



HM Government

UK TRANSITION

Trader Readiness

Frequently Asked Questions

Live Animals including Equine from Great Britain to Northern Ireland

18 December 2020

V1.0

The following FAQs will attempt to clarify some of the key changes surrounding the changes to movement of Live Animals including Equine from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI).

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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General

Why is the movement of live animals 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 are live animals?

Live animals—includes living animals that moved for the purposes of farming, keep as pets and equines, research and for the purposes of human food consumption and livestock.

Supporting Businesses

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

1. 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 the following government websites:

[GOV.UK Transition](#)
[Moving Goods Into or Out of Northern Ireland](#)

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. HMRC Trader Support Service

- Free to use service
- Provides training and other resources
- A service to complete customs imports formalities (such as import and safety and security information) on behalf of traders

4. The Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS)

- As traders will need to understand and comply with new sanitary and phytosanitary requirements designed to protect human, plant and animal life when moving products 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.
- A dedicated Contact Centre will be made available where businesses can call the call centre for advice on moving products from GB to NI. Available from the 16 December, specialist advisors will be able to advise on matters such as Export Health Certificates and the moving of live animals, animal products, plants and plant products
- The scheme will provide financial assistance for traders moving food or agricultural products for which specific SPS controls apply. From 1 January 2021, the UK Government will cover, for example, reasonable costs for obtaining Export Health Certificates. The UK Government will reimburse the direct costs of the new certifications directly to the Certifier.
- We would like to assure businesses, that despite the new requirements of the Protocol, you will be supported to deal with new direct costs.
- Further information will be made available from the 16th December via GOV UK – <https://www.gov.uk/transition>

Movements Trader Helpline

Contact Telephone: 0330 0416 580

It will:

- Provide advice and guidance on processes and the policy changes
- Advise on EHCs and PCs
- Be for traders for moving live animals (including equines), animal products, plants and plant products
- Available from 16 December 2020
- Open 9am to 5pm weekdays (excluding bank holidays)
- Helpline available until 31 March 2021

Financial Support

Provides:

- Cost reimbursement for EHCs and PCs

- Capped at £150 excluding VAT per EHC/PC (excluding Equines)
- Equines capped at £500 per EHC
- Claimed by the Certifying Officer
- Available until 31 March 2021

Christmas and New Year Opening

- 16 to 24 December: open 9am to 5pm
- 25 to 28 December: closed
- 29 to 31 December: open 9am to 5pm
- 1 to 3 January: closed
- 4 January: open 9am to 5pm

5. DAERA mailbox for enquiries: trader.readiness@daera.ni.gov.uk
 Defra mailbox for enquiries: traders@defra.gov.uk

Live Animals

Ear Tags

What changes will there be to ear tags for livestock animals?

GB will be required to move animals to the NI in accordance with the rules that follow international standards for animal identification.

Livestock animals moved from GB to the NI will need to be identified with ear tags that contain the visual national code: 'GB'.

Equines

How do we move Equines from GB into NI from January 2021?

Under the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP), additional EU regulatory requirements for the movements of equines will apply.

- The conditions for the movement are outlined in the EHCs (which will need to accompany the animals) and associated guidance, and it is important to note that some will require a lead-in time to be met
- For example, equines will require successful blood tests and to meet specific residency and isolation rules pre-movement
- Traders should consider whether their animals satisfy these requirements early, and if not, take any appropriate actions required to do so
- Traders should also consider any non-biosecurity related regulatory requirements that may now apply including new zootechnical rules and standards for trade and any new welfare requirements
- All horses will need to travel with an equine passport (ID). Additionally, unregistered horses (only) are also required to obtain a new Supplementary Travel ID. The trader must record whether the horse is unregistered

- Further details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-horses-and-ponies-from-1-january-2021>

Will the horse passport no longer be valid after 1 January 2021?

It will be valid. The horse passport is a lifetime ID document and will be required going forward as a basis for identifying individual animals even if those animals don't move out of the UK. Registered animals will continue to travel with their passport and an export health certificate (EHC). Unregistered animals will have their passport, a supplementary travel ID and an EHC.

Do movement requirements apply even if you are only sending a mare to NI to be covered by a stallion, with no intention of selling her?

Yes. This would be one of the important temporary moves that happen for equines and those are subject to EHCs in the same way as for permanent moves.

How much time do you advise should be allowed for the process of issuing a supplementary travel ID?

It will be dealt with as part of the same process as the EHC. You will need an Official Vet to sign off the EHC before the animal can leave GB and the veterinarian will also be able to sign off the supplementary travel ID which will need to accompany the horse too. It shouldn't take very much longer than the usual process for the OV signing off the EHC.

Will an ATA Carnet remove the need to complete customs declarations for temporary moves?

The ATA Carnet system is operated by HMRC. This is a process that allows you to complete your customs declarations at a single time. You can then use the Carnet as confirmation that your movements will be temporary and therefore not incur the potential for a tariff when you go to the NI. This will remove the need for customs declarations for as long as the Carnet is valid. We advise you to check with HMRC on the precise details that accompany the Carnet.

Point of Entry (PoE)

General

What are the Points of Entry into NI from the UK?

Larne port will be ready for both Live animals and Equine from 31st December 2020. Other live animals (including day old chicks and other commercial animals) – either Larne or Belfast port.

What hours of opening will the Points of Entry be working to?

The PoE's will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Do we have a rough guideline of how far in advance each Point of Entry needs before moving/arrival?

Pre-notification is required at least 24 hours before the arrival of the goods in NI. The sooner you can provide pre-notification and the EHC, the better – this will minimise the potential for delays on arrival in NI.

Can live animals including poultry enter NI via Dublin Port?

Yes, you can bring them through Dublin just the same as through Larne or Belfast. Dublin has developed equivalent facilities.

If a consignment of animals is rejected, and the decision made to return – is that not going potentially cause welfare issues with those animals?

If a consignment of live animals is rejected, it is not ideal from an animal welfare point of view as the journey will be extended, but it is still acceptable as the means of transport and the transporter still have to uphold the welfare of the animals. The emphasis should be on trying to have all in order before the transport starts.

If there was a disease risk or something that was serious, it is likely that they would have to return to the UK?

There are animal welfare considerations and the PoE will do all they can to avoid having to return the animal and will have the capacity to look after the animals temporarily while e.g. the additional documentation is obtained.

Will tariffs apply if moving goods through NI into the Republic of Ireland?

If you can prove that the good is going to stay within NI (you can prove it is not going to go into the ROI and thus the EU) then you will be able to use the newly announced UK trader scheme to declare that the good is not 'at risk'. You must be authorised to use this scheme – authorisation processes started on Monday 14 December and you can start the process on gov.uk. If you've got the evidence that the good will stay within NI, then tariffs will not be in effect (either through reimbursements or waivers), because it is a movement staying within the UK and tariffs do not apply to movements that stay within a single customs territory. If you cannot prove that the good will stay in the UK, then it will be considered 'at risk' of moving into the EU – then EU duties will be collected when it is moved into NI. Detailed guidance is available on gov.uk/transition

P&O are the only ferry company that ship day old chicks and they arrive at Larne not Belfast. When will Larne be ready for chicks?

I aim is to have this operational before the end of January 2021. In the meantime, investigate Dublin routes as a contingency plan.

What are the procedures for live animals from the EU (France, Germany etc.) moving via GB for on forwarding to NI and the Republic of Ireland?

These animals should be notified on TRACES – they need to travel on an Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate rather than an EHC. If the correct documentation is in place, there will be minimal requirement for physical inspection on arrival in NI.

TRACES - NT

Is TRACES-NT the TRACES we currently use for moving goods GB-EU?

The change over the last year has been a change from TRACES Classic to TRACES NT. To move goods into NI, operators should be using TRACES NT.

NI recipients must therefore still require access to TRACES - do GB exporters and OVs still require access to TRACES for NI moves also?

These notifications will have to be completed on TRACES NT and access should be available to traders in GB. Either the traders or importer can create the notifications. Once the EHC is available, it can be sent to the importer to create the notification.

Equine

What is the process should a horse be rejected at a Point of Entry (PoE)?

It depends on which basis the consignment was rejected. If it was just that the horse doesn't have the appropriate documentation, we expect the PoE to liaise with the trader to make sure the correct documentation is obtained so the animal can be released and can continue.

I assume horses must be unloaded at the Point of Entry?

Please contact your PoE for further information on how checks will be done.

It will not be possible to unload zoo exotic equines at PoE's for inspection. Can you advise please?

Please contact your PoE for further information on how checks will be done.

If an individual is selling one horse, privately (not a business) do the same rules apply?

Yes – the same rules apply for the movement of one horse, as would apply to the movement of 10 horses. There are flexibilities in the animal welfare legislation and derogations for such transport, but there is nothing like that in terms of SPS notifications and PoE checks.

Transport

General

Where do I find further guidance on the changes to transportation?

Further guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-move-goods-between-or-through-common-transit-countries-including-the-eu#further-information>

<https://www.gov.uk/transition>

Importing Animals, animal products and high risk food and feed not of animal origin from 1 January 2021

Export horses and ponies from 1 January 2021
Pet travel to Europe from 1 January 2021
Border Operating Model
Exporting Animals and animal products to the EU from 1 January

Are my UK issued Transporter Authorisation, Certificate of Competence, and Vehicle Approval Certificates valid for use in the UK?

GB issued Transporter Authorisations, Certificates of Competence, and Vehicle Approval Certificates will continue to be valid for use within GB. DAERA will continue to accept GB-issued Transporter Authorisations, Certificates of Competence and Vehicle Approval certificates after 31st December 2020.

In line with the Northern Ireland Protocol, Transporter Authorisations, Certificates of Competence, and Vehicle Approval Certificates issued by DAERA and the delegated authorities in Northern Ireland will remain valid for use across the UK, as at present.

These pragmatic operational policy decisions have been taken to minimise the disruption in trade between GB and NI. They only apply to live animal transports that occur wholly within the UK.

This position may be superseded by direction from the EC about the legal interpretation of EC Regulation 1/2005.

Will a GB transporter be able to drive into NI with live animals during January 2021?

Their Transporter Authorisation and Certificate of Competence and Vehicle Approval required under 1/2005 will be recognised.

Does a journey within the UK, which is over 8 hours, require a Journey Log?

Journey Logs approved by APHA are not required for travel within the UK, regardless of journey time. For journeys over 8 hours between GB and NI, a Journey Log will not be required.

We are a pet transporter that only moves people pets and not commercial pet movements of pets for sale. Would the process be the same for transporting pets if they are not for sale or transfer to another person or organisation and are just moving with people?

The transport of animals being undertaken in connection with an economic activity (e.g. a pet transporter being paid by an owner to transport the animals) must comply with all the relevant welfare in transport legislation.

GB issued Transporter Authorisations, Certificates of Competence, and Vehicle Approval Certificates will continue to be valid for use within GB. However, they will not be valid for use within NI after 31st December 2020.

GB transporters wishing to transport live animals into NI by sea, air or road after 31st December 2020 will need to make the relevant applications to DAERA or an EU Member State. To apply for a Transporter Authorisation, you must be represented in Northern Ireland or the relevant EU Member State to which you apply. You may not hold an authorisation in more than one Member State.

In line with the Northern Ireland Protocol, Transporter Authorisations, Certificates of Competence, and Vehicle Approval Certificates issued by DAERA and the delegated authorities in Northern Ireland will remain valid for use across the UK, as at present.

Equines

How will journey logs for unregistered horses work? Will the UK still issue the journey log for the whole journey?

Journey Logs approved by APHA are not required for travel within the UK, regardless of journey time. For journeys over 8 hours between GB and NI, a Journey Log will not be required.

Do we need to get our vehicles approved and our driver's issued with NI certificates of competence before 1 January 2020?

GB transporters wishing to transport live animals into NI after 31 December 2020 will need to make the relevant applications to DAERA or an EU Member State. To apply for a Transporter Authorisation, you must be represented in Northern Ireland or the relevant EU Member State to which you apply. You may not hold an authorisation in more than one Member State.

Under Article 12 and Article 18 of Council Regulation EC No 1/2005, transporters cannot apply for authorisation or vehicle approval in more than one Member State at a time. A transporter holding a GB authorisation and vehicle approval would therefore need to wait until after 31 December 2020 and then apply for a new authorisation to DAERA or the competent authority in the EU Member State in which they were represented. In order to reduce the time you may be without relevant authorisations you should ensure you fully understand the requirements for applications in Northern Ireland or the Member State you are choosing to apply to ahead of 1 January; DAERA or your chosen Member State will be able to advise on how long it will take them to process applications.

However, the Regulation does not prohibit making an application for a second Certificate of Competence, so it is possible you may apply and obtain this from DAERA or the relevant EU Member State ahead of 31 December 2020.

Please confirm if an EU transporter is when you carry someone else's horses on your lorry?

When we refer to an 'EU transporter', this is a transporter who is currently authorised by an EU Member State to transport live animals.

How is this going to work with private people? If someone moving their own horse for a relocation, they will not have certificates of competence or vehicle container certificates?

Transporter Authorisation, Certificates of Competence, Vehicle Approval Certification and journey logs do not apply to the transport of animals which does not take place in connection with an economic activity.

If one transporter from GB puts a horse onto a different transporter from the EU, who can do the paperwork?

Both transporters will need to ensure that they both hold the appropriate transport documentation for the territory in which they are transporting.

Does this include people using the ferry route from NI to UK for showing their horses i.e. the horses will only be in the UK for 18-36 hours?

Special measures are being put in place for those horses – DAERA would like stakeholders to call at their inspection facility on the way out – DAERA will give you a letter which will enable the vet to sign off the EHC to get back in the country. Otherwise, once the animal is in GB it will have to follow due process, as with any other movement.

Licensing

Are there any changes to the licensing rules for moving live animals from GB to NI?

The current NI general and specific licencing rules will continue to apply to the movement of goods from GB to NI after the transition period.

Information on the current EU rule, including any NI national rules, to be applied to live animals and good being moved to NI can be located [here](#).

What is a general licence?

A **general licence** is pro-forma available to download from the [DAERA website](#) to accompany the goods.

What is a specific licence?

A **specific licence** is where you need to apply to DAERA and provide health certification that meets the specific requirements they set for that animal. You must apply at least 10 working days prior to the movement of the animal for a specific licence.

Export Health Certificates (EHCs)

General

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 moved. 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 traders and certifiers in the application and certification process.

When is an Export Health Certificate required?

If you are moving live animals from GB to NI you will require an Export Health Certificate. An export health certificate is required for **EACH** consignment of live animals and animal products you move from GB to NI.

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.

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

When can I start to apply for NI EHCs?

EHCs for EU trade will be available via EHC Online for traders to register for from Tuesday 13 October. Consignments entering the NI before and on Thursday 31 December do not require an EHC, but an Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) will still be required for live animals and germplasm up to this point. Movement entering a Point of Entry (PoE) from and including Friday 1 January 2021 will need an EHC.

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 exports
 - 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

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. However, the new UK Government's Movement Assistance Scheme will provide financial assistance for traders moving food or agricultural products for which specific SPS controls apply. Please refer to the 'Supporting Businesses' section of this document for more information.

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.

Trader Actions:

1. Go onto Defra's Form Finder and check if the commodity meets the requirements for movement. 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 moved 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 Trader. Keep a certified copy for your own records. APHA may need it for audit checks

How do I know which EHC to use?

You must include a completed EHC for each type of animal or animal product you move.

An EHC is an official document that confirms your move meets the health requirements of the destination country. It is strongly recommended that traders obtain full details of importing requirements from the relevant country (or their UK representatives) prior to each consignment being moved.

If you're moving a consignment which includes a mix of products, you'll need an EHC for each product type.

You may also need an EHC for each country that you [transit](#) through (as well as an EHC for your final destination country). If you are unsure what type of certificate you

need. Speak to your certifier and they will be able to help you understand the requirements.

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?

Certificates 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 move 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.

Are NI EHC's for live animals to be signed within 24 hours of planned travel, how long are exports certificates valid for from signing and will they require a second cert to get back to UK after a week of competition in NI?

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

What if I get to the border 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.

What happens once you have your Export Health Certificate?

The original signed and stamped Export Health Certificate travels with your goods, therefore, you will need a fully certified Export Health Certificate before the consignment leaves your premises. The Export Health Certificates accompanying your goods will be checked as they arrive into the NI at the Point of Entry.

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

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.

There are concerns with EHC's that mean that animals may not be eligible for movement if they have passed through a livestock mart in the previous 40 days. Is this correct? If so, is there any likelihood of this being reduced/rescinded?

The EHC says that the animals must be dispatched from original holdings without passing through any market. They may go to an assembly centre, but markets are ruled out in the EHC.

EHC's refer to the use of assembly centres as part of the export process? There is little detail available on what assembly centres can/cannot do - is there clear guidance around the function of an assembly centre?

An export assembly centre is similar to a departure lounge in an airport – it is an area that animals can be gathered in if they are of equivalent health status, so they can be moved together. It is possible for farm to farm movements to take place – animals don't have to go through a movement assembly centre. In order to operate as a trader's assembly centre, the premises have to be approved as such. A list of approved assembly centres can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-assembly-centres-and-dealers-approved-premises/assembly-centres>

Can marts apply to be an Export Assembly Centre?

Yes, but they must operate separately. They cannot be approved to operate as a mart and an assembly centre at the same time – they must decide how they are operating and follow the procedures.

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.

DAERA mailbox for enquiries trader.readiness@daera-ni.gov.uk

Email: exports@apha.gov.uk

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.

EHCs By Category

Category 3—Pet Foods

Is there also an EHC of category 3 (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>

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

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

Domestic Pets

We can't find any mention of the animals we move which are small domestic pets such as hamsters, guinea pigs – will we need EHC for these?

DAERA are actively trying to find a solution to this problem in terms of providing an EHC. DAERA recognise that this is an extremely low risk activity that they are keen to facilitate. They hope to have a mechanism soon and will communicate that to stakeholders.

Equines

Are EHCs applicable for visiting racehorses or just for a permanent move?

They apply to all moves. For GB to NI movements, whether they are permanent or temporary will all require EHCs. The precise details e.g. blood testing and when that has to happen, residency, isolation varies slightly according to whether the animal is registered (EU studbook approved) or unregistered and whether the move is permanent or temporary but the principle of applying EHCs applies across all moves.

Can a registered equine and an unregistered equine which are leaving on the same day have their EHCs signed 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. If you are transporting both a registered and unregistered equine together, you could have both EHCs signed off on the day of 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 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?

A separate certificate will be required to return. However, if this is within 30 days and the move has been for racing and competition, there will be no need for further blood testing residency and isolation requirements.

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

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.”

If a horse is bought at the sales (not planned) how do they proceed?

The same rules will apply – an official veterinarian must sign off on the conditions listed in the EHC. Go to the EHC form finder, get the template for movement of live equines, check on the conditions listed and work out if it is likely the horse will satisfy those conditions. It depends on the history of the horse and where the horse has been before the sales. Some tests may need to be carried out before the movement can take place so that the EHC can be issued and certified.

Research Animals

Currently we move Laboratory animals which are not moved using TRACES - do ALL animals need now to have TRACES or are there exceptions as now?

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

Currently to obtain laboratory research animals from commercial UK suppliers into Northern Ireland, mice/rats/gerbils need to be transported to Germany then Dublin before being transported to Northern Ireland. What are the implications of the new regulations on the need for EHCs for the destination (Northern Ireland)?

There is no harmonised EHC for the movement of certain research animals. Please contact the importing country, in this case Northern Ireland, for guidance.

Sheep and Goats

I have been working on International trade of sheep semen and embryos for many years. I am resident in NI. I have to send Rams to GB to be able to comply with the International requirements. I am about to send Rams to GB for that purpose but have now been advised they will need to stay in GB for six months before returning, is that true?

Yes – one of the requirements in the certificate to move breeding sheep is that they have to be either resident in GB since birth or at least 6 months prior to dispatch to the EU or NI.

What is the plan for the ewe lambs caught in GB at the moment which will not qualify to enter NI after 1st January?

To move the ewe lambs, you will have to satisfy the conditions of the EHC. DAERA understand that this is a major issue, but at the moment there is no potential for flexibility within the EU legislation.

Do the new rules mean sheep cannot return from GB to NI if they have come to a GB sale for 40 days?

To move sheep, you will have to satisfy the conditions of the EHC. The EHC prescribes that the residency period in the territory from where the animals are exported is 6 months, and the requirement of residency from the holding of origin is 40 days.

Will a similar process be in place as per horses - for sheep coming to GB for show and sales and returning after a few days?

No, because there is no EHC currently available and there is no potential for flexibility within the EU legislation.

Please could you tell us if there are any plans to review the scrapie requirements for sheep being imported into Northern Ireland?

Obviously, this will make it almost impossible for Scottish blackface sheep to be imported from Scotland.

DAERA understand that this is a major issue, but at the moment there is no potential for flexibility within the EU legislation.

At the end of the Transition Period, will there be additional movement processes for GB to NI movements—specifically relevant for sheep and goats?

There are some additional considerations for movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, including around scrapie assurance and these will be communicated separately shortly.



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