



APHA Briefing Note 04/19

Changes to OCQ(V) Export training courses/modules and OV Instructions in the event of the UK leaving the European Union without a deal: OCQ(V) – EX, UX, EQ, AX, GX and PX

Purpose

1. Delivering the deal negotiated with the European Union (EU) remains the Government's top priority. This has not changed. However, the Government must prepare for every eventuality, including a no deal scenario. For two years, the Government has been implementing a significant programme of work to ensure that the UK is prepared to leave the EU on 29 March 2019.
2. It has always been the case that as we get nearer to that date, preparations for a no deal scenario would have to be accelerated. We must ensure plans are in place should they need to be relied upon.
3. This briefing note is to make Official Veterinarians (OVs) aware of the changes required for the export to the EU of animals and animal products (excluding pets and small animals, for which see [Briefing Note 17/18](#)) in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal agreed. The export of animals and animal products to non-EU countries will continue as currently. As usual, OVs must ensure they obtain an up to date EHC and familiarise themselves with the requirements and the notes for guidance in case any conditions may have changed.
4. This briefing note covers the following OCQ(V) modules: general exports (EX) and the export of ungulates (UX), equine (EQ), avian (AX), germinal products/germplasm (GX) and animal products (PX).

Background

5. Defra published a series of Technical Notices (TNs) over the summer setting out the possible implications of 'EU-exit without a deal' on the UK's ability to export [animals and animal products](#), and [horses](#) and other equidae.

6. The TNs state that in the event of a 'no-deal', the UK will become a 'Third Country' (TC) and will need to be listed as such to be able to export to the EU. The European Commission also published a series of notices on the movement of [animals](#) and [food of animal origin](#), for member states.
7. TCs have to apply to the EU to be listed in EU legislation as a country authorised for the export of different commodities to the EU. If the UK does not achieve listing by 29 March 2019, exports to the EU of animals and animal products (except pets) could not continue. The UK has applied to the Commission, to be listed as a TC authorised for exports of animals and their products to the EU. Therefore, this briefing note assumes the UK has been listed by the European Commission as a TC for the commodities it intends to export. Further detail of EU's import conditions for animals and animal products can be found [here](#) (https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/international_affairs/trade_en).

Action for OVs

8. To read and understand the TNs already published and their implications on the different sectors, as mentioned in paragraph 5 above.
9. To note that the courses' content/guidance/assessment for OVs as part of their initial training and subsequent revalidation (i.e. the OCQ(V) courses/modules provided by Improve International) and the [OV instructions](#) available through the [APHA Vet Gateway](#) will be amended once the final position is known to remove references to intra-EU trade and use of the Intra-Trade Animal Health Certificates (ITAHCs) for the export of animals and animal products to the EU. The associated TRACES support documents will no longer be relevant and will be removed. These will be replaced by Export Health Certificates (EHCs) based on the model certificates that the European Commission have in place for the importation of various (categories/classes/types of) animals and animal products from non-EU countries. There are over 150 such certificates, most of them for the various types of animal products.
10. To ensure that OVs use the correct EHC for the commodity category/class/type, bearing in mind that the EHCs for the export of animals and animal products to the EU will be different to the ITAHCs currently used for intra-EU trade and that EHCs will be required for the first time for the export of animal products (for human consumption and otherwise) to EU-27 which currently do not need to be officially certified.
11. To support familiarisation, Notes for Guidance (NFG) for the EHCs for exports to the EU will be available on [Form Finder](#) in advance of the UK being officially listed as a TC for exports to the EU. These documents will provide

more detail and OV's should read them carefully. A further Briefing Note will be distributed once such NFGs become available.

12. Note that examples of significant changes from current procedures are highlighted in the separate sections of this Briefing Notes for the more specific (OCQ(V) modules (UX/AX/EQ/GX/PX). Generally speaking, the requirements in the model certificates for imports into the EU from TC will be different from those applicable for intra-Union movement, in particular with regard to pre-export residency / isolation / testing and the additional / supplementary guarantees required for certain diseases.
13. To note that certificates for exports to the EU will have to be issued in the language of the Member State where the goods enter the EU and also in the language of the destination Member State. APHA will provide OV's with the translated documents required.

Ungulates – OCQ(V) UX

14. EHCs for the export of ungulates (other than equidae) to the EU are contained in Regulation (EU) No. 206/2010. There are two types of certificates for each species, one for breeding/production animals and the other for animals intended for slaughter.
15. Significant differences compared to current ITAHCs are:

Sheep/goats

- uncastrated rams (unless intended for slaughter) may have to be tested for *Brucella ovis*.
- breeding/production sheep intended for export to the EU may need to be part of an 'official notification system' to support certification that there was no clinical evidence of diseases (such as contagious agalactia, paratuberculosis, caseous lymphadenitis, pulmonary adenomatosis and Maedi-Visna or caprine viral arthritis/encephalitis) in the holdings of origin for periods varying from 6 months to 3 years.

Equidae – OCQ(V) EQ

16. The UK will cease to be party to the Tripartite Agreement in the event of a no deal exit, therefore the simplified export regime using Commercial Documents (DOCOMs) will no longer be available. After the UK becomes a TC, the export of horses between the UK, Ireland and France will have to be certified.
17. Model certificates for the import of live equidae to the EU are contained in [Regulation \(EU\) No 2018/659](#). There are different model certificates depending on whether the horses are registered and the purpose of movement (permanent, temporary, re-entry, transit through the EU, or

slaughter). Each model certificate contains different health requirements depending on the sanitary group to which the TC of origin belongs. There are seven such groups (A to G) depending on the disease risk posed by the TC. Once the UK is listed under a sanitary group the section applicable to that sanitary group will have to be signed.

18. For most movements, there will be a requirement for pre-export residency and isolation under veterinary supervision, and to carry out at least one pre-export test for a disease. In the latter case, the OV will need to await the result of the test before carrying out certification. This will require at least two veterinary visits.

Avian – OCQ(V)

19. Model certificates for the import of poultry and hatching eggs to the EU are contained in [Regulation \(EC\) No 798/2008](#). Depending on the poultry species, testing requirements may be increased and post-import quarantine may be required.

20. Birds other than poultry will need to be certified using the model certificate contained in [Regulation \(EU\) No 139/2013](#). The Regulation requires that:

- breeding establishment is approved and listed by the EU;
- birds undergo testing for avian influenza and Newcastle disease;
- birds are individually identified according to the Regulation;
- transport is done in new and individually identified containers;
- birds enter the EU through a Border Inspection Post;
- birds are quarantined for at least 30 days in an approved facility once they are in the EU. Veterinary checks and further testing in the quarantine would also be required

21. For *pet birds*, OVs should refer to the pets and small animals briefing note (see [Briefing Note 17/18](#))

Germinal products/Germplasm – OCQ(V) GX

22. Model certificates for the import of germinal products/germplasm to the EU are contained in a number of Decisions/Regulations depending on the species of origin and whether the commodity is semen or ova/embryos, as follows

Commodity	EHCs contained in:	Number of models certificates available
Bovine semen	Decision 2011/630/EU	3
Ovine/caprine semen	Decision 2010/472/EU	2
Porcine semen	Decision 2012/137/EU	1
Equine semen	Regulation (EU) No 2018/659	4
Bovine ova/embryos	Decision 2006/168/EU	3
Ovine/caprine ova/embryos	Decision 2010/472/EU	1
Porcine ova/embryos	Decision 2008/636/EC	None
Equine ova/embryos	Regulation (EU) No 2018/659	2

23. Donor animals may be required to undergo similar health checks as for intra-EU trade. However, supplementary guarantees may be required (e.g. for Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease – for ruminant material - and vesicular stomatitis – for equine material if the exporting country is not considered to be free). Also, an ‘official notification system’ to support certification of clinical freedom for some non-notifiable diseases may be required for ovine/caprine material.
24. In the case of bovine embryos, there is more choice as there are three model certificates depending on whether they are in-vivo derived or in-vitro produced and with regards to the semen used.
25. The currently approved/listed semen (collection and storage) centres and embryo (collection and production) teams may need to be reapproved/relisted as required for imports from a TC.
26. Germinal products/germplasm produced before EU Exit may not be certifiable to EU-27 after EU Exit unless an option to do so is provided/clarified. A further Briefing Note will be distributed and Notes for Guidance amended should this position change.

Animal products – OCQ(V) PX

27. Model certificates for the import of animal products to the EU are contained in a number of EU Regulations/Decisions (see links at the end of this paragraph). There are around 85 model certificates covering different types of animal products, of which around 50 are for food of animal origin (including

fish) and around 35 for animal by-products (ABP). Apart from the certificates for fishery and composite products, which may also be signed by a 'certifying official' who is not a veterinarian (e.g. an Environmental Health Officer of the Local Authority), most certificates have to be signed by an OV. Detailed EU requirements for the import of various animal products from TCs can be found at the following links: [ungulate meat/preparations](#); [poultry meat/preparations](#); [ungulate and poultry meat products](#); [milk/products](#); [fishery products](#); [animal by-products](#).

28. OVs will be able to use Certification Support Officers (CSOs) to facilitate certification of animal products. CSOs will be working under the direction of an OV and will not be able to carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement. They can only be deployed by OVs to execute specific checks (e.g. factual verification of data and records, collection of evidence, etc.) as directed by the certifying OV.
29. High risk (Category 1 and 2) ABPs cannot be exported (certified) to the EU.
30. The currently approved/listed establishments for animal products (whether for human consumption or otherwise) may need to be reapproved/relisted as required for exports from a TC. Also, such animal product produced before EU Exit may not be certifiable to EU-27 after EU Exit unless an option to do so is provided/clarified (a number of certificates require the date of slaughter of the animals to be after the establishment has been authorised/listed). A further Briefing Note will be distributed and Notes for Guidance amended should this position change.

Further Information

- Consignments intended for export to non-EU countries but transiting the EU will also need to comply with the requirements for export to the EU and enter through an approved border inspection post (BIP) in the EU.
- The EU rules on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for entry into the EU of purebred breeding animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and equine species, hybrid breeding pigs and their germinal products will need to be complied with. A separate TN has been published on zootechnical requirements.
- OVs can access all EHCs, Export Application forms (EXA), notes for guidance (NFG) and other support documents associated to EHCs, through the recently launched 'form finder' on GOV.UK, where OVs are able to view or download these forms directly without having to contact the Centre for International Trade in Carlisle by email or telephone to request the forms. Further detail of EU's import conditions for animals and animal products can be found [here](#).

- Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) and participate in other EU arrangements. As such, in many areas, these countries adopt EU rules. Where this is the case, these technical notices may also apply to them, and UK business trading with EEA countries should consider whether they need to take any steps to prepare for a 'no deal' scenario.
- Further information and instructions will be provided in due course to authorised OVs.
- [Exporting animals and animal products if there's a no Brexit deal](#)
- [Pet Travel to Europe after Brexit](#)
- [Improve International Website](#)
- [APHA Vet Gateway](#) and [OV instructions](#)
- [EU Exit public information campaign](#)

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