



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 03/21

Update on Animal Health Regulation: dual running with some AHR EHCs put on hold

Date issued: 26 August 2021

Purpose

1. To provide an update to Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) on the new Animal Health Regulation Export Health Certificates (EHCs). This includes information on dual running of EHCs and some AHR EHCs that have been removed from EHC Online for now.

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. The new Animal Health Regulation (AHR) EHCs were due to be used from 21 August 2021 for goods moved to Northern Ireland or exported to the EU from GB. However, the EU has confirmed a delay to the date the new EHCs must be signed until 15 January 2022. This includes EHCs for all products of animal origin, live animals, germinal products and composite products.

Dual running of EHCs

4. All existing and most of the new AHR EHCs are available and traders can decide which ones they wish to use until 15 January. We are encouraging exporters to begin the process of moving towards using the new EHCs in a manner and time suitable to their business but in readiness for full switchover from 15 Jan 2022.

5. A small number of new EHCs have been removed from EHC Online for now. These include certificates for some live animals and dairy. This is because the EU will be amending some EHCs, and some are subject to ongoing discussions with the EU regarding GB's disease freedom status.
6. There will be dual running on the AHR EHCs for live fish, live crustaceans, live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption. If traders are using the new EHCs you can continue to sign on the basis you have been doing since January. The new EHCs contain changes regarding when an FCCO can certify the product. Please refer to the Notes for Guidance and this [briefing note](#) for further information.
7. Changes to the rules for the certification of composite products, which took effect in April 2021, continue to apply. Traders have been informed they should continue to use the new AHR composite EHCs if they have been doing so since April. If their composite product used an EHC prior to 21 April 2021, they can now continue to use that EHC until 15 January 2022.

Timing

8. The new AHR EHCs will need to be used for all goods exported to the EU from 15 January 2022. Current EHCs signed before 15 January 2022 can be used until 15 March 2022 for goods on route to the EU.

Further information

9. There is information on the key changes to the AHR EHCs for fish, crustaceans and molluscs available in this [briefing note](#).
10. Further information on composite products – see this [briefing note](#).
11. Defra held webinars for certifiers last month on the AHR and new EHCs. Please see the [fish slides](#) and [narrative](#) from these webinars.
12. If you have any questions about the AHR and new EHCs please contact: traders@defra.gov.uk