC export health certificate and a separate Checklist must be completed for each separate consignment. A ‘consignment’ is defined as a group of birds of the same health status, from the same premises, travelling together in one container or vehicle to the same consignee at the same place of destination.

(b) **Approved establishment: Questions A1 and A2**
Flocks and hatcheries must be approved under Directive 90/539/EEC in order to export to other member States of the EU. In Great Britain approval is implemented by membership of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS). The DVM will confirm that the flock of origin is currently a member of the PHS on the TRACES NDC form. Note that a flock must have been a member of the PHS for at least 6 weeks before it may export to another member State of the EU.

(c) **Notifiable diseases: Questions A3 and A4**
Note that question A3 refers to restrictions that may have been applied specifically to the premises of origin themselves, whereas question A4 refers to restrictions on the area in which the premises are located.

The TRACES NDC will authorise the certification of either question A4 (a) or A4 (b), but not both. With respect to question A4 (b):

(i) The provisions for declaration of a Restricted Zone, also known as Area B, around an infected premises at which highly pathogenic avian influenza of sub-type H5N1 has been confirmed, are contained in Commission Decision 2006/415/EC.

(ii) It is prohibited to move day old chicks out of a hatchery or any other premises in Area B. However a derogation exists, under which the day old chicks may be moved if they have fulfilled one of the following conditions (Article 6):

(iii) At the time when the hatching eggs were collected, the premises on which they were laid was not located in an Area B. Note that it is the status of the area at the time of egg collection that matters, regardless of what may have happened in that area subsequently. In order to certify this point (question A4, sub-question (c)(i)), the veterinarian who completes checklist A must act on the basis of his/her personal knowledge of the premises, and if there is any doubt about the status of the area on the date of egg collection, he/she should consult the DVM.

(iv) If the location of the flocks of origin was inside an Area B at the time of egg collection, the exporter may rely on serological testing of the flocks of origin (question A4, sub-question (c) (ii)). The veterinarian who completes checklist A must act on the basis of his/her personal knowledge of the premises, supported by an inspection of the relevant laboratory reports. The holding (which means the whole farm site rather than each individual flock) must have been serologically tested at a level which will provide 95% probability of detecting disease at 5% prevalence. This means at least 60 birds must be tested, if the population is above 500 birds. The samples should be taken within 14 days prior to the intended date of export. The laboratory testing must be carried out by VLA Weybridge, as this is an official export test.

Note that there is no stipulation in the Decision that the importing member State must be consulted, or officially confirm that it is willing to accept the consignment.
However the exporter is strongly advised to get their customer to confirm with the local competent authority in the destination member State that they have no objection to the import, in order to avoid any possible complications.

(d) **Inspection of Flock of Origin: Question A5**

If option A5(b) is chosen then the Flock Veterinarian must, at some time during the 72 hours prior to the despatch of the eggs to the hatchery:

i. examine the health and production records of the flock

and

ii. evaluate the current health status of the flock as assessed by up-to-date information supplied by the person in charge of the flock.

In the case where records or other information gives rise to the suspicion of disease in the flock(s), then the Flock Veterinarian must carry out both a clinical health examination of the flock(s) and send any relevant samples to a DEFRA approved laboratory in order to rule out the possibility of contagious poultry disease.

(e) **Approved vaccines: Question A6**

Any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA. The use of vaccines imported under a VMD issued Special Import Certificate (SIC) or, of autogenous vaccines manufactured and used with the approval of the VMD, can be considered to have the equivalent of a marketing authorisation in the UK.

(f) **Disinfection of eggs: Question A7**

Eggs may be disinfected with any product designed for that purpose provided that it is used according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Ideally the certifying veterinarian should have been present to personally verify that disinfection was carried out. However there are many reasons why this may not be practicable, and the veterinarian may certify this paragraph provided that all of the following conditions have been met:

- on a regular and routine basis the veterinarian should observe the disinfection process carried out on the Company’s flocks
- for each flock referred to on the present certification the veterinarian should receive a written statement from the flock manager or other responsible person to confirm that the disinfection has been carried out
- the veterinarian is sufficiently familiar with the Company and its procedures to have reasonable faith that they are being carried out correctly.

(g) **Avian influenza vaccination: Question A8.**

Vaccination of poultry against avian influenza is not permitted within the EU, except under special circumstances in view of an exceptional perceived risk, and then it will be authorised by a specific Commission Decision.

(h) **Salmonella testing: Question A9.**

Regulation 1003/2005 introduced new procedures for testing flocks of breeding chickens for Salmonellas from January 2007, and for turkey breeding flocks from January 2010. The Regulation is implemented in England by the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries (England) Order 2007, and its equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Official Veterinarian must check the flock records to confirm that the appropriate tests have been carried out at the correct frequency with negative results.
Checklist B (Day Old Chicks-Hatchery-CKL)

(i) **Support documents: Question B1**
If the flock of origin is covered by a different veterinarian from the OV who completes the ITAHC, the Checklist A must be completed separately for each flock of origin by the veterinarian responsible for the flock. The flock veterinarian must be an MRCVS or FRCVS, but it is not essential for him/her to be an Official Veterinarian on the poultry export panel 1. k. The Checklist A must be signed as a support document and forwarded by fax or post to the OV at the final point of departure who completes the ITAHC.

If the hatching eggs from which the day old birds were hatched were imported from another Member State, the ITAHC accompanying the hatching eggs into the UK fulfils the same function as Checklist A. The OV must see a copy of the health certificate.

If the hatching eggs from which the day old birds were derived were imported from a Third Country, the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) together with the export health certificate which accompanied the import fulfils the function of Checklist A. The OV must see copies of both documents.

(j) **Disease notification to the hatchery: Question B3**
It is requirement of Directive 90/539/EEC that the responsible person at the flocks of origin must inform the hatchery about any indication of disease likely to be transmitted through eggs, if this should develop in the flocks during the incubation period.

(k) **Approved establishment: Question B4**
Hatcheries must be approved under Directive 90/539/EEC in order to export to other member States of the EU. In Great Britain approval is implemented by membership of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS). The DVM will confirm that the flock of origin is currently a member of the PHS on the TRACES NDC form.

(l) **Notifiable diseases: Questions B5 and B6**
The DVM will confirm on the TRACES NDC form that the hatchery is free from restrictions. Note that, if the hatchery is ‘designated’ under legislation to deal with an outbreak of avian influenza, it may be regarded as free from restrictions.

Question B6 refers to the area in which the hatchery is located. If the area is under restrictions because of an outbreak of avian influenza, it may be possible to export day old chicks from the hatchery under the terms of derogation provided in EU Decision 2006/415/EC. The details of this derogation are explained in NFG paragraph 4 (c) above.

(m) **Marking of hatching eggs: Question B7**
All hatching eggs must be marked prior to placing into an incubator in one of the following two ways :-

i. **Method 1** requires the eggs to be marked at the producer establishment, the mark being the producer establishment’s registration number. The number must be printed in an indelible black ink and the characters must be at least 2mm high and 1mm wide.

ii. **Method 2** requires the eggs to be marked before they are placed in an incubator. The mark must be clearly visible and printed in indelible black ink having an area of at least 10mm². Marking may be done either at the producer establishment or at the hatchery. Neither the shape of this mark or
its maximum size is specified in the UK.

**Note that the marking requirement applies only to eggs of the species chicken, turkey, ducks, geese and guinea fowl.**

(n) **Approved vaccines: Question B8**
Any vaccine used in the chicks must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA. The use of vaccines imported under a VMD issued Special Import Certificate (SIC) or, of autogenous vaccines manufactured and used with the approval of the VMD, can be considered to have the equivalent of a marketing authorisation in the UK.

(o) **Health of the Day Old Birds: Question B9**
The OV must confirm from the hatchability and cull data that there is no reason to suspect the presence of any infectious disease.

(p) **Disease in the flock of origin: Question B10**
Confirmation that the flock of origin is free from any clinical sign or suspicion of contagious poultry disease must be obtained at the time of consignment, or within 72 hours prior to consignment of the day old chicks. This may be done by:

- a visit to the flock of origin; or
- telephone/fax/email contact with the veterinarian responsible for the flock of origin (if it is considered that he/she will have up to date knowledge); or
- a written declaration from the owner/manager of the flock by fax or email stating that there has been no variation in production performance or any other sign suggesting the presence of disease.

Concerning flocks of origin in Third Countries:
It is a condition of Directive 90/539/EEC that the responsible person at the flock of origin must inform the hatchery, and the authorities responsible for the hatchery, if any egg-transmissible poultry diseases are discovered at the flock during the incubation period. If the eggs have been imported from a Third Country, the health certificate required under the Commission Decision 2006/696/EC contains the statement that the flock of origin complies with all the conditions of Directive 90/539/EEC, which evidently includes this obligation to notify. On this basis it is possible to accept the Third Country import health certificate as sufficient assurance that no such diseases have been discovered in the flocks of origin, if they have not been notified.

Concerning flocks of origin which have been culled before hatching:
If a flock of origin has been culled or disposed of for management reasons during the incubation period of the eggs, question B10(a) may be ticked ‘YES’ if the certifying OV has either:

(i) undertaken a health inspection of the flock within 72 hours prior to disposal and found no clinical signs or suspicion of contagious poultry diseases; or

(ii) received a written support certificate from the veterinarian responsible for the flock of origin stating that he/she carried out an inspection within 72 hours prior to the disposal, and no clinical signs or suspicion of contagious disease were found; or

(iii) received a written statement from the Company veterinarian stating that the flock was disposed of for normal management reasons, and no clinical signs
or suspicion of contagious disease were present at the time of disposal.

(q) **Disinfection of vehicles: Question B16**
Disinfectants are approved by Defra under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 1978 (as amended). The list contains over 200 brands of disinfectant approved for use with poultry on the basis of their efficacy against Newcastle disease and avian influenza viruses. Defra approved disinfectants carry a statement on the container, and other references to their approval may be found in their data sheets or label instructions.

(r) **Newcastle disease vaccination: Question B17**
The additional vaccination information is required only for those countries which do not permit Newcastle disease vaccination, and whose status has been accepted by the EU Commission. At present those countries are Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. The answer ‘YES’ must be given to all 3 parts of this paragraph. If the consignment is not destined for one of those countries, the question may be deleted.

(s) **Avian Influenza outbreaks: Question B18**
Refer to paragraphs 4. (c ) and 4. (l) above.

5. **COMPLETION OF ITAHC**

(a) **Part 1, box I.31 - identification of the animals**
The following details should be given as a minimum:
- Poultry species;
- Category (ie: pure line/grandparents/parents/laying pullets/fattening/others);
- Identification codes on the containers

The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the consignment meets the identification description throughout Part I of the ITAHC certificate. The OV (NOT someone in the employ of the exporter, transporter or agent) is responsible for verifying the identification marks or other appropriate details recorded in the certificate.

**Part II. 1. Animal Health Attestation**

(b) **Part II, section II. 1. (a) – Articles in the Directive**
The content of Articles 6,8,15 are covered by the Checklist. Article 6 covers approval details of the premises of origin, Article 8 covers health details of the flock of origin, and Article 15 covers transport procedures.

The OV MUST delete all options EXCEPT ONE in section II. 1. (a). The choice of which option to retain must be based as follows:

The first option may be retained if the checklist answers B1 to B16 are all yes, and this includes ‘yes’ to questions A4 (a) and B1 (a) or (b).

The second option may be retained if the checklist answers B1 to B16 are all yes, and this includes ‘yes’ to questions A4 (b) and B1 (a) or (b).

The third option may be retained if the checklist answers B1 to B16 are all yes, and this includes ‘yes’ to question B1 (d).

The fourth option may be retained if the checklist answers B1 to B16 are all yes, and this includes ‘yes’ to question B1 (d), but the health certificate accompanying the
hatching eggs from the Third Country of origin indicated that they had a special licence to be exported to the EU from an area which was subject to restrictions because of the presence of a notifiable avian disease.

(The special licence conditions permitted in options 2 and 4 may apply in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in poultry in GB or the Third Country of origin, if certain conditions are met which will allow the export of poultry from within restricted zones under a special licence. The EU legislation under which such exports may be permitted is referred to in paragraph II.3.2 of the ITAHC, which will also be the subject of a TRACES NDC provided by the DVM).

(c) Part II, section II. 1. (b) – Articles in the Directive
Article 12 (1)(b) covers special requirements relating to Newcastle disease vaccination which apply only to exports to Finland, Sweden and Switzerland, and Checklist question B 17 refers. The section may be certified if the consignment is destined for one of those countries, and the answer to all 3 parts of Checklist question B17 is ‘YES’. Otherwise the OV should delete it.

(d) Part II, section II. 1. (c) - Articles 13 and 14 of the Directive
These Articles refer to additional guarantees in respect of Salmonella which apply only to Finland and Sweden. Strictly speaking the box is redundant because its function has been superseded by section II.1.(f), but since it is still present on the certificate the spaces should be left blank and the statement not deleted.

(e) Part II, sections II. 1. (d) and (e) - Newcastle disease vaccination
Details of any Newcastle disease vaccination is required for both the flocks of origin and the day old chicks. Newcastle disease vaccination is not compulsory, but where a vaccine is used, the date of vaccination, type and strain must be entered. This is to provide epidemiological information in the event of an outbreak of disease. Any lines that do not apply must be deleted.

(f) Part II, section II. 1. (f) - Commission Decision 2003/644/EC
This Decision allows additional conditions in respect of Salmonella for exports only to Finland and Sweden. See the separate notes ‘Poultry-Salmonella-NFG’ if the consignment is destined for Finland or Sweden. If the consignment is not destined for one of these countries, or if the flocks have not been appropriately tested, the section should be deleted.

Part II. 2. Public Health Attestation

(g) Note that the OV who completes the ITAHC must do so on the basis of a support statement in question A9 on the Day Old Chicks–Flock-CKL. The flock veterinarian who certifies question A9 must do so on the basis of his/her knowledge of the flock, and an examination of relevant records and laboratory reports.


The regulations currently apply ONLY to flocks of the chicken species (\textit{Gallus gallus}) From January 2007 onwards they apply to breeding flocks, and from February 2008 they will also apply to flocks laying table eggs. From January 2009 they will be extended to apply to flocks of broiler chickens, and in 2010 breeding turkeys. If the species being exported is not chickens in the appropriate category, none of section II.2. applies and the OV should mark it as ‘Not Applicable’.
Part II, section II. 2. (a) Salmonella testing

The Regulation 2160/2003 is implemented in England by the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries (England) Order 2007 (PBFHO) which has been revoked and replaced with the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007 (CSPO) and its equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. If the chicken flock is routinely tested according to the CSPO, the first sentence of this paragraph can be certified.

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 table egg layers, S. enteritidis or S. typhimurium are detected
If any other serotype is detected, or if none are detected, the result may be described as negative. The inapplicable line MUST be deleted.

Part II, section II. 2. (b)

Note that this section applies ONLY to breeding flocks. Thus, if the result in the section above is shown as positive, but this section is certified as negative, it is clear that the flock was only positive for either S.hadar, or S.virchow or S.infantis. The significance of this is that the export may be allowed to proceed, subject to the agreement of the receiving country, if the flock has been positive for one of those three, but not if it was positive for S.enteritidis or S.typhimurium.
This is admittedly a tortuous way of expressing things. The Commission's reason for designing the ITAHC in this way is in order to allow for the phasing in of future testing requirements, without having to make further changes in the certificate.

Part II. 3. Additional Health Information

Part II, section II. 3. 1 – Vaccination for Avian Influenza

Under Council Directive 2005/94/EC, vaccination of poultry against avian influenza 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. The veterinarian who completes checklist A, question A8, must certify this paragraph on the basis of his/her knowledge of the flock and any necessary support statements.

Part II, section II. 3. 2 – Commission Decision 2006/415/EC

This Decision lays down conditions to be observed in the event of highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 being confirmed in domestic poultry within a member state. The OV may certify this on the basis of the TRACES-NDC form, provided by the DVM, confirming that the premises of origin are not subject to any exporting restrictions imposed under the Decision (see questions A4 and B6 of CKL).

Part II - Signature

The Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp the ITAHC with the Official Veterinarian's official stamp in ink of any colour other than black. The completed ITAHC parts I and II on a single sheet of paper will accompany the consignment to its final destination.

FORM TRACES-CONF:
NOTIFICATION TO THE ISSUING AHDO OF COMPLETION AND SIGNATURE / AMENDMENT OF ITAHC

In order to meet the requirement for notification of animal movements to other Member States, Official Veterinarians must notify the AHDO that an ITAHC has been completed and signed. To do this, the Official Veterinarian must complete and
sign a copy of the confirmation document TRACES-CONF.

Completed copies of the following documents must be faxed to the exports section of the AHDO within one working day following signature of the ITAHC:

- form TRACES-CONF
- Part 1 of the ITAHC (indicating any amendments)
- completed Part 2 of the ITAHC

**Certified Copy of ITAHCs**
In cases where it is not possible to fax a copy of the original ITAHC following signature, Official Veterinarians must complete a copy of the ITAHC at the same time as the original. This copy must be clearly marked 'certified copy' and contain the identical details as the original. The certified copy should be signed and stamped and must clearly indicate that it is copy. It must be delivered to the AHDO without delay.

Any amendments to Part I of the ITAHC, e.g. changes in identification numbers of animals in the consignment, must be clearly indicated so that the necessary amendments can be made by the AHDO prior to sending the TRACES movement notification to the destination Member State.
7. **WELFARE OF THE ANIMALS:**


The Regulation does not require a journey log for poultry, but it does lay down that poultry and other domestic birds may not travel more than 12 hours (disregarding loading and unloading time) without being given suitable food and water. In the case of chicks of any species within 72 hours after hatching, the maximum permitted journey time is 24 hours. The Regulation also lays down minimum space requirements, which in the case of day olds is 21 to 25 square cms per bird, depending on the species and conditions.

Exporters must comply with the British welfare laws relating to the export of animals. If transported by air, animals should be transported in accordance with International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the Animal Welfare Team at any of the offices mentioned below.

**ENGLAND**  Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR.  
Tel: 0207 238 6911

**SCOTLAND**  Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department  Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh. EH14 1TW  
Tel: 0131 244 6482

**WALES**  National Assembly for Wales, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.  
Tel: 02920 823593

**NORTHERN IRELAND**  Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road  Belfast, BT4 3SB  
Tel: 028 9052 4999

These Notes For Guidance and the Checklist to which they refer are not part of the export health certificate and so should not be attached to it, nor accompany the consignment to the final destination. All completed Checklists should be retained by the certifying veterinarian for a period of 12 months.