

**Department of Agriculture**

**National Directorate Animal Health**

**Notice No. VPN/06/2003-10**

**TO: STATE VETERINARY OFFICERS**

**SUBJECT: Standard for the inspection of poultry farms for the export of poultry meat**

<b>PART I</b>	<b>Minimum requirements for a veterinary approved poultry farm</b>
<b>PART II</b>	<b>Procedures for the movement of poultry from a registered farm to a destination in another province</b>
<b>ANNEX A</b>	<b>Inspection report</b>
<b>ANNEX B</b>	<b>Health attestation for poultry transported from a registered farm to destination in another province</b>

# PART I

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY APPROVED POULTRY FARM

1. **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A VETERINARY APPROVED FARM FOR POULTRY INTENDED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POULTRY MEAT FOR EXPORT**
  - 1.1 Poultry may not be kept in areas less than 20 km from the borders of another third country not authorised to export poultry meat to the EU.
  - 1.2 Poultry may not be kept in an area where during the last 60 days there have been Animal Health restrictions because of outbreak of disease to which poultry are susceptible (Refer to OIE list A and B infectious diseases).
  - 1.3 The surrounding area, within a radius of 10 km must be free of Newcastle Disease and highly pathogenic Avian Influenza.
  - 1.4 Poultry must be transported from the farms of origin to the establishment (abattoir) without contact with birds or animals that do not comply with the conditions of export.
  - 1.5 A detailed drawing or plan of the farm, indicating all structures and activities must be available at the farm for inspection purposes – aerial photographs may be substituted.
  - 1.6 The farm must have facilities for the easy and humane handling of live poultry.
  - 1.7 The person responsible for the farm must commit him/herself, in writing, that he/she will:
    - a. ~~maintain biosecurity to the satisfaction of the Controlling Authority,~~
    - b. notify the State Veterinarian of any notifiable disease outbreak promptly,
    - c. undertake not to use or administer production enhancers/ growth stimulants or any substance that is a Beta agonist or has an oestrogenic, androgenic, gestagenic or thyrostatic effect,
    - d. undertake to comply with the control measures imposed by the Controlling Authority if an outbreak of a controlled animal disease should occur on the farm,
    - e. keep a register of all treatments,
    - f. observe withdrawal periods of any therapeutic remedies used
    - g. allow the State Veterinarian to inspect and sample in the flock as he/she sees fit.
    - h. keep records of post mortem reports.
    - i. send birds that die within the three month prior to slaughter to a State Veterinary Laboratory for a post-mortem examination.

- j. ~~There is no issuing officer involved when ostriches are dispatched from farms except when ostriches move between different Provinces. However, all consignments must always be covered by a declaration by the owner that ostriches have been treated for ticks. Ostriches found to be infested with ticks must be sent back to the farm and the farmer must be admonished for making a false declaration in such cases. Repeat offenders must be removed from the list of export approved farms.~~

~~All ostriches must be individually and permanently identified according to a pre-printed method approved by the Controlling Authority. Such identification must be done from at least 3 months before slaughter.~~

- 1.8 Quarantine facilities for the specific use of hormone/growth promoter free poultry must be identified and used for that purpose if production enhancers/growth stimulants are used routinely on the farm. ~~Birds must be individually identified three (3) months prior to slaughter under the supervision of the Controlling Authority. They must be kept completely separate from the rest of the flock. Any bird that had been therapeutically treated by a veterinarian with a substance mentioned in 2.7(ii) must be removed from the quarantine facility. All missing lot identification numbers must be accounted for.~~

- 1.9 Stock registers giving details of:

- (i) dates of arrival at the farm,
- (ii) origin,
- (iii) identification numbers,
- (iv) any ~~acaricide~~ treatment and vaccination dates,
- (v) deaths with reasons,
- (vi) dates of dispatch for slaughter, should be meticulously maintained. All records must be available on request by the State Veterinarian. The State Veterinarian must be notified of all deaths except obvious injury. Samples collected during a post mortem examination must be submitted to a laboratory approved by the Controlling Authority.

- 1.10 Troughs for feeding or watering of poultry must be mounted away from the ground to prevent rodents from nesting under them.

- 1.11 Vaccination of poultry to be slaughtered for the export market must be carried out by an authorised person under the supervision of a veterinarian at least 30 days prior to slaughter.

Only registered vaccines that may be used.

No mesogenic strains of NCD vaccine may be used in poultry.

Exporters of eggs and chicks may be exempted from vaccinating their poultry breeding flock against NCD.

Exemption may only be granted by the National Directorate and the flock must be serologically monitored for NCD.

Please forward information concerning such farms to the National Directorate for the attention of the Senior Manager.

#### 1.12 Surveillance for NCD must be carried out on tracheal swabs of poultry.

The surveillance programme must include all farms approved for export slaughter.

All farms that deliver slaughter birds to abattoirs approved for export must be surveyed for NCD at least once a year and at least six months before slaughter.

Tracheal swabs must be taken from 30 birds, from each farm, and sent to the ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute for testing. A negative test is a prerequisite for the annual registration of a farm for export approval.

The results of the tests must be forwarded to the State Veterinarian who submitted the samples and the National Directorate for the attention of the Senior Manager.

Positive NCD results must be followed up immediately.

A State Veterinarian must closely examine any NCD outbreak or suspected outbreak. The State Veterinarians at all abattoirs approved to export meat obtained from poultry must be informed.

Examination of an outbreak should include a necropsy and laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis. On suspicion of a NCD outbreak, the State Veterinarian must ensure that strict movement control is applied. On confirmation of an outbreak, disease control must be instituted and supervised and the National Directorate must be notified immediately. The National Directorate must notify the European Commission within 24 hours.

Also refer to the National Guidelines on how NCD outbreaks must be handled.

Stamping out, in case of an outbreak of Newcastle disease, is not mandatory in principle according to the Animal Diseases Act, 1984.

In the case of a suspect or confirmed outbreak of NCD in poultry, movement and disease control must be instituted on the affected farm and all other holdings within a distance of 10 kilometres from the perimeter of that part of the farm, which contains the affected poultry.

Holdings under restrictions due to a suspect or confirmed outbreak of NCD may not present poultry for export slaughter at export-approved abattoirs.

Export restriction on a **farm** under restrictions due to a suspect or confirmed outbreak of NCD may only be lifted **six months** after the clinical recovery or death of the last affected bird.

Export restrictions on **farms** within a distance of 10 kilometres from the perimeter of that part of the farm which contains the poultry, where an outbreak of NCD had occurred, may only be lifted **three months** after the clinical recovery or death of the last affected bird.

Export restrictions on an export approved **abattoir** under restrictions due to a suspect or confirmed outbreak NCD, on its premises or within a distance of 10 kilometres from the perimeter of that part of the farm which contains the infected poultry, may only be lifted **30 days** after the clinical recovery or death of the last affected bird.

Note that the distance of 10 kilometres from the perimeter of that part of the farm which contains the poultry includes where appropriate the territory of a neighbouring country.

~~Note also that ostriches must be held in a farm, in the territory of the Republic of South Africa, for at least three months before being slaughtered~~

- 1.13 The registration of a farm is not transferable to new management nor between farms under control of the management.
- 1.14 The approval is subject to the maintenance of prescribed standards. The Controlling Authority may at any time cancel approval if the farm does not conform to the requirements of this standard.
- 1.15 A personal interview of the management is advisable to ensure they understand their obligations, which they undertake in writing when signing the registration form (VPN/02/2003-05, Annex A).

## 2. Office International Des Epizooties List a and list b infectious diseases

Specific requirements for each disease can be obtained from the International Animal Health Code of the Office International Des Epizooties. Their website address is [http://www.oie.int/eng/en\\_plan.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/en_plan.htm)

### Avian diseases

- Avian chlamydiosis
- Avian infectious bronchitis
- Avian infectious laryngotracheitis
- Avian mycoplasmosis (*M. gallisepticum*)
- Avian tuberculosis
- Duck virus enteritis
- Duck virus hepatitis
- Fowl cholera
- Fowl pox
- Fowl typhoid
- Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)
- Marek's disease
- Pullorum disease

## 3. INSPECTION TO APPROVE A FARM FOR EXPORT STATUS

- ~~3.1 An official will be appointed by the Controlling Authority to inspect an ostrich farm for export approval.~~
- ~~3.2 A suitable date for the inspection will be agreed upon by the owner of the farm and the official as appointed in 4.3.1. The official will inform the owner of the farm of the conditions under which the inspection will be carried out.~~
- ~~3.3 The basis for export approval will be the requirements set by the importing country as well as the minimum requirements, for a veterinary approved farm, in 4.2.~~
- ~~3.4 The official appointed by the Controlling Authority will be responsible for the following actions/procedures:~~

- a. Acquaint himself/herself with the minimum requirements in 4.2 for a veterinary approved farm.
- b. Provide a new applicant with a registration form that corresponds in form and content to the model in Annex A.
- c. Inspect the farm and complete Annex B with appropriate comments, upon receipt of the properly completed and signed registration form.
- d. If the farm does not comply with the requirements in 4.2 the official must provide the owner of a farm with a detailed report with the reasons why a farm can not be approved. The report must correspond in form and content to the model in Annex B.
- e. Arrange for another inspection when the owner indicates that all the deficiencies had been rectified.
- f. Provide an acceptable inspection, vaccination, acaricide treatment and disease reporting service to the farm. Export approval will only be considered once such a service is in place.
- g. Upon approval of the farm the State Veterinarian must allocate a registration number to the farm and complete and sign paragraph D of the registration form (Annex A). The registration number must be made up as follows:

Example:

0	8	0	9	0	9	1
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Type of farm <sup>‡</sup> :	0	Ostrich farm
Province number*	8	Western Cape
Magisterial district number	09	Heidelberg
Farm number	091	91 <sup>st</sup> farm registered in Heidelberg

Province numbers\*:

Mpumalanga	1	KwaZulu-Natal	6
Gauteng	2	Eastern Cape Province	7
Northern Province	3	Western Cape Province	8
North West Province	4	Northern Cape Province	9
Free State	5		

Type of farm<sup>‡</sup>:

D	Dairy farm
R	Cattle, sheep, goat, pig or horse farm
0	Ostrich or poultry farm
W	Wild game farm

The same number is used if the farm is registered for the export of other commodities e.g. Dairy, game, red meat etc. However a separate application must be submitted with a different prefix (i.e. D, R, O or W)

- h. ~~Keep the original registration document on file.~~
- i. ~~Submit a copy of the registration (Annex A) to the Senior Manager Animal Health for attention Dr L Odendaal. The fax number is 012 329 6892.~~
- j. ~~Inspect approved farms at least once a year in accordance with the requirements in 4.2 and complete and forward an updated registration form.~~
- k. ~~Issue health attestations for ostriches transported from the farm to a destination in another Province. (Annex C)~~
- l. ~~Ensure that the current recommended control measures are applied in the event of an outbreak of Newcastle Disease.~~

#### ~~4. INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES~~

~~When considering a farm for registration the location of the premises and the ability of the owner to comply with basic requirements must be kept in mind:~~

~~4.1 The minimum internationally acceptable guarantees to be provided by a Newcastle Disease (NCD) infected country like South Africa are that:~~

- a. ~~the birds were derived from a farm free of NCD.~~
- b. ~~neither the farm of origin, nor the approved abattoir were situated in an NCD infected zone~~
- c. ~~the birds were declared healthy on ante and post mortem inspection.~~
- d. ~~no mesogenic strains of NCD vaccine were used.~~

~~4.2 In order to provide these guarantees the following requirements have to be satisfied:~~

- a. ~~rapid detection of NCD outbreaks.~~
- b. ~~trace-ability of the meat back to the flock of origin.~~
- c. ~~protection of the flock of origin from exposure to disease, especially NCD.~~
- d. ~~detailed knowledge of the health status of the flock of origin.~~

~~4.3 To ensure the above requirements are complied with, certain actions have to be taken by various people. These obligations and duties are described below and under point 2.12 and must be performed by all involved before an international veterinary certificate attesting to the animal health status of export slaughter ostrich can be issued, by an State Veterinarian. This standard outlines the process which enables the State Veterinarian at the abattoir to verify the animal health status of export slaughter ostrich although only the slaughter process is under his/her direct control. This verification is essential for ethical certification.~~

~~4.4 Obligations of all owners of animals and veterinarians~~

~~Immediate reporting of outbreaks or, suspected outbreaks of any notifiable disease to the appropriate Controlling Authority. This enables the Controlling Authority to~~

~~take appropriate preventative measures and inform the Senior Manager Animal Health.~~

~~4.5 — Duties of the State Veterinarian responsible for the area in which the farm of origin or approved abattoir is situated:~~

~~The State Veterinarian must promote notification of outbreaks of notifiable disease and suspected outbreaks by colleagues in private practice and the general animal owning public.~~

~~Within the 10 km radius around a registered farm or approved abattoir public awareness of diseases and especially the compulsory Newcastle Disease vaccination of poultry and ostriches must be promoted through education. Where necessary, those who do not report outbreaks of notifiable disease must be prosecuted. Commercial poultry farms in such an area must be regularly inspected and their surveillance serology monitored for signs of NCD virus activity. Serological data from commercial poultry can serve as an efficient early warning of the presence of NCD virus in an area.~~

## **PART II**

### **PROCEDURES FOR THE MOVEMENT OF POULTRY FROM A REGISTERED FARM TO A DESTINATION IN ANOTHER PROVINCE**

3. There is no issuing officer involved when poultry are dispatched from farms except when poultry move between different Provinces.
4. The authorised official appointed by the Controlling Authority must be able to certify that the poultry that leave the farm satisfy export requirements.
5. When poultry are being dispatched from a registered farm to a destination in another Province, the health attestation in Annex B, must be issued by the State Veterinarian in the district where the registered farm is situated.

(Logo of Controlling Authority)

**ANNEX A (VPN/06/2003-10)  
INSPECTION REPORT FOR REGISTRATION  
OF A POULTRY FARM FOR EXPORT**

Date of visit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and position of inspector: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

1. A detailed map of the farm (alternatively aerial photographs), indicating structures and activities is available.

Yes

No

2. The establishment is surrounded by a security fence or wall and a gateway to control traffic, and access to the site.

**Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ~~Animals intended for export slaughter have remained in the Republic of South Africa for at least twelve (12) months before being slaughtered or since birth in the case of animals less than twelve (12) months old.~~

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. ~~Animals do not originate from the FMD control zones of the Republic of South Africa. In addition, the surrounding area, within a radius of 10 km of the farm, and the farm itself has been free from foot and mouth disease for at least 30 days.~~

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. ~~In the case of pigs the surrounding area, within a radius of 10 km is free from African swine fever:~~

**Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Animals intended for export are not treated with production enhancers/growth stimulants or any substance that is a Beta agonist or has an oestrogenic, androgenic, gestagenic or thyrostatic effect.

**Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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7. ~~Proof of registration of a mark or brand in terms of the Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act no 6 of 2002) is available.~~

**Comments:**

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8. ~~All animals are permanently identified according to a method approved by the Controlling Authority. Such identification must be done at least 3 months before slaughter.~~

**Comments:**

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9. The manager committed him/herself, in writing, that he/she will: .

9.1 Notify the State Veterinarian of any notifiable disease outbreak promptly.

**Comments:**

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9.2 Undertake to comply with the control measures imposed by the Controlling Authority if an outbreak of a controlled animal disease should occur on the farm

**Comments:**

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9.3 Observe withdrawal periods of any therapeutic remedies used.

**Comments:**

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9.4 Allow the State Veterinarian to inspect and sample as he/she sees fit.

**Comments:**

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9.5 Send birds that die within the three-month quarantine period to a State Veterinary Laboratory for a post-mortem examination.

**Comments:**

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9.6 Keep records of post mortem reports. Electronic records must be printed regularly.  
**Comments:**

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9.7 ~~Submit the heads of all animals that die on the farm to a State Veterinary Laboratory for testing for transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.~~  
**Comments:**

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10. The farm has facilities for the easy and humane handling of animals.  
**Comments:**

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11. During the 3 months before slaughter stock registers giving details of dates of arrival at the farm, origin, ~~identification numbers, acaricide~~ treatment and vaccination dates, deaths with reasons and dispatch for slaughter dates should be meticulously maintained.

11.1 Stock register:  
**Comments:**

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11.2 Recording and reporting of deaths:  
**Comments:**

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11.3 Treatment registers:  
**Comments:**

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11.4 ~~Tick control register.~~  
**Comments:**

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12. ~~Tick control not conducive to residues in meat.~~  
**Comments:**

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13. The facility must be re-inspected on an annual basis.

**Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. **General Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, (*Name*)

In my capacity as State Veterinarian, hereby declare that the above farm was inspected and found to comply with requirements set in the relevant standards for the registration of a farm for export of poultry meat.

Signed at (place) \_\_\_\_\_, (date) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of State Veterinarian)

Stamp

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name in capital letters, title and qualification of signatory)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number:

**ANNEX B (VPN/06/2003-10)****CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN**

(Logo of Controlling Authority)

Poultry for export Slaughter  
(Transported from a province other than where the abattoir is situated)

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby declare that according to documentation submitted to me the consignment of \_\_\_\_\_ (number) poultry

Originate from:

Owner : \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Export Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination abattoir: \_\_\_\_\_ Abattoir

Proposed slaughter date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that:

1. The Province from which the animals originate has been free from ~~Rinderpest~~ for at least twelve (12) months.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ (3) animals described above:
  - 2.1 ~~have, without interruption, been held in the territory of the republic of South Africa, in the foot and mouth disease free zone, for at least twelve (12) months;~~
  - 2.2 ~~have, without interruption, been held on the farm \_\_\_\_\_ In the district \_\_\_\_\_ for at least three months before being slaughtered or since birth in the case of animals less than three months old.~~
3. The farm from which the birds originate:
  - 3.1 has been registered for export approval in terms of VPN/02/2003-06 and receives regular veterinary inspections;
  - 3.2 was not under animal health restrictions in connection with any disease to which the birds concerned are susceptible;
  - 3.3 ~~and an area around the farm, within a distance of 10 km from the perimeter of that part of the farm which contains the birds, including where appropriate the territory of a neighbouring country, has been free from foot and mouth disease during the previous 30 days.~~

Registration no. of truck: \_\_\_\_\_

Seal number of truck: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_, (date) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of State Veterinarian)

Stamp

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name in capital letters, title and qualification of signatory)