



APHA Briefing Note 23/19

Export of Animal Products - Changes to Approval Codes for Third Country Approval Lists

1. Purpose

To inform Certifying Officers, Official Veterinarians and exporters of the changes to unique identification codes of UK Approved Establishments for export of Products of Animal Origin.

These changes were applied to meat exports to Australia, Canada, Japan and the USA on 31 August 2019. This communication regards these changes being extended to exports to the following destinations.

These changes will also be applied to listings for meat exports to the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand. Also, dairy exports to Brazil, Chile, Indonesia and Malaysia and fish exports to Brazil. THE DATE OF CHANGE FOR THESE COUNTRIES WILL BE THE 30 SEPTEMBER 2019.

At a later date these changes will also apply to meat, dairy and fish exports to China. Separate communications for exports to China will follow.

2. Background

In the current context of the UK preparing to leave the EU, references to the “EC” will need to be removed from exporting documents.

Currently, the unique identification codes for UK establishments that are approved and listed for POAO exports are typically made up of either a “UK” prefix, a four digit unique approval code, and an “EC” suffix; for example, “UK 1234 EC” or a “UK” prefix, a two letter area code and three digit number forming a unique approval code, and an “EC” suffix, for example “UK AB 123 EC”.

However, in the coming weeks, changes will be made to these unique identification codes. An example is that “UK 1234 EC” would be changed to “1234”. This will also apply to other formats of unique identification codes; for example, a code currently presented as “UK AB123 EC” will read as “AB123”.

Consignments from approved establishments will therefore still be identifiable due to the continued use of their unique identifying codes in the entries of the relevant sections or export health certificates and marks applied to products.

Illustrative examples:

CURRENT format used for EHCs	New format to be used for EHCs
UK 2090 EC	2090
UK AB 123 EC	AB 123
UK CD 456 FE EC	CD 456 FE
UK CD 456 M EC	CD 456 M

There will be a crossover period of 6 months from the date of change, during which both formats will be accepted to allow for consignments in transit and any initial oversights.

3. For Action

Exporters:

To be aware that the approval code by which their premises are listed by some trading partners will be changing. This change does not affect the 'oval' Health Marks on food products or Identification Marks on food packaging.

Certifying officers:

Certificates requiring entries for approval/registration numbers of establishments (regardless of the publication or not of such establishments by the authorities of importing countries) must be completed using the format of current or new listing details, as necessary at the time of certification.

For countries requiring listing of the establishments for specific commodities, the new listing will become in force as soon as the updated lists are published by trading partners or at any particular time mutually agreed with the importing country.

Read the NFG to know when to start entering the new approval codes on the EHC. Notes for guidance and other documents issued to you with each EHC must always be read and understood. In this period, it is particularly important that you do so to avoid disruption to trade.

4. Final remarks

These changes are taking place regardless the outcome of the UK's exit from the EU. The aim is to future-proof the code by which UK establishments are listed by

importing trading partners and for that code to cover and be applicable for any possible options of health/ID marking in future.

It is strongly advised that you familiarise yourselves with the Food Standards Agency/Food Standards Scotland guidance on this matter.

5. Further Information

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