



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 01/21

### Update Animal Health Regulation

Date issued: 9 July 2021

#### Purpose

1. To provide an update to Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) on Animal Health Regulation Export Health Certificates (EHCs) including key changes to the new fish EHCs.

#### Background

2. The EU is making changes to its animal health laws, therefore EHCs and the Notes for Guidance used to move goods to Northern Ireland or for export to the EU need to be updated.
3. EHCs for composite products changed in April, and a small number of new EHCs were introduced at that time as well. The remaining new EHCs for all products of animal origin, live animals and germinal products will need to be used from 21 August 2021.
4. From 30 June, 40 EHCs were made available for traders to view on form finder. Further EHCs will be available on 29 July.
5. Below we have set out the most significant changes to the new fish EHCs. For more detailed information please see the Notes for Guidance for the relevant EHC.

#### Timing

6. Traders can start to use the new EHCs once they are available on EHC Online. The new EHCs will need to be used for all goods exported to the EU from 21 August.

7. The existing EHCs will be switched off on 20 August. So long as they are signed before 11.59 pm on August 20, the current EHCs may be used until 20 October 2021 for goods in transit to the EU.

## Fish, crustacean and molluscs (8361, 8364)

### 8. Fish, crustacean and molluscs (8361, 8364)

[8361](#) replaces 8270 – *this is to be used for live fish, live crustaceans and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption*

[8364](#) replaces 8249 – *this is to be used for live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption*

### 9. Summary of main changes

- The most significant change concerns who is permitted to certify the EHC. Our interpretation of the EU rules is that if the product is of aquaculture origin, and **is intended for further processing in the EU**, and the species is listed in the legislation, an Official Veterinarian (OV) [rather than a Food Competent Certifying Officer] must certify. Therefore, an OV must certify when Part.II.2 of the EHC is not deleted. The list of species covered by this requirement is included in the Annex to EU regulation 2018/1882. Examples of listed fish and shellfish include named species of Salmon (e.g. Atlantic) and Trout (e.g. Rainbow), all decapod crustaceans, and European Flat Oysters.
- In addition, where certain named fish, or shellfish may act as a vector species, as they live in proximity to a listed species, they are also covered by this regulation. For example, the common edible cockle is named as a disease vector species for the European flat oyster and would require OV certification where they are in contact with (co-habiting or sharing a water supply) with European flat oysters.
- There is also a requirement for veterinary oversight of aquaculture premises to certify the animal health status of the site and in certain circumstances (for example the export of un-eviscerated listed dead fish from aquaculture) a requirement for clinical investigation within 72 hours of loading by an OV.
- Aquaculture establishments must be registered in GB, maintain records of up to 3 years regarding the species, categories and number of aquaculture animals on the establishment, their movement into and out the establishment and mortality in the establishment as set out in part II.2.2.1. All GB aquaculture establishments should already be authorised by CEFAS or Marine Scotland in compliance with the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) or (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

- When animals are transported in water, that water cannot be changed in a 3<sup>rd</sup> country not listed for entry, to the EU, for the particular species and category of aquatic animal as set out in part II.2.6.1.
- Once certified and signed the EHC is now valid for 10 days. In case of transport by waterway/sea this period of 10 days may be extended by the length of the journey on water (part II.2.8).
- Businesses must list the name of species and number of animals in each container. Further details are in part II.2.7.1 – 2.7.2. (a – d).

## Further Information

10. We are holding a fish webinar for FCCOs on Monday 12 July please see below for further information and how to register
11. Further information on composite products – [briefing note](#)
12. [FAQs](#) for certifiers on AHR

## Webinars

13. Defra is holding a webinar for FCCOs with a panel of experts to answer your questions on the new fish EHCs. Further webinars will be held in August and we will provide details shortly.
14. Please register for the webinar below:

Title of webinar	Description	Who should attend?	Date	Time	Register
AHR webinar – fish	Panel of experts from Defra and APHA will answer FCCOs (and OVs) questions on the new AHR EHCs for fish and fishery products	FCCOs certifying fish and fishery products for human consumption	12 July 2021	3-4pm	<a href="#">Meeting Registration - Zoom</a>

## 15. Instructions for registering for the webinar:

- Please choose the live Q&As webinar/s you wish to attend from the list above
- To join your chosen webinar/s, simply select the link in the 'Register here' column at your preferred time and date
- Once selected, you will be asked to confirm your name, email address, and organisation
- This will register you for the webinar for the live Q&A with our expert panel
- Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email that will include a link to add the webinar to your calendar
- You do not need to download any software to access the webinar, the link will open in your browser (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge etc.)
- Please join your chosen webinar/s 5 minutes prior to the start time

16. If you have any questions about the webinar or anything in this briefing note please contact: [traders@defra.gov.uk](mailto:traders@defra.gov.uk)