



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2023/15

25 September 2023

NEW STREAMLINED GB MODEL EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES (EHCs) AND RISK CATEGORISATION FOR IMPORT OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTO GB

Purpose

1. Information regarding the new streamlined model health certificates and risk categorisation for import of animals and animal products into GB.

Background

2. The [Border Target Operating Model \(BTOM\)](#), was published on Gov.UK on 29 August 2023, and sets out a new border control regime for the import of SPS goods from all third countries.

The BTOM includes a commitment to streamline the format and content of the model Export Health Certificates (EHCs) for animals and animal products imported to GB.

The BTOM describes categories of high, medium and low risk and this categorisation gives the details of how the new SPS regime will be applied.

A letter has been issued to the EU and RoW trading partners detailing this information.

3. GB streamlined model health certificates

The streamlining project has focused on;

- the production of a single suite of model certificates for all third countries – EU and Rest of World (ROW);
- standardisation of attestation clauses to ensure consistent wording across certificates; and

- reducing length of certificates via a rearrangement of attestations and the removal of guidance notes from the main body of the certificate into a detachable annex.

The new streamlined model certificates have now been published on [Gov.UK](#).

The new model certificates do not represent any change in the GB import requirements for SPS conditions but the format of the streamlined EHCs will differ from the current model health certificates previously published on Gov.UK.

Imports of POAO and ABP from the EU will be required to use the new streamlined certificates from 31 January 2024.

Imports of live animals, including equines, and germinal products from the EU will be required to use the new streamlined certificates from 30 April 2024. We will accept the previous version of these certificates signed on or before 29 April 2024, even if they arrive in GB after this date.

Imports of all animal and animal products from non-EU countries will be required to use the new streamlined certificates from 30 April 2024. We will accept the previous version of these certificates signed on or before 29 April 2024, even if they arrive in GB after this date.

Trading partners may use the streamlined GB certificates as soon as they are available on Gov.UK and competent authorities in exporting countries have made the necessary updates to their systems.

4. Risk categorisation

For animals and animal products, the categorisation is derived from a scientific assessment of the biosecurity and food safety risk that each commodity poses, weighted against the disease and pest risk of the country of origin.

The EU will be treated as a single epidemiological entity, therefore all imports from the EU countries will have SPS controls applied consistently.

The risk categorisation for animals and animal products imported from the EU to GB will begin to apply from 31 January 2024 and is published [here](#).

The risk categorisation for animals and animal products imported from non-EU countries will begin to apply from 30 April 2024 and is published [here](#).

From these dates, consignments classified as 'low risk' will no longer require an EHC to enter GB and will only require commercial documentation. High risk and medium risk consignments will continue to require an EHC.

Action for OVSS

1. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries regarding model health certificates

Email: GBHealthCertificates@defra.gov.uk

Contact point for enquiries regarding risk categorisation

Email: NonEuRiskEnquiries@defra.gov.uk

Imports and EU Trade Team