1. **KEY DOCUMENTS**

The following key documents must be read and understood prior to completing and signing the Intra-trade Animal Health Certificate for poultry for slaughter:

- Poultry-Slaughter -NFG - this document
- Poultry-Slaughter-CKL - checklist procedures

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: 3, 4 (a) or (b), and 9.

3. **SCOPE**:

The ITAHC 90/539 IV 5 may be used for the export of poultry going direct to slaughter in 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”.

**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) **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) **Support documents**

If the flock of origin is covered by a different veterinarian from the OV who completes the ITAHC (for example if the birds are gathered for export at a pre-export isolation premises at some distance from the flock 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. 1. k. 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.

(c) **Inspection of Flock of Origin: question 2**
A clinical examination of the birds must be carried out within 5 days of export.

(d) **Notifiable diseases: questions 3 and 4**
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 4 (a) or 4 (b), but not both. For further details see the advice on completion of the ITAHC in paragraph 5 (b) of these notes.

(e) **Disinfection of vehicles: question 5 (b)**
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.

(f) **Newcastle disease vaccination: question 7**
The additional certification 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. If the consignment is not destined for one of those countries, the question may be deleted.

The certifying veterinarian must rely on personal knowledge of the premises, supported if necessary by written declarations from any other veterinarians with responsibility for the flocks of origin, and the owner/exporter.

All testing must be carried out at a laboratory of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA). The number of samples per flock must be sufficient to give a probability of 95% that infection will be detected if the prevalence is at least 5%. The number of samples necessary to achieve this is given 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>all</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>
For virus isolation the veterinarian must submit individual cloacal swabs or faecal samples from each bird. The laboratory will pool these samples at 12:1. For serology a separate sample from each bird must be individually tested.

(g) **Avian influenza vaccination: Question 8.**
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) **Avian Influenza outbreaks: Question 9**
The DVM will provide confirmation on form TRACES-NDC that no export restrictions are currently in force on the premises of origin because of confirmed cases of avian influenza in domestic poultry in Great Britain.

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;
- Approximate age of poultry
- Identification details of the flock of origin;

The Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that the birds meet 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 the birds recorded in the certificate.

(b) **Part II, section II, 1. (a) – Articles in the Directive**
The content of Articles 10 and 15 are covered by the Checklist. Article 10 covers health details of the flock of origin, and Article 15 covers transport procedures.

Section II. 1. (a) (one option only) may be certified if all the answers to Checklist questions 1 to 6 are ‘Yes’ (including either question 4 (a) or 4 (b) on the checklist.) Note that 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 4 (a) is ‘Yes’.

The second option must be retained, and the first one deleted, if the answer to checklist question 4 (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 section 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)(d) covers special requirements relating to Newcastle disease vaccination which apply only to exports to Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. If the consignment is destined for one of those countries, and the answers to question 7 are ‘Yes’, the section may be certified. Otherwise the OV should mark the section ‘Not Applicable’.

(d) **Part II, section II, 1. (c) - Articles 13 and 14 of the Directive**

These Articles refer to additional guarantees in respect of Salmonella. Such guarantees at present exist only for exports of day old or adult breeding or laying birds to Finland and Sweden. As the statement is not applicable, the blanks should be left empty and the section may be ignored.

(e) **Part II, section II. 1. (d) - Newcastle disease vaccination**

Note that this is not covered by the CKL. Note also that it applies to all member states of destination, whereas the Newcastle disease information in section II. 1. (b) applies only to Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. The OV must certify this section on the basis of his/her knowledge of the flock and any necessary support statements. 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 indented lines that do not apply must be deleted.

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

(f) The Regulation EC/2160/2003 applies to breeding flocks of the chicken species (*Gallus gallus*) from January 2007 onwards, laying hens from February 2008, broilers 2009 and breeding turkeys from January 2010. If the birds being exported do not come within the eligible categories for testing under the Regulation, the whole of part II.2. does not apply and the OV should mark it as ‘Not Applicable’.

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


(g) **Part II, section II. 2. - Salmonella testing**

The Regulation 2160/2003 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 flock is routinely tested according to the PBFHO, 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.enteritidis, S.typhimurium, 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.
The significance of this is that the export may be allowed to proceed, subject to the agreement of the receiving country, if a laying flock has been positive for S.hadar or S.virchow or S.infantis, 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

(h) 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. The OV must certify this section on the basis of his/her knowledge of the flock and any necessary support statements.

(i) 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 9 of CKL).

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.
7. WELFARE OF THE ANIMALS:

Exporters should be reminded that they must comply with the British laws relating to the welfare of animals. Information about the necessary requirements may be obtained from the following offices:

**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.