



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 02/21

Interim testing requirements for marine gastropods exports to the EU and movements to Northern Ireland

Date issued: 30 July 2021

Purpose

1. To provide an update to Local Authorities (LA) on the interim testing requirements for exporting marine gastropods to the EU or moving to Northern Ireland.

Background

2. There is an EU legal requirement that marine gastropods should be subject to bacteria and biotoxin testing by Food Business Operators (FBO)s as listed in Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 and Regulation (EC) No. 2074/2005. This requirement is included in the relevant EU export health certificate.
3. Gastropods which are not filter feeders must meet the standards laid down in Chapter V, Section VII of Annex III of Regulation 853/2004 “as demonstrated by a system of own-checks”.
4. Currently no validated testing method is available to verify that the biotoxin levels within consignments of marine gastropods are within acceptable levels for human consumption prior to export.
5. To allow attestations and certification of marine gastropod consignments for export to the EU, FBOs have been advised by Defra that they should apply an interim measure based on testing using rapid lateral flow assays to detect all regulated Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP), Amnesic Shellfish Poison (ASP) and Lipophilic toxins, including Diarrhetic Shellfish Poison (DSP) toxins.
6. The Export Health Certificate this applies to is [Certificate 8249](#) - for bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods and products of animal

origin from those animals intended for human consumption and from 21 August this will be replaced with [Certificate 8364](#) to reflect the Animal Health Regulations. The Notes for Guidance (NFG) which accompany the EHC will be updated to reflect this requirement in due course.

7. This interim measure only relates to marine biotoxins and therefore does not impact on the E. coli and Salmonella requirements as listed in Regulation (EC) 2073/2005.
8. FBOs have been advised that they should implement the testing above for marine gastropods intended for export to the EU with immediate effect. Certifying officers must ensure that those products comply with the specific requirements laid down in Section VII, Chapter IX of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. This requires standards to be demonstrated by a “system of own-checks”, so the CO should be satisfied that these standards have been met – either by results from end-product testing, or evidence that a satisfactory monitoring system is in place.
9. The interim measure will be in place until a validated testing method for biotoxins in marine gastropod molluscs is available.

Further Information

10. If you have any questions about anything in this briefing note please contact: FishEHC@defra.gov.uk.