



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 20/23

Introduction of a new assessment process for Export Health Certificate (EHC) applications for POAO to USA that require APHA certification.

Date issued: 03 July 2023

Purpose

To notify Official Veterinarians of the APHA assessment process that has been introduced for applications for Export Health Certificates (EHC) of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) to USA that require an original certificate endorsed by APHA. This is effective from the date of issue of this Briefing Note.

Background

Consignments of a number of POAO exported to the USA must be accompanied by an original EHC, endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian in APHA on the basis of supporting documentation provided by the exporter and a pre-certificate signed by an Official Veterinarian.

Pre-certificates and associated documentation must be completed fully and accurately, following the NFG and, if applicable, the requirements of an import permit.

Accurate certification is vital to ensure the continued integrity and trust in the GB certification system which enables exports and facilitates international trade in animals, animal products and animal derived products. Any deviation from expected standards of certification has the potential for serious implications on trust in the certification system and the trading reputation of GB.

Errors with pre-certificates and supporting documentation associated with applications for EHC's of POAO to USA, identified during APHA veterinary review, must be rectified prior to signing of the certificate.

Recent increases in errors with pre-certificates and supporting documentation has resulted in significant delays to the processing of applications and has impacted exports.

The manufacturer's declaration, the pre-certificate, and the import permit, as appropriate, must contain the same information to avoid any misinterpretation of matters being certified. This would reduce significantly the issues noted during the veterinary assessment of the application.

In order to improve the efficiency of the Export Health Certificate application and review process for all users, the following procedure will be implemented:

New procedure

If an error and/or issue is identified with the pre-certificate or associated documentation during veterinary assessment of the application, the Official Veterinarian will be contacted and will be required to address the issue identified and also perform a further review of the application and associated documentation, **to ensure it is complete and accurate.**

If the information is not complete and accurate following second assessment by an APHA veterinarian, the application will be rejected.

The product must not be exported until the original export health certificate is signed by the APHA veterinarian. If the product has left GB without an original Export Health Certificate, a Cancel & Replace request will not be processed as the original EHC had not been signed prior to the consignment leaving GB.

Further Information

- APHA Vet Gateway:
 - http://defrawebcms/apha/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/Products_Exports.html
 - <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET248.docx>

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET249.docx>

- APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle, email: exports@apha.gov.uk
Telephone: 03000 300 201