



HM Government

UK TRANSITION

Trader Readiness

Frequently Asked Questions

Great Britain to Northern Ireland Export Health Certificates

And

EHC Online

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V1.0

The following FAQs will attempt to clarify some of the key changes surrounding the changes to Export Health Certificates and support you with EHC Online.

This document is intended to be continually edited and updated as and when new questions are received. The date on which the document was last updated, and version number is included for ease of reference. Any new/updated chapters or questions that have been added since the last version are identified by ****New**** or **“Updated”** as appropriate.

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Export Health Certificates (EHCs)

**UK'S
NEW START
LET'S GET
GOING** 

General

Why is the movement from GB to NI changing?

The United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020 and since then, we have been in a transition period where the UK Government works with the EU to reach a trade agreement.

The Government has published a [Command Paper](#) setting out the details of an agreement in principle on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol. As a result, from the 1 January 2021, new measures and procedures for traders who move animal products, plants and plant products from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI) will come into force.

What is an Export Health Certificates (EHC)?

An EHC is a document that confirms certain information, health standards and regulations have been met, so live animals and products of animal origin can be exported. They need to be completed and signed by an OV (Official Veterinarian) or Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO), recognised by The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) as having the correct qualifications to certify the product in question.

Why do I need an EHC?

You must include a completed EHC for each type of animal or animal product (that requires an EHC) you move from GB to NI.

An EHC is an official document that confirms your consignment meets the health requirements of the destination country.

If you're moving a consignment which includes a mix of products, you'll need an EHC for each product type although some certificates for composite products are available.

Product type is defined by the EHC so there may be instances where products that different but have the same traceability information (like two different composite products, or two different meat products) can be grouped onto a single certificate.

Who is the government body who oversees the EHC process?

The government body who are responsible for the EHCs is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), is an agency of the Department for Food and Rural Affairs. They administer the EHC process and oversee the issuing of export health documentation. The APHA's Centre for International Trade manages the EHC Online system and provides support to exporters and certifiers in the application and certification process.

When should you register for EHC Online?

Traders will need to register for EHC Online as soon as possible. This must be done before the first application is made.

Who can sign EHCs?

Official Veterinarians (OVs) who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinarian) (OCQ(V)), and for some consignments where the EHC conditions allow, primarily fishery products and some composite foods, official Inspectors e.g. Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs), usually Environmental Health Officers (EHO).

What are the process steps for Traders and Certifiers?

Both the trader and the certifier need to be registered to complete an application on the EHC Online service. New businesses will need to locate a certifier and secure their services before making an EHC application.

Certifiers charge for their services and there will be a cost associated for EHC certification. Traders will need to build finding a certifier into their business model. Some processes may be different depending on the commodity being moved and certifiers may need to be familiar with your business to enable certification to take place i.e. single or block applications or some food business organisations.

How much is it going to cost exporters to get a vet to sign off their EHCs?

EHCs are certified by either an Official Veterinarian (OV) or in some cases a Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs), usually Environmental Health Officer (EHO). Certificates signed by an OV is through a commercial service and therefore we cannot comment on cost. Services provided by Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) varies depending on the Local Authority but are determined on a cost recovery basis. Some Local Authorities subsidise EHC certification. There is a Movement Assurance Scheme available, this scheme removes the need for traders to pay certification costs and reimburse the cost incurred by those certifying the product up to a set amount. We will monitor the performance of the scheme and review it after 3 months to determine how to best provide ongoing support to traders.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/movement-assistance-scheme-to-support-agrifood-traders>

Trader Actions:

1. Go onto Defra's Form Finder and check if the commodity meets the requirements for moving. If in doubt, the trader should contact their certifier
2. Register for an EHC Online account

3. Once registered and logged in you can search for the [EHC](#) you need via GOV.UK form finder
4. It is the trader's responsibility to have their application certified. They should check that the Certifying Officer (CO) they wish to use is also registered for EHC Online; you cannot use them if they are not
5. Complete your EHC application via EHC Online
6. Read and check the accompanying Notes for Guidance to ensure that the products being moved meet the requirements of the destination country
7. Have your consignment inspected and certified by your CO
8. Ensure that your certified EHC travels with the move consignment
9. Failure to get a certified EHC will stop the move entering the point of entry in Northern Ireland.

Certifier Actions:

1. [Register](#) for an EHC Online account
2. Once logged in your online dashboard will show you any EHC cases that need action
3. Use information on the APHA [Vet Gateway](#) to support the certification of an EHC, including information on UK disease status contained within the ET171 disease status document
4. Use EHC Online to let APHA know the outcome of an inspection. The service allows you to review, approve, reject or replace an EHC and see your upcoming certification workload on your dashboard
5. Print the EHC from EHC Online or receive via post (for some types of EHC) from APHA and give to your mover. Keep a certified copy for your own records. APHA may need it for audit checks

Can I apply for an Export Health Certificate online?

Yes. You can apply on EHC Online. [Find the EHC you need](#) for your product or animal and search for the certificate you require along with the accompanying Notes for Guidance (NFGs).

For most consignments, you can apply online on the EHC page for your product or animal. Applying online means you can:

- See when APHA has sent your EHC to your official vet or inspector
- See the status of your application
- Copy previous applications for similar moves
- Always use the latest version of the EHC
- It is advisable to check you are using the most recent version of Notes for Guidance (NFG) and other support documents from EHC Form Finder. At the bottom of each page on EHC Form Finder there are details of when the page was last updated

- Consider 'Subscribing to Feeds' if you want to receive an email informing you when a page on EHC Form Finder has been updated
Official vets (OVs) or inspectors who are registered to use the service can download and print your EHC as soon as APHA has finished checking your application

Will the process (pre-notification and health certificates) be digital and automated end to end or will there be manual steps, e.g. using mail or post / copying etc?

All EHCs issued on white paper can be printed by the certifier directly from EHC Online, removing the delay caused by using the postal system.

How long does the process take from submitting an EHC to the OV conducting an inspection?

APHA will send your EHC to your official vet or inspector, or let them know it is ready to download and print if they are registered to use the service:

- Seven working days before your move date within one working day of receiving it, if you plan to move in the next seven working days. If you apply within the seven-day window prior to moving via EHC Online your certificate will be instantaneously routed to your certifier. Where disease clearance is required to be issued by APHA your certificate will be with your certifier within one working day
- If you've applied online, you'll be able to see when APHA has sent your certificate to your OV or inspector. [Contact APHA](#) if your OV or inspector does not receive the EHC

Will I receive a certification number?

All certificates issued bear a unique serial number.

Does each consignment need to be inspected before dispatch?

Please note not all consignments moving into Northern Ireland will need an EHC from 1st January. There are different movement inspection processes depending on what you are moving.

Moving from GB to NI:

Once you've applied to APHA for an EHC, you need to arrange for your nominated OV or inspector to complete, sign and give the EHC to you. The original EHC must travel with your consignment to the movement destination. The goods must not be split up during transit.

What if I get to the Port of Entry and my paperwork is not correct?

Your goods may be refused entry, seized, destroyed or returned to GB.

What happens if I can't find my EHC on GOV.UK?

If you can't find it on the EHC form finder, you should contact the APHA [Centre for International Trade Carlisle \(CITC\)](#) or DAERA for Northern Ireland.

I move several products of animal origin to NI. Do I need a separate Export Health Certificate for each product? Or does one Export Health Certificate cover all the products?

Separate Export Health Certificates will be required for different products. Further information on moving animal products can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-animal-products-fish-and-fishery-products-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>

Guidance on which EHCs are available can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>.

Does the Export Health Certificate travel with the load of goods I am moving into NI?

Yes, if moving animals or animal products you will need to send your goods to NI with the original EHC. Further information can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-animal-products-fish-and-fishery-products-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>.

What happens if the original signed copy of the EHC is lost or destroyed in transit?

The original certificate needs to accompany the consignment to the POE/destination. If the certificate is lost/destroyed in transit, it could result in potential rejection of the consignment. Check whether they can call APHA for lost EHC

How do you add the container and seal number to the EHC after it's been submitted?

The container or seal number can be added at the point of certification. The original certificate which has been stamped and signed will need to travel with the consignment and therefore will be presented at the POE with the correct details on including seal number etc.

The EHC can be downloaded and printed by the certifier. They are printed on white paper, so the certificates can be amended by the CO at the point of inspection and certification. If there is no seal number on the certificate at that point, the seal number can be added when the CO is doing the inspection.

What happens if there is a discrepancy with the quantity loaded onto the vehicle?

All the details and relevant information for the consignment will need to be reflected on the EHC. The Certifying Officer (CO) will check the details are correct at the point of certification. If the certificate is certified incorrectly then this may cause problems at the POE upon inspection.

Are EHCs are required for transit shipments through the EU, and if so, what type of EHC is required? NI relevant

Yes. You will need an EHC to transit to the EU. A number of transit EHC's are available to be used for some commodities. If a transit certificate is not available, you will need to apply for the certificate relevant to your consignment.

Our understanding is that if the goods are on transshipment to the EU, a new certificate is not required. You will have to liaise with the BCP of entry in the EU to explain in detail what product is, what certification it has, how long is in the customs bond and if there is any change of container, etc.

More information can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/bips_guidance_transit_transshipment.pdf

If there is a mistake on the EHC how we can amend it once the trailer left has GB?

Unfortunately, you cannot amend. If you did need to change to the EHC please contact APHA to see what options are available before arriving at the POE.

Please consider that there may not be time to do this as travel time could be quite quick because of our proximity to GB.

If the export date of the shipment changes due to any reason, is there a way to edit the online EHC to reflect this after you've submitted the EHC?

Once an application is submitted by the applicant the export date is used to generate the EHC and it will be sent to the certifier. If that date changes, please contact APHA to amend or you can discuss with the certifier to re-arrange inspection.

We have customers in NI who use our raw material to manufacture a product, they then export this product, using the EHC we provide in order to apply for a certificate in their country. Will they still be able to do this?

The NI customer needs to contact the country of destination of the product and ask for their import requirements.

We don't know the net weight at the time of application, only at the time of loading. Do we leave this blank?

Not all the information is known at the time of application and wouldn't be confirmed until the certifier is inspecting the goods. At that point the Certifying Officer can amend the final EHC e.g. by handwriting if the certifier has printed it off and taken it with them for checking. Those details could be amended or entered at that stage.

Do we need an EHC for products that were produced in NI already?

Yes. Please refer to the export certificates at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

If you have two companies in GB, one ships their products to the other for consolidation and export, who is responsible for providing the certificate?

The last place of consolidation (the loading of the consignment), will be responsible for providing the certificate.

If products going to a despatch depot for a retailer, who will be responsible for providing the certificate?

The last place of consolidation (the loading of the consignment), will be responsible for providing the certificate.

What information is required for an EHC attestation?

Please check the EHC and Notes for Guidance at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

If have any questions on EHC attestations, please also liaise with your Certifying Officer.

What is the process for derogating food items from requiring an EHC?

Please refer to Annex 2 in the link below for commodities that do not require checks at entry point:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0275-20191214&qid=1603984724577>

We use some products of animal origin in our feed blends. These will have gone through the import process by our suppliers. Do we then have to get an OV to certify our finished product for export?

Please refer to the Form Finder for more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Are exporters allowed to keep a copy of the EHC?

The original EHC must travel with the consignment, however you may keep a copy for your requirements.

Can our supplier apply for a health certificate on our behalf?

Anyone can apply for an EHC.

Is there also an EHC of category3 (pet food) products?

There are different EHCs for pet food, including raw material. Please refer to Form Finder for more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

How do you apply for an EHC in advance if the trailer needs inspecting?

The CO will be unable to certify days in advance if the consignment has not been inspected.

Will EHCs be required for small consignments travelling via the parcel courier networks?

Yes, if the material is of animal origin and is listed in the legislation that requires SPS checks.

Will certificates of origin be required?

They are not required to accompany the EHC, although the information in it may be required by the certifying officer to sign the final EHC.

If the product is loaded at a production site, then stored at a distribution centre before export, does the certifying officer complete approval at the production site? Or does the consignment need to be checked at the distribution/ storage site? If production of composite products does not require a site to have an approval number. How is the EHC completed? Does it allow for no approval number to be submitted for the loading site?

The certificate must be issued at the place of dispatch. For completion of Part 1 of the EHC, please follow the guidance link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

Does an export health certificate replace the need for a CMR?

The EHC does not replace the CMR, it is not related.

Can I use an EHC issued by an EU supplier to export a product (frozen fish) that has not been modified, to an NI customer?

No, you will have to have EHC issued from GB to NI.

EHC - Can we apply for "batches" of certificates in excess of the 7 days requirement?

It is possible to get batch certificate for some commodities; you will need to contact APHA for further clarification.

SM-APHA-Exports (APHA) exports@apha.gov.uk

For products with a very short shelf life (whey products) with only a few hours between production and vet inspection / certification then export, how far in advance can information be prepared for TRACES? Are there any documentation details you envisage that could be difficult for the exporter to put in place so that the relevant permissions are granted before arrival of the consignment?

TRACES will not be used if we leave the EU without a trade agreement, so the certificate would be applied for on EHCO. Certificates can be applied for in advance, the issue will be whether they can have the OV in time for the inspection. Depending on the product, they may have to apply for the GEFS scheme as well, so they will need to read through the guidance of the Export Health Certificate which they need to use so that they can learn whether they need to apply for GEFS, so that they can prepare attestations and evidence in advance.

If no EHC exists, then how quickly can APHA produce such a document once import conditions provided by the country of import. Is it still correct that APHA needs the conditions printed on official government headed paper, as in the past?

Depending on what is required by the importing certificate. If a formal certificate is required, DEFRA will try to get it in place as soon as possible. It will depend on the commodity and the requirements of the importing country.

How long are exports certs valid for from signing - will they require a second cert to get back to UK after a week of competition in NI?

The EHC has to be signed within 24 hours of the animal's departure to the NI, this is then valid for 10 days for the return.

What is the criteria for the 'commercial document' that is required for goods exempt from EHC?

Good that are exempt from the EHC or agreed declarations, there is not an established form of commercial documents.

EHC – Do we need one for each kill date supplied / species / product?

Please check EHC guides as there are different EHC dependent upon type of species/products. Find the EHC you need in the link provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Supporting Businesses

Where can I find guidance on EHCs?

You can contact APHA or DAERA if you need help getting an EHC.

Northern Ireland:

You can [find your DAERA direct regional office](#) or contact DAERA by phone.

Telephone: 0300 0200 7840

[Find out about call charges.](#)

England, Scotland or Wales:

You can contact the APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle.

Email: exports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 0200 301

[Find out about call charges.](#)

You can also use these contact details if you're having any difficulties using the online service.

Where can I find more information on the changes to the movement process for animals and products of animal origin?

1. Further information on how to prepare to move goods from GB (England, Wales and Scotland) to the Northern Ireland (NI) from 1 January 2021 can be found at: www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021.
2. Defra has created a one-stop-shop depository site of key information and documents—known as our [Moving Goods from GB to NI Trader Showcase](#) site. The type of information that is available for traders moving live animals includes:
 - The process map for traders moving live animals from GB to NI
 - Live animal FAQs—This document will be updated as and when more Q&As are received
 - Links to relevant guidance pages on GOV.UK

Please use the following link to access the site:

<https://shwca.se/MovingGoodsGBtoNI>

This site is updated as and when new information becomes available therefore, please visit this site regularly to ensure you have the latest update.

3. As traders will need to understand and comply with new SPS requirements designed to protect human and animal life when moving goods to and through NI, Defra is introducing a new scheme. Known as the **Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS)**, it will provide various levels of support to traders.

One level of support is a dedicated contact centre where businesses can call for advice on moving goods from GB to NI.

This service will be available from 16 December 2020 and will be open Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays and weekends). This service will be able to support you with understanding the policy changes and providing practical support. Specialist advisors will be able to advise on matters such as export health certificates, live animals, animal products and plant products.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/movement-assistance-scheme-to-support-agrifood-traders>

By Category

Animal by Products

What about exporting animal by products? What are the rules?

In the event of a no deal, depending on the type of ABP you will need:

Either

- An Export Health Certificate (EHC), which will need to be applied for in advance; or
- A model declaration which will need to be applied for in advance; or
- Official documentation from the competent authority permitting the export of the ABP from the GB which will need to be obtained in advance from the competent authority of the Member State of destination

You will also need:

- To check if your Animal By Product (ABP) CN number is listed as required to undergo vet checks at a BCP
- Please note that all ABPs should pass via a BCP regardless of whether they need vet checks. In the case of ABP that is required to be vet checked at a BCP, ensure that your EU-based import agent has notified the BCP that the consignment is arriving prior to arrival
- If your ABP does not require to be vet checked, ensure your EU based import agent has contacted the competent authority of the Member State of destination to determine the correct pre-notification procedure

Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 defines the end point in the manufacturing chain for certain derived products. Products meeting these end points are no longer considered to be animal by-products and do not need to be controlled as such. this includes for oleochemicals: (j) oleochemical products derived from rendered fats and which fulfil the requirements set out in Chapter XI of Annex XIII; Article 3 applies “other than imported”. As the UK will be a third country am I correct to assume that this end point would not apply for oleochemical products manufactured in the UK even if the requirements of Chapter XI of Annex XIII are met?

Please use link below where you are able to find guidance on ABP:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Certifiers

Is there a list of certifiers and if so where can it be accessed?

The list of certificates can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-a-professional-to-certify-export-health-certificates>.

Please be aware that it is not a complete list as certifying officers need to opt in to be on that list. We know there are over 1,000 certifying officers and there are currently about 300 on Gov.UK. We are working to improve that list.

You should confirm with your certifier before applying for your EHC, that they are registered for EHC online. If they are not you will not be able to use them.

You will also need to contact the certifiers to ensure they can certify the type of product that you export. If you are aware of a certifying officer who might be able to certify your goods, please contact them even if they are not on the Gov.UK list. A google search may help to find a certifying officer/business in your area who may be able to help. If after exhausting these options, and you have still not found a certifying officer, then please contact the APHA for help and support to find a certifying officer.

Will the certifier have to sign all EHCs or just the English pages?

The certifier will have to sign all certificates, including those not in English.

Will certifiers physically have to see the stock to certify it?

Yes, the stock must be physically inspected.

What supporting documents, if any, will the Official Veterinarian/Certifying Officer need to sign of the EHC?

The Certifying Officer (CO), which may be the OV, will need to sign the EHC. For example: A ham and cheese pizza—the CO would need to be comfortable that the cheese and ham met the requirements of the receiving health country and understand where they came from.

The CO may need supporting documentation to complete the certification of the consignment/EHC. The supporting documentation needed will depend on the scope of the certificate and health attestation outlined in the EHC.

What support information do exporters need to capture to enable Official Veterinarians (OV) need to sign final EHC?

- You need to plan as much as possible in advance
- You need to tell your NI counterparty what veterinary attestations you need before the consignment leaves NI. This is so that the NI vet can provide the attestation and do any inspections/evidence gathering that is needed.
- You also need to contact the UK Official OV you intend to use for exporting your consignment. They need to agree what evidence is needed
- Then speak to your NI counterparty and line them up to produce the attestations. They do not in principle have to be from an NI OV but can be from any vet. You will need to agree with your UK CVO exactly what they need from whom

For further information please refer to the EU EHCs that are on Form Finder and the Notes of Guidance.

Is the supporting documentation uploaded at time of application or can this be supplied direct to the certifying officer?

It doesn't need to be uploaded at time of creating the certificate - it can be sent straight to the CO if that is an easier way to manage it.

Can my Exports Health Officer certify Live Bivalve Molluscs (LBM) in all cases?

No. An EHO can only certify when the LBM is ready and fit for human consumption and using the products of animal origin certificates for LBMs. When that is not the case, the certification is done by the fish health organisation, i.e. CEFAS or Marine Scotland.

We have on onsite OV, will they be qualified enough to sign the EHC?

Possibly. Your certifying officer (OV or FCCO) needs to have the appropriate training and qualifications to check and certify your consignment and sign the export health certificate. You should check with your certifying officer what the scope of their competencies and qualifications are.

How many more OVs are being supplied by APHA?

OVs are not supplied by APHA. Private Veterinarians act in a commercial manner to economic demand. However, should they wish to provide export certification services, they must undertake the training and obtain the qualifications required to certify goods for export.

Defra provided funding for training of Veterinarians to become Official Veterinarians (OVs). This training enabled them to obtain the qualification needed to certify exports of animal products.

The number of OVs holding the relevant qualification for products of animal origin has increased from around 600 in February 2019 to approximately 1200 currently. However, OVs must have additional competencies and training for particular food categories and OVs cannot certify all types of POAO without this.

Defra has allocated further funding for training for OVs and Certification Support Officers.

If we produce at one location and consolidate stock at another location before exporting, is the OV inspection needed at both locations and at the last location before exporting?

Both locations. Certifying Officers must satisfy themselves that all aspects of EU compliance are in place and this includes sourcing ingredients, processing, packaging and storage. However, it can be different officers who can then communicate the compliance to each other, or it can be that the CO sends a Certification Support Officer (CSO), for subsequent inspections on their behalf. It is for your CO to determine what is acceptable to them.

Can an Environmental Health Officer certify EHC's in England as well as the OV for Fish products, i.e. fish oil capsules?

Yes, fish oil is a fishery product and can be signed for by either a Food Competent Certifying Officer or an Official Veterinarian. Fish oil capsules may be classified as a composite product. If this is the case, the same answer still applies. However, if there are other ingredients in the fish oil capsule, such as bovine origin gelatine, you will or may need additional certificates limited to OV certification. Your Certifying Officer needs to have the appropriate training and qualifications to check and certify your consignment and sign the export health certificate.

What provisions are there for out of hours, bank holiday weekend certifying officers?

This will depend upon the individual arrangements put in place by the provider of veterinary services.

If our certified officer / OV is based at our site (our zoo) do we still both need separate EHC online accounts?

Yes, the exporter needs their own EHC online account to submit the application and the certifying officer needs to have their own account.

Currently there is a 24 window from when the OV signs the health certificates. Will this 24-hour window remain and, if Point of Entry require more than 24hrs notification will this affect the time the OV signs the EHC?

This will need checking for the species being exported. They will also need to co-ordinated the signing of the certificate with the notice to the Point of Entry.

Can non-veterinary Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) issue support attestations in relation to fishery products for companies utilising the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)?

An FCCO cannot agree a GEFS support attestation although they can sign an EHC using one. An FCCO would be the final certifying officer for the product. Please note that whilst GEFS can be used for fishery products that are in scope of the scheme, we expect the majority of fish exports to make use of the Risk Based Approach.

Block Loads

Regarding block certificates for regular shipments, how frequently would the OV need to come out and certify the EHC?

The CO would need to certify the EHC every time one is used.

Will block applications for certificates be allowed?

Exporters can apply for a 'block' of certificates to be called upon when needed. The certificates in the block can be used for different products if they can confirm to the scope of the EHC applied for.

A block should only be applied for where the country of entry and destination country will be the same for all the certificates in the block. When applying for a block of certificates, several fields can be left blank at the point of application as some

information will not be known by the exporter. These then need to be populated later by the certifier when each certificate is used.

Research and Scientific Samples

Will there be exceptions for research/scientific samples? Will research and scientific samples require EHCs?

Research and diagnosis samples are not harmonised in the EU so the exporter should contact the competent authority of the country of destination to ask for the requirements that they need to meet.

The EU countries are not providing the import conditions for research animals, rodents, rat, mice, hamster.

There is no harmonised EHC for the export of certain research animals, they will have to contact the country to ask for the requirements of this kind of export.

Category 3 Products

Does this system apply for CAT 3 products as well as Human Consumption please?

Yes. EHCs are available for several different commodities.

For pet foods, would we need a separate EHC for each species of product exported or is only one required as it is a category 3 product?

No, all the CAT3 material are included in one EHC.

For exporting Category 3 by-product - what category type does this need to be as human or canning does not cover it. Also, would a catch certificate be required?

Please see the link below where you are able to find ABP.

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Commodity Codes

What determines whether you need a 4, 6, 8 or 10 digit commodity code?

There is a [decision tree](#) on Gov.UK that helps you determine the code of the commodity.

Can multiple commodity codes be added to one EHC or are we limited to one per consignment?

Yes. As far as the definition of the product falls within the scope of the certificate. This can be found in the guidance notes.

Is there a detailed list of which products or commodity codes fall into which group of January, April, July?

No there is no list. Please refer to Form Finder for more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Can you supply a list of EU CN codes please?

Please use the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/finding-commodity-codes-for-imports-or-exports>

Where can we find in writing a clarification that you can only have one commodity code per EHC? When speaking to a vet, they advised you could have multiple commodity codes appearing on one EHC, as long as all of the products were appropriate for that type of EHC e.g. dairy?

More than one CN code can be included in the EHC as far as those codes are included in the EHC guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/finding-commodity-codes-for-imports-or-exports>

Agents

Where an agent is applying for EHC on behalf of several exporters, would they list all exporters, or can this information be provided as an attachment to the EHC?

The person responsible for the export should be entered in the 'Exporter' field and not several different exporters. If extra information is to be provided, this can be done on a schedule.

Further information can be found at:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

Can an agent to apply on behalf of an exporter and what is the procedure for this?

Yes. An agent can apply on behalf of an exporter. The agent would need to register for EHC Online as would the exporter.

Groupage

Can agents acting as the consignor for several exporters apply for membership of Groupage?

GEFS is a membership scheme for exporters.

Can you provide any further information about the groupage scheme and how issuing EHC's will be affected by this?

GEFS do not fundamentally change the requirements for export health certification of products to the EU. It enables scheme members exporting qualifying products to make use of time limited support attestations to facilitate certification.

More details are available in the guidance at:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET193.pdf>

Composite Goods

We have a meat product, for example bacon, with cheese on it, will we need an EHC for the bacon an another one for the cheese? Is this related in any way to the % of cheese on the final product or on whether the "processing" of the meat product took place with the cheese already on it?

Composite products are defined as products that include plant and animal products in it. If there is no plant material in the product then it cannot be considered a composite product, it may fall under a composite product.

Please read the guidance included in this link and liaise with your Certifying Officer for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

We need EHCs for the base product of animal origin. For example, the butter, cheese and meat when used in a composite product?

If the product falls under the definition of a composite product, then there is a specific EHC for this. If the product does not fall under the definition, then an EHC for each product of animal origin may be required.

Please consult with your certifying officer for further guidance.

Are EHCs applicable for breaded/battered fish, fishcakes and fish in sauces?

Composite products have their own EHCs. Please read the guidance provided in the link below and liaise with your Certifying Officer to establish whether your product is a composite product:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

We produce chilled salad meals that contain items such as cooked chicken, cheese and sauces containing dairy. Do we need to complete an EHC?

Yes, if the product meets the definition for a composite product.

Please review the Gov.UK website to see if it does meet that definition, and if it does, most composite products do require an Export Health Certificate—especially if they contain meat products including cooked chicken.

For further information on composite products please refer to the follow:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

Where a composite product uses POAO from multiple suppliers e.g. minced beef may come from 3 different suppliers throughout the year, all suppliers would be approved and from registered establishments, but not all three suppliers would be used in the same batch of finished product. Can we list all three suppliers on the EHC, knowing that the POAO may come from any one of them?

No. Only products that are included in the final products must be certified.

We import frozen products from the EU that are composite POAO <50%. These products are RTE (ice cream/profiteroles) so do we still need an EHC to import into GB and subsequently export back to the EU?

If less than half of their substance of processed milk product where the final composite products do not meet the requirements of Article 6 of Commission Decision 2007/275/EC as referred to in article 4(c) of Decision 2007/275/EC if POAO you will need an EHC.

We understand that gelatine may be added to products of animal origin in small amounts for technological purposes without the need for a gelatine EHC, please confirm if there are criteria for what technological purposes means, and also what constitutes a small amount?

If a composite product requires a composite product certificate and less than half of its content is honey, gelatine or snails it may not need an additional health certificate for the honey, gelatine or snail component.

You, or the importer, should check the requirements with the BCP of entry to reduce the risk of your products being delayed or rejected at the point of entry.

Cereal bars where the only POAO is a small amount of honey, does this product require an EHC?

If the only POAO in a composite product is honey then the composite product EHC is not required. A honey EHC may be required and individual EU BCPs may apply different rules on this. You, or the importer, should check the requirements with the BCP of entry to reduce the risk of your products being delayed or rejected at the border.

Will animal feed and pet food containing POAO be considered composite goods?

Composite products must be for human consumption. Animal/Pet food are a type of animal by product not a composite product. To determine a composite product please refer and Decision Tree.

Could you confirm that if a composite processed product does not require an EHC that there is no requirement for pre-notification via IPAFFS or TRACES.

If a product is exempted from checks at the BCP and the requirement for an EHC, which certain composite products are, it does not need to be pre-notified on TRACES

Does a small amount of gelatine always need an EHC i.e confectionary with less than 50% gelatine.

Confectionary is covered by Annex II of 2007/275 if imported using a commodity code in the Annex, therefore exempted.

The issue is businesses will be bringing POAO in from Jan to April without any health certification, for some of that product to be re-exported to the EU and Northern Ireland. Issue is the OV's won't provide the EHC for the GB to EU/NI leg without traceability/documentation that shows the origin from EU to GB leg.

With regards to re-export, we recommend that importing UK businesses plan ahead and seek a replica Third Country-EU certificate from the Competent Authority of the exporting member state, even if it is not required by the UK at that time for the purposes of import.

GB Exporters need to plan ahead, as you need to tell your EU counterparty what veterinary attestations you need before the import consignment leaves the EU – so the EU vet can provide the attestation and do any inspections/evidence gathering that is needed

Speak to the UK OV you intend to use for exporting your consignment and get them to agree what evidence they need.

Then speak to your EU counterparty and line them up to produce the attestations. These do not in principle have to be from an EU OV but can be from any vet. But you will need to agree with your UK OV exactly what they need from whom.

Generic guidance can be found on this issue on the EU EHCs which can be found on the EHC Form Finder - <http://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>

Consolidated Loads

If you have a consolidated load, collated at one site but packed at multiple sites, can you use one EHC for all, or do you need one EHC per packing site?

You will need to look at the available EHCs. Please read the guidance and consult with your certifying officer: (confirm duplication)

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

If we want to load consignments for different end destinations onto one lorry (i.e. a multi drops), are these to be done on different EHCs, or all on one EHC? If they can all be on one EHC, will it matter if the seal has been broken and then does not match the EHC after the breaking of the seal?

An EHC is required per commodity with the place of the destination stated. Please see the guidance notes for completion of part 1 of the certificate for more information.

What happens if a lorry loads at two factories before going to Europe, do I need two EHCs? The first seal will be broken at the second loading, how is this managed?

An EHC is required per commodity type from the place of dispatch. If a seal is required that will be asked for in part 1 of the certificate.

Cold Stores

How do we apply for an EHC for chilled and frozen goods if we have a trailer that is a mixture of both temperatures? Would it be two EHCs if it's the same product, but one is chilled, and one is frozen?

If you are exporting chilled and frozen in the same trailer, you will need different EHCs.

Please read the certificate and associated guidance and consult with your certifying officer at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

In an EHC application it asks for details of the Cold Store. If a cold store is not used i.e. direct dispatch from a slaughterhouse this can't be completed. Does the EHC online system still allow the application to be sent?

Yes, this is not a mandatory question and therefore can be marked as skipped to allow the certificate to be submitted.

If a cold store is not used does the EHC Online system still allow the application to be sent?

Yes. If the exporter does not have the information to complete Part I of the EHC or the information is not required, an EHC can still be produced.

Transporters

We send a container of cheese to Iraq via road route through the EU. How do we apply for the EHC for the EU section of this journey?

A Transit Certificate may be required for consignments from GB, entering the EU that are transiting to a destination outside the EU, but form part of the same journey. For example, a horse travelling from GB will enter a Border Control Post in France, travel to Holland and then will fly from Schiphol Airport to the USA.

Please refer to Defra's Form Finder and check if the commodity meets the requirements for export. If in doubt, you should contact your certifier.

Does the transporter need to register for EHC Online?

No, only the exporter needs to register for EHC Online.

Do lorries need to be sealed by/for the OV to append the EHCs?

Applying a seal to a consignment of POAO and other animal product imports onto the NI market is a decision for an exporter to make as it is not a compulsory requirement. Exporters are encouraged to check the requirements of the EU BCP they will be using to learn their operational preferences.

Sealing is recommended as it will allow the BCP staff to make a 'seal check' only for many consignments instead of having to carry out an 'open container and check contents' type of check, thereby alleviating congestion at BCPs. It will not change the

fact that some consignments will still be selected for a more detailed 'physical check'.

Sealing is recognised as a logistically difficult issue depending on the circumstances and should be discussed with Certifying Officers before exports take place. Consignments collected from several sites each with different EHCs cannot be sealed at the final premises where the last consignment is added, with a single seal placed upon the load and added to each EHC.

Note: At the Dover-Calais crossing consignments of fishery products and POAO LBM via Calais could be subject to a 'channelling' procedure to the Boulogne-sur-Mer BCP premises for veterinary checks. These goods are expected to be certified on the EHC as sealed by the French Authorities for 'transit' from Calais to the Boulogne-sur-Mer BCP.

If you use say FedEx, you are not in control of the routing of the package. How can you complete point of entry?

Discuss with your transporter provider in order to clarify how they will introduce products that required SPS control into NI.

Pallets

What is the best way to send the EHC with pallets? Attach to one pallet?

Regardless of whether the EHC travels on a pallet or handed to the driver, the EHC must be given to the OV at the Point of Entry.

Embryos

Can embryos of different parentage go on one EHC, or do they have to go on individual EHC's?

Please refer to content on the EHC for further information and liaise with your CO to confirm.

Dairy

There are currently three export health certificates for dairy products depending on the category of the exporting country (A, B, or C).

The category of certificates depends on the heat treatment the milk has undergone (if any). Please look at the heat treatments in the certificate and accompanying guidance to identify which applies to your product.

Will the Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCO) be able to certify dairy products? If yes, how do we find them locally to us?

FCCOs can certify fish, live bivalve molluscs and certain composite products. An Official Vet (OV) will need to certify exports of dairy products.

What about if we export pasteurised cheeses to a 3rd country via NI?

There is an EHC for dairy products transiting the EU. This can be located at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-raw-milk-dairy-products-colostrum-and-colostrum-based-products-for-human-consumption-intended-for-transit-through-or-storage-in-the-european-union-certificate-8283>

Do we need an additional EHC for a Dairy product that contains a small amount of gelatine that has itself originated in an approved EU establishment?

Please check with your Certifying Officer for more information.

Does Parmesan cheese need an EHC if put in a salad meal e.g. Caesar salad?

A composite EHC may be required for your product. Please refer to Form Finder for further information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Can you please clarify if parmesan cheese placed on ready meals will be accepted as a composite under Article 6 even though the cheese is not pasteurised, we would say it is processed. Extract from EU guidance on hygiene regulation 853/2004.

The definition for the "processed" requirement should refer to the EHC which do require pasteurisation or heat treatment. Milk products within composite products must undergo one of the specific processing treatments listed in the EU composite product certificate in order to be certified for export using this certificate.

Further information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-composite-food-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021>

Meat

To export mutton, lamb and offal, would I require one, two or three EHCs?

The requirement is for one certificate per commodity e.g. one for meat ovine, and one for offal.

Please check the available EHC at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Do meat products need to be of UK origin for the EHC to be signed?

Meat products can be from EU origin. It is not permitted for fresh meat and meat preparations.

Please refer to the wording in the specific EHC below:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-certain-meat-products-and-treated-stomachs-bladders-and-intestines-to-the-european-union-certificate-8254>

Fresh meat products must be produced on the slaughter date and are loaded on slaughter day. Can you still apply for an EHC if the nett weight is not known?

The exporter can apply for the EHC even if the nett weight is unknown. Any missing information can be completed by a Certifying Officer later.

What EHC do you suggest for meat products like black pudding and haggis which have more than one type of animal species, should I use 8348 or another?

Meat product Certificate – 8254 Certificate 8348 is for other types of meat products. Please check use form finder, check with certifying officer and APHA. SM-APHA-Exports (APHA) exports@apha.gov.uk

Poultry

Will products that are not for consumption containing egg by-product need to have an EHC for movement to NI?

Please refer to the Form Finder for animal by products at: <https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Are there any certification requirements for free range egg-containing products, e.g. egg mayonnaise, composite foods containing free range (cooked) chicken?

Please refer to Form Finder and review the EHC for further information. It is likely you will require an EHC for egg products and an EHC for composite goods that contain plant and animal material.

If egg is a part of a batter mix that is brought in, do we need to provide origin information for the egg?

Any egg products certified as part of the EU's composite product EHC must originate from an approved country (authorised to export egg products to the EU) and the establishment(s) where eggs come from must be free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza on the date of issue of the certificate and either processed to meet the specific heat treatment criteria or be from establishments where, within 10km radius, there has been no outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease for at least the previous 30 days.

I understand that composite products of POAO that are ready to eat do not have to go through a BCP. Does this apply to boiled eggs?

The criteria for whether a product is ready to eat or not is not required for a product going through BCP, if product requires EHC will be checked at BCP whether it is ready to eat for human consumption or not. Boiled eggs are processed products and if it is part of a composite product the determining factor if they go through BCP is if they need an EHC regardless if they are ready to eat or not. Exporters should also consult their certifier officer for advice alternatively, they can contact APHA.

Further information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-composite-food-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021>

Equines

A registered equine and an unregistered EHC cannot be signed on the same day even if they are leaving at the same time?

An unregistered equine must have its EHC signed off on the day of departure. A registered equine can have its EHC signed off the working day before departure.

With current EHCs for third country moves, one certificate will cover multiple animals (of the same species). Can you confirm this will change to a requirement for an EHC for each animal?

Each horse will require its own EHC.

How about equine land freight transit through NI country to third countries like Russia or Turkey, do you need an EHC?

There is a requirement for an EHC for the transit of equines through EU countries. It is 8337EHC, so exporters can look at 8337EHC and the accompanying Notes for Guidance.

Will zoo exotic equids fall under registered or unregistered category? Is recognition by NI/EU member state zoos/zoo associations + associated competent authorities sufficient?

Those moving equines subject to the Balai Directive, should follow the relevant guidance on Gov.UK. If the animal is to be moved on a standard equine health certificate (with or without a CITES certificate), unless it is registered with an EU-approved equine studbook or with a national branch of an international organisation that manages equines for racing or other sporting competition i.e. the British Equine Federation, it will be considered Unregistered.”

You say that EORI numbers are for commercial organisations only. If I am an individual, wanting to send my horse to NI for a while, what is my situation as regards EORI requirements?

If you will be engaging in EU customs processes, you will require an EU EORI number or for NI you will require an XI EORI number. If a business is unsure whether they will need an EORI from the EU, they should speak to their agent, if they have one. Alternatively, they should contact the customs authority in the EU territory where they make their first declaration or first apply for a decision.

EHC Online

General

How to access EHC Online

All exporters and certifiers should use the below online service links:

Exporter start pages—<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-export-health-certificate>

Certifier start pages—<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/certify-an-export-health-certificate>

Get an EHC—<http://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>

Form Finder—<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

APHA Vet Gateway—<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm>

Where can I go to go get more information on EHC Online?

Below are some useful links:

Recordings of EHC Online demonstrations—hosted on APHA's YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/W9tASCLC9qo>

https://youtu.be/C3zBfrq_kBs

<https://youtu.be/nK4pstt9pZY>

<https://youtu.be/L8WMapCfaTw>

What if I don't have internet access, is there a manual process?

If you are not able to access the internet through alternative means i.e. your local library, friends or family, an application form and a specimen copy of the certificate you require can be posted to you.

If you need help registering for EHC Online or have any operational and technical queries relating to an EHC application, please call the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 0300 0200 301 or email exports@apha.gov.uk.

What is the minimum time we can apply for an EHC Online?

You can usually apply for an EHC 10 days before an export. APHA will send your EHC to your OV or inspector or let them know it is ready to download and print if they are registered to use the service:

If you plan to export in the next seven working days, then seven working days before your export date within one working day of receiving it. If you apply within the seven-day window prior to export via EHC Online your certificate will be instantaneously routed to your certifier. Where disease clearance is required to be issued by APHA, your certificate will be with your certifier within one working day.

If you've applied online, you will be able to see when APHA has sent your certificate to your OV or inspector. Contact APHA if your OV or inspector does not receive the EHC

What is the maximum number of characters for the reference in EHC Online?

The maximum is 20. It can be a combination of letters and numbers.

When entering details into the EHC online tool, does the scientific name need to be in Latin?

Yes. The scientific name of the animal must be in Latin.

When completing an EHC online, do all questions need to be completed to get the final certificate?

Each of the blue hyperlinked questions within each section has a status. If they are not in the 'complete' status, then you cannot review your answers and submit your application. You either need to populate the answer question or skip the question to achieve a 'completed' status and then submit the application.

Why is the EHC online application not immediate?

It's not an immediate process as there will need to be checks carried out for compliance.

The intention is to produce the EHC within 24 hours, but some certificates require notifiable disease clearances. Also, some checks will be done by the OV and some will be done by officials in APHA. They must do some manual checks on the certificates.

Do the EHCs always print off in multiple languages if we state the transit route?

Yes. There will be different permutations that you will select e.g. if your goods are going to France, to Italy (destination) via Spain, you would only receive the languages in French for the BCP and in Italian as the final destination country, along with the English one. You wouldn't receive the EHC in the language of the transit country/countries.

Can you only clone completed forms, or can you leave the changeable elements blank in the master copy?

You can clone any of the EHCs on your dashboard, regardless of their status. You can populate as many or as few of the questions in the 'master' copy (master would be a draft status).

Who should be contacted to enquire about EHC templates? There doesn't seem to be a template for the species we transport.

If there is no certificate available in the EHC online system, they will have to contact the importing country to enquire as to the import conditions and any required paperwork/documentation.

On your example you only enter one weight where it asks for nett and gross weight. Is it okay to only enter nett weight?

Yes, it is okay to only entry the net weight. Please reference to "How to complete Part 1". Please see link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>



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