



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 02/22

### Update on Animal Health Regulation

Date issued: 13 January 2022

#### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) on updates to the Animal Health Regulation (AHR) Export Health Certificates (EHCs).

#### Background

2. From 15 January 2022, traders will need to use the Animal Health Regulation (AHR) Export Health Certificates (EHCs) for goods exported from Great Britain (GB) to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland if an EHC is required.
3. The majority of AHR EHCs have been available for use on EHC Online since August 2021.

#### Timing for using the AHR EHCs

4. The EU has requested Member States exercise flexibility in accepting old EHCs beyond 15 January. We welcome this flexibility and will retain those old EHCs which are necessary to facilitate trade.
5. The majority of the old EHCs which are superseded by usable AHR EHCs will be withdrawn from 14 January 2022 and we are encouraging traders wherever possible to use the AHR EHCs.
6. The only old EHCs that will be retained beyond 14 January are those for raw milk, dairy products, hatching eggs of poultry, certain germinal products, meat products, poultry meat and meat preparations. There is further information on these EHCs below.

7. The EU has not delayed the implementation of the AHR EHCs in law, and it will be for individual Member States to decide whether they will continue to accept these old certificates.
8. Most of the old EHCs will be withdrawn from EHC Online on 14 January. From 1pm on that date traders will no longer be able to raise new applications for these EHCs. By 1pm on 14 January Certifiers must ensure that they:
  - a. have printed any old EHCs for use for exports leaving the UK on 14 January, and
  - b. have recorded certification decisions on EHC Online for consignments which have already departed.
9. Once withdrawn the old EHCs will no longer be available via the Certifier Dashboard in EHC Online.
10. Any in-progress exports using the old EHCs will be valid for entry into the EU so long as the EHC is signed before 11.59 pm on 14 January, and the consignment arrives at the point of entry in the EU by 15 March 2022.

## Update on AHR EHCs

### Dairy

11. AHR dairy EHCs [8353](#), [8354](#), [8287](#) and [8356](#) for raw milk, raw milk products and dairy products are being updated and we expect them to be made available this week. EHC [8358](#) and [8280](#), for colostrum based products will also be made available.
12. The EHCs will be amended so there is no longer a requirement for animals providing the milk (or milk within the product) to have been resident in GB for three months prior to milking in the following circumstances:
  - The animal has been imported into GB from an EU Member State
  - The animal has been imported into GB from another third country listed by the EU for the export of raw milk, colostrum or colostrum-based products and spent a combined total of three months in that third country and GB prior to milking
13. However, the EHCs require the Official Veterinarian (OV) to select whether the animal providing the milk has been resident either in GB *or* imported into GB from an EU Member State *or* a relevant third country. OVs may therefore require supporting information from processors to confirm which attestation the product complies with. We are continuing discussions with the EU on this and will be engaging further with the sector directly.

14. In the meantime, traders may wish to continue using the old EHCs, if they cannot provide this information to you as their certifying officer. Exporters will need to check that the BCP of Entry will accept the EHC.

### **Poultry hatching eggs**

15. The hatching eggs of poultry AHR EHC [8436](#) is being updated and we expect it will be available this week. The EU is revising the EHC so there is no longer a requirement for an Official Veterinarian (OV) to inspect the flocks of origin 24 hrs before loading for dispatch.

16. The revised certificate will allow for either a clinical inspection of the flock(s) of origin of the hatching eggs 72 hours prior to the time of loading, or monthly clinical inspections of the flock(s) of origin supported by an evaluation of the current health status based upon operator records by the certifying OV 72 hours prior to loading.

17. As this EHC will only be available for a short time prior to 15 January, the old hatching eggs EHC will remain available for traders to use having checked first that the BCP will accept the EHC.

### **Germinal Products**

18. We are still in discussion with the EU regarding amendment to the residency requirements for ovine and caprine germinal products. Therefore a small number of old EHCs for bovine and ovine germinal products will still be available for exports to use having checked first that the BCP will accept the EHC.

19. These include EHCs [8201](#), [8202](#), [8203](#), [8208](#), [8209](#), [8210](#), [8211](#) and [8212](#).

### **Poultry meat and meat preparations**

20. The AHR EHCs for poultry meat and meat preparations require that birds do not pass within 10km of an Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak on route to slaughter. Due to the ongoing AI outbreak, significant transport routes are within 10km of outbreaks. We are in discussions with the EU about this condition.

21. In the meantime, the old EHC, [8296](#), for poultry meat and the old EHCs for meat preparations, [8256](#) and [8257](#) will be available for traders use having checked first that the BCP will accept the EHC.

### **Re-export of meat products**

22. Traders will be unable to re-export certain EU origin products of animal origin (POAO) using the AHR EHCs. A new EHC for the re-export of POAO that is imported from the EU and stored in GB without tampering or further processing has been created by the EU.

23. This new certificate does not cater for all types of re-export of EU POAO currently undertaken by GB traders and for certain meat products we are awaiting technical clarification from the EU as to whether this AHR EHC can be used.

24. For these products, the old t EHCs will still be available for traders to use, having checked that the BCP of entry will accept it.. This includes EHCs [8254](#) and [8255](#).

### **Live animal EHCs**

25. The EU has confirmed its intention to recognise GB as free of bluetongue in legislation. The live animal EHCs [8446](#), [8447](#), [8448](#), [8449](#) and [8452](#) for live cattle, sheep and goats, which were removed from EHC online until this was resolved will be made available again this week.

26. The old EHCs will be removed once the AHR EHCs are made available on EHC online.

## **Further Information**

- [Briefing note on AHRs](#)
- [Briefing note on Composite products](#)
- [FAQs for certifiers on AHR](#)