



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2021/03

30 March 2021

GRACE PERIOD FOR USE OF EU CERTIFICATES FOR IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES APPROVED ESTABLISHMENTS EU PHASED IMPORT REGIME

Purpose

1. To update you on some of the issues mentioned [OVS note 2020/27](#) issued on 24 December 2020 last year following Great Britain's exit from the European Union on 31 December.

Background

Health certification

2. We created new GB model export health certificates which have been published on [Gov.UK](#).
3. In order to avoid any disruption to trade, it was agreed that we would continue to accept the EU model certificates for three months. This is to confirm that we are extending the grace period during which we will accept current EU model EHCs accompanying consignments of animals and animal products imported to Great Britain. This extension is to allow further time to incorporate the new GB EHCs into third country export systems.
4. You should accept current EU model EHCs **signed and dated up to 30 June 2021**. This also applies to consignments that arrive in Great Britain after 30 June 2021. We are encouraging competent authorities of third countries to ensure that they build GB model certificates into their export systems as soon as possible and we would ask you to tell importers to notify their suppliers in exporting countries to use the GB certificates.

5. If after 30 June you continue to receive consignments accompanied by the EU model certificate that is signed after that date, please seek further advice from APHA.

Exception to the 30 June grace period

6. Great Britain has a trade agreement with the SACUM (Southern Africa Customs Union and Mozambique) countries and as part of that agreement the grace period for use of EU model certificates is 31 July. Therefore, consignments from those countries can continue to be imported using the EU model certificates provided that the certificate is signed and dated up to 31 July 2021. We will provide further information on the countries affected nearer the time.
7. The information above only applies to animals and animal products imported from outside the European Union.

Approved establishments

8. The list of establishments in non-EU countries approved to export animal products to GB can be found [here](#).

EU Phased Import regime

9. In a [statement made on 11 March](#) it was confirmed that the [phased approach](#) to imports from the EU has been revised. This means that
 - Pre-notification requirements for Products of Animal Origin (POAO), certain animal by-products (ABP), and High Risk Food Not of Animal Origin (HRFNAO) will not be required until 1 October 2021.
 - Export Health Certificate requirements for POAO and certain ABP will also come into force on 1 October.
 - Physical SPS checks for POAO, certain ABP, and HRFNAO will not be required until 1 January 2022. At that point they will take place at Border Control Posts.

Action for OVSs

10. To note the contents of this OVS note.

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Trade Team