



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 19/22

New EHC for Racing Pigeons immediately released after entry in the EU/NI

Date issued: 24th May 2022

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) on the certification of racing pigeons for immediate release after entry, exported from Great Britain to the EU and NI (EHC 8465).

Background

The EU Commission previously agreed a derogation to allow consignments of racing pigeons from third countries including GB to continue to enter the EU and Northern Ireland.

The EU Commission has published an amended Export Health Certificate for racing pigeons as part of an implementing act which came into force on the 18th April 2022.

Action

Defra has published 8465 EHC for racing pigeons immediately released after entry in the EU. OVs should refer to the new Export Health Certificate and Notes for Guidance carefully (available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)), before certifying.

Please note the establishment the pigeons come from must be registered with APHA (for establishments in England and Wales) or Scottish Government (for establishments in Scotland) to export racing pigeons from GB to the EU and NI. The establishment refers to the pigeon loft. The registration system for establishments will be available for keepers (racing pigeon establishment operator) to sign up to from the 24th of May 2022. OVs must check establishments are registered. For establishments located in England and Wales OVs must do this by checking the establishment has a County Parish Holding (CPH)

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number and that the establishment holds a Racing Pigeon Establishment Operator Declaration signed in the last 12 months. For establishments in Scotland OV's must check the establishment has a CPH and an acceptance email.

Registered lofts will be subject to audit process to ensure compliance. A list of suspended establishments in GB will be published on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). OV's must check the establishments included on the EHC are not on this list.

Veterinarians should also be aware that the EHC can be certified at a basketing event, rather than just at the establishment the pigeons come from. For further detail please refer to the Notes for Guidance.

Further Information

If you have any questions about the new EHC please contact: exports@apha.gov.uk