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 poultry, day old chicks and hatching eggs in lots under 20:

- Poultry-Lots Under 20-Production -NFG - this document
- Poultry-Lots Under 20-CKL - checklist
- Poultry-Salmonella-NFG – salmonella guidance re Finland and Sweden

2. **NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CLEARANCE:**

The OV will be authorised to certify freedom from notifiable disease if he/she has received confirmation on the form TRACES NDC. This will be provided by the DVM within 10 days prior to despatch, and will cover the following paragraphs on the checklist: 4, 5 (a) or (b), 11 and 12.

3. **SCOPE:**

The ITAHC 90/539 IV 4 may be used for the export of hatching eggs, day old birds or adult poultry in lots of fewer than 20 units 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 EU internal movements.

**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.**

**Poultry Health Scheme.** The main benefit of the conditions for poultry in lots under 20 is that the birds do not have to originate from a premises which is a member of the Poultry Health Scheme. However they do have to undergo special testing for Salmonella, except in the case of pigeons and geese. Note however that ratites are excluded from these ‘under 20’ concessions.

**Ratites.** Special conditions for ratites have been introduced by Council Directive 1999/90/EC, amending Directive 90/539/EEC. The ‘under 20’ concession does not apply to them, and they are subject to the conditions of the standard EU certificates for hatching eggs, day old birds or adult birds regardless of the size of the consignment. This means that they must originate from an establishment which is a member of the Poultry Health Scheme.
4. **CHECKLIST:**

(a) **Checklist.** The ITAHC health certificate refers to Articles in the Directive rather than itemising the export conditions. The checklist is provided in order to explain each of those conditions, and if the answer to each question in the checklist is ‘Yes’, the consignment will comply with the Directive.

(b) **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 eggs or 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.

(c) **Support documents**
If the flock of origin is covered by a different veterinarian from the OV who completes the ITAHC (for example if the eggs or birds are gathered for export at an assembly point at some distance from the flocks of origin), a separate checklist must be completed by the veterinarian at the flock of origin. 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. The checklist must be signed by the flock veterinarian as a support document and forwarded by fax or post to the OV at the final point of departure who completes the ITAHC.

(d) **Residence: question 1**
If the OV does not have personal knowledge of the premises, he/she should confirm the residence history by reference to any other veterinarian with personal knowledge, and any available movement records or other documents

(e) **Flock Examination: question 2**
The flock of origin must be checked within 24 hours of the export.

(f) **Approved vaccines: question 3**
Any vaccine used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of DEFRA. On rare occasions VMD may have issued a Special Treatment Certificate (STC) to allow the use of a vaccine specifically created for use in an individual flock with a particular disease problem. The STC can be regarded as equivalent to marketing authorisation.

(g) **Notifiable diseases: questions 4 and 5**
The DVM will confirm on the TRACES NDC form that the premises of origin are either free from disease restrictions as described, or else in possession of a licence to export in accordance with EU legislation. The TRACES NDC will authorise the certification of either question 5 (a) or 5 (b), but not both. For further details see the advice on completion of the ITAHC in paragraph 5 (b) of these notes.

(h) **Salmonella testing: question 6**
If the flock of origin is tested, blood samples must be collected at random from a sufficient number of birds to give a 95% probability of detecting infection at a prevalence of 5%.
The necessary number of samples is shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of birds in flock</th>
<th>Number of samples to be taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-89</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-199</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-499</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 or more</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If option (b) applies, note that any bird over 4 days of age is treated as adult. All samples must be tested at a laboratory of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA).

(i) **Newcastle Disease Vaccination: questions 7, 8 and 9**
These questions apply only in the case of exports to Finland, Sweden and Switzerland, which have been recognised by the EU as having a special status with regard to Newcastle disease vaccination.

(j) **Avian Influenza Information: questions 10, 11 and 12**
For details see the ITAHC section of the notes, paragraphs 5 (f), (g) and (h).

5. **COMPLETION OF ITAHC: SPECIFIC GUIDANCE**

(a) **Completion of Part 1, box I.31 - Identification of the animals**
Exporters must complete Box I.31 of Part 1 with the following information:

- Poultry species;
- Category (ie: pure line/grandparents/parents/laying pullets/fattening/others);
- Identification details on the containers.

The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that each animal meets the identification description recorded in Part I.31 of the health 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 of each animal recorded in the certificate.

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

(b) **Part II, section II. 1. (a) - Article 11 of the Directive**
The content of Article 11 is covered by the Checklist.
Paragraph II. 1. (a) (one option only) may be certified if all the answers to Checklist questions 1 to 6 are ‘Yes’ (including either question 5 (a) or 5 (b) on the checklist.)

The OV must delete one of the 2 options in section II. 1. (a).
The first option may be retained, and the second one deleted, if the answer to checklist question 5 (a) is ‘Yes’.

The second option must be retained, and the first one deleted, if the answer to checklist question 5 (b) is ‘Yes’. This option will apply in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in poultry in GB, 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) - Article 12 (1) of the Directive**
The provisions of Article 12 (1) of the Directive are covered by questions 7 to 9 of the Checklist. This section may be certified if the destination is Finland, Sweden or Switzerland, and all the answers to one of the questions 7 or 8 or 9 on the checklist are ‘Yes’. If the destination is not Finland, Sweden or Switzerland the section should be marked ‘Not Applicable’.

(d) **Part II, section II. 1. (c) - Articles 13 and 14 of the Directive**
These Articles allow for member states to request additional guarantees in respect of certain diseases. At present the only applicable conditions are those granted to Finland and Sweden in respect of Salmonella. However the requirements are already covered elsewhere by the Salmonella testing specified in Article 11 of the Directive. Consequently this section is redundant. The spaces should be left blank and the section can be ignored.

(e) **Part II, section II. 1. (d) (e) (f) and (g) - Newcastle disease vaccination**
Note that these sections are not covered by the CKL. The OV must certify the applicable sections on the basis of his/her knowledge of the flock and any necessary support statements from other veterinarians and/or the owner/exporter.

Newcastle disease vaccination is not compulsory, but where a vaccine is used, the date of vaccination, type and strain must be entered in this section of the ITAHC. This is to provide epidemiological information in the event of an outbreak of disease. The sections and the options that do not apply must be deleted.

**Part II. 2. Public Health Attestation**

(f) The Regulation EC/2160/2003 applies only to breeding flocks of the chicken species *(Gallus gallus)* containing over 250 birds. It will also apply to breeding turkeys from January 2010. If the species being exported is not chickens, or if the breeding flock of origin contains fewer than 250 birds, the whole of part II.2. does not apply and the OV should mark it as ‘Not Applicable’.

Note that this section is not covered by the CKL. The OV must certify the section on the basis of his/her knowledge of the flock, an examination of relevant records and laboratory reports, and any necessary support statements.

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**.

(g) **Part II, section II. 2. (a) - Salmonella testing**
The Regulation is implemented in England by the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries (England) Order 2007 (PBFHO) and its equivalent in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. If the chicken breeding flock is routinely tested according to the PBFHO, the first sentence of this section can be certified.

Concerning the results of testing, it should be described as positive only if one of the 5 serotypes listed above 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)
If the result in section II.2.(a) is shown as positive, but this section confirms that it was negative for S.enteritidis and S.typhimurium, it may nevertheless be possible to export (In other words, the receiving country may be willing to accept a consignment which was positive for S.hadar, S.infantis, or S.virchow). In this unlikely event, the exporter or the OV should consult the Veterinary Adviser (poultry exports).

Part II. 3 Additional Health Information

(i) Part II, section II. 3. 1 – Avian Influenza vaccination
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. Vaccination of certain zoo birds is permitted subject to strict licence conditions. The OV must certify this section on the basis of his/her knowledge of the flock and any necessary support statements, and ensure that the premises of origin is not a zoo at which vaccination has been carried out (see question 10 of the checklist).

(j) 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 section 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 question 11 of CKL).

(k) Part II, section II. 3. 3. – Commission Decision 2006/563/EC
This Decision lays down conditions to be observed in the event of highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 being confirmed in wild birds within a member state. The OV may certify this section 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 question 12 of CKL).

(l) 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 1 and II on a single sheet of paper will accompany the consignment to its final destination.

6. 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 are strongly advised to make a copy of the ITAHC prior to completion. This copy must be clearly marked ‘certified copy’ and completed with the same details as the original. The certified copy should not be signed as an original but cancelled with the practice stamp.

Any amendments to Part 1 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.

9. 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.