



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 03/23

# Certification of 'regular vet visits' for EU exports or NI movements

**Date issued: 08 February 2023**

## Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) and other veterinary certifiers that for export of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) to the EU, the EU requirement for farms of origin to have a regular veterinary visit can be certified as follows:

- i. Until 13 December 2023, this EU requirement can continue to be certified based on a farmer declaration.
- ii. After 13 December 2023, farmer declarations will no longer be accepted and this EU requirement must be certified based on other evidence such as membership of a recognised farm assurance scheme or via a valid veterinary declaration.

## Background

- i. Traders exporting products of animal origin (POAO) to the EU or moving them to Northern Ireland under the conditions of the Northern Ireland Protocol, must follow the requirements set out in EU EHCs. Since the introduction of the Animal Health Regulation (AHR), this has included the requirement for farms of origin for animals providing POAO to be subject to regular animal health visits by a veterinarian. This visit must include the

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

detection of, and gathering information on, signs indicative of certain listed diseases relevant to the species of animal concerned.

- ii. It has been confirmed that farmer declarations can continue to be used as a source of evidence for the certification of the 'regular vet visit' requirement in certain EU Export Health Certificates (EHCs) until **13 December 2023**
- iii. After this date, certification will be needed from either membership of a qualifying farm assurance scheme or via a valid veterinary declaration. A vet declaration is the best way to provide evidence that exports comply with EU requirements and a template [veterinary declaration](#) with supporting guidance is available on APHA's vet gateway.
- iv. DEFRA are looking into ways to help facilitate the provision of veterinary declarations, but we strongly encourage farmers to start planning for the 13 December 2023 deadline. Farmers must use the available time to choose either to exclude their animals or products from EU export, join a recognised farm assurance scheme or obtain an appropriate veterinary declaration.
- v. Defra will work closely with farmers, markets, traders, veterinarians, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to facilitate, where required, provision of veterinary declarations to a certifying OV from **13 December 2023**. Updated guidance will be issued in due course.

## Further Information

- Information on [qualifying farm assurance schemes](#) can be found on GOV.UK.
- Any queries relating to this briefing note should be sent to: [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk)