



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 29/21

Update Animal Health Regulation

Date issued: 9 July 2021

Purpose

1. To provide an update to Official Veterinarians (OVs) on the new Animal Health Regulation Export Health Certificates (EHCs). This includes key changes to the new EHCs.

Background

2. The EU is making changes to its animal health laws, therefore Export Health Certificates (EHCs) and the Notes for Guidance used to move goods to Northern Ireland or for export to the EU need to be updated.
3. EHCs for composite products changed in April, and a small number of new EHCs were introduced at that time as well. The remaining new EHCs for all products of animal origin, live animals and germinal products will need to be used from 21 August 2021.
4. From 30 June, 40 EHCs were made available for traders to view on form finder. Further EHCs will be available on 29 July. We will provide further briefing notes on the updated EHCs.
5. Below we have set out the most significant changes to the new EHCs. For more detailed information please see the Notes for Guidance for the relevant EHC.

Timing

6. Traders can start to use the new EHCs once they are available on EHC Online. The new EHCs will need to be used for all goods exported to the EU from 21 August.

7. The existing EHCs will be switched off on 20 August. So long as they are signed before 11.59 pm on August 20, the current EHCs may be used until 20 October 2021 for goods in transit to the EU.

Further Information

8. We are holding live webinars in July and August for OVAs where you can ask questions to our panel about the new EHCs. You can find further details in this [briefing note](#).
9. Further information on composite products – [briefing note](#)
10. [FAQs](#) for certifiers on AHR

EHCs available from 30 June – Key changes

11. Bovine, Ovine and Porcine meat (8368, 8369, 8370)

[8368](#) *Bovine replaces 8263 and 8261 - fresh meat including minced meat of bovine animals*

[8369](#) *Ovine replaces 8263 and 8262 - meat including minced meat of domestic sheep and goats*

[8370](#) *Porcine replaces 8263 and 8260 - fresh meat including minced meat of porcine animals*

Summary of main changes

- Meat must be strictly segregated from fresh meat not compliant with the AHR until it is packaged or dispatched to the EU as set out in attestation (point II.2.6).
- Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs must not come into contact with animals of a lower health status during their slaughter, as set out in attestation point II.2.4. (d).
- The pork certificate requires meat to be certified as being obtained from pigs that have been kept separate from wild ungulates since birth. There is information on this in the Notes for Guidance.
- Beef, sheep, goat and pork products cannot pass through a third country/territory/zone which is not listed for entry into the EU, during transport to the slaughterhouse. Beef, lamb, goat and pork cannot come into contact with animals of a lower health status, as set out in attestation point II.2.4. (b).
- In attestation point II.2.1.3. (c) the Commission lists relevant listed diseases which establishments must be free from. You can read this in Annex I to Regulation 2020/692.

- For pork products, the new point II.2. means that the consignment no longer refers to swine vesicular disease freedom.

12. Live animals - Bovines, Ovines, Caprines, Porcines, Camelids/Cervids (8446, 8448, 8450, 8452)

[8446](#) replaces 8223 - bovine animals

[8448](#) replaces 8220 - ovine and caprine animals

[8450](#) replaces 8228 - porcine animals and animals of the family of *Tayassuidae*

[8452](#) is a new certificate for camelid and cervid animals

Summary of main changes

- Introduces explicit requirements prohibiting the mixing of animals for export with animals of a lower health status (compared to the current certificate which prevents contact with imported animals). The certificates also refer to 40-day standstill at the holding unless animals (both imported, or UK born animals) introduced into the holding are kept under isolation during this period.
- The certificates require, where relevant, that the third country of origin to be officially recognised as free of bluetongue to certify the BTV freedom attestation. Currently Great Britain (GB) has not been granted this official recognition by the EU, although we are currently in discussions with them about our status. Therefore, the pre-export testing (or vaccination if possible) will be required for susceptible animals until the UK receives official recognition of BTV freedom.
- BTV vaccine is authorised for use in the UK. Vaccine may be obtained from international stocks by a private vet making a case for a special import licence from VMD. Please note that suppliers may be unable to meet a significant rapid demand from GB farmers.
- Introduces more specific requirements on transportation conditions (e.g. construction of the transport ensures animals are secure and can be visually inspected).
- Outline specific requirements on the need for establishments of origin to have an acceptable level of traceability, registration by the Competent Authority, receive regular veterinary inspections proportionate to the risk and undertake certain record keeping activities.
- The certificates for livestock make reference to newly EU-listed AHR diseases, including certain disease which are present in GB (e.g. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)). The relevant diseases have been made notifiable/reportable in GB.
- The certificates refer to, where relevant, disease freedom requirements for Glanders disease and Surra. Also, testing and quarantine is required for BVD and Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) where the Member State of

destination is free of those diseases or has an approved eradication programme as listed in Regulation 2021/620 (as amended).

- The new porcine certificate increases the requirement for Classical Swine Fever freedom from 12 months to 24 months and removes requirement for Swine Vesicular disease freedom.
- Tuberculosis (TB) testing requirements for camelids, cervids and caprines, refer to specific diagnostic methods referenced on the [EURL website](#). Further guidance on this is available in the relevant Notes for Guidance.

13. Poultry meat (8371)

[8371](#) replaces 8296 - poultry meat

Summary of main changes

- The exporter must ensure that the means of transporting animals to the slaughterhouse are disinfected using an approved disinfectant, and dried (or allowed to dry) immediately before each loading of animals as set out in point II.2.4(g)(iv).

14. Eggs (8359, 8360)

[8359](#) replaces 8293 - Eggs for human consumption (Table eggs)

[8360](#) replaces 8292 - Egg Products

Summary of main changes

- Requires that the zone from which the eggs originate carries out a disease surveillance programme for highly pathogenic avian influenza as set out in attestation point II.2.1. (b).
- Requires that at the time of the collection of the eggs, the establishment was not subject to national restriction measures for animal health reasons, see point II.2.2. (c).
- Eggs dispatched to the EU must be separated from animals and products of animal origin not complying with the AHR.

15. Hatching eggs and day-old chicks (8436, 8435)

[8436](#) replaces 8294 - hatching eggs of poultry other than ratites

[8435](#) replaces 8237 - day-old chicks other than of ratites

Summary of main changes

- The AHR certificate for hatching eggs includes the flock of origin to be free from contact from wild birds.

- There is a new requirement for the flock of origin to have been kept within the zone of origin for 3 months prior to the date of collection of the eggs from which the day-old chicks hatched.
- For hatching eggs, the certificate currently includes a requirement for an official veterinary (OV) inspection of the flock(s) of origin 24 hours before dispatch which is of concern to the industry. However, we understand the EU intend to amend this requirement to include an option to allow for a monthly clinical inspection by an OV supplemented by an owner's declaration on the absence of clinical signs of disease prior to dispatch.

16. Dairy (8354)

[8354](#) replaces both 8285 & 8284 – dairy products from a category B country for human consumption and dairy products from a category C country for human consumption

Summary of main changes

- GB has been listed for the entry of raw milk and dairy products not subject to risk mitigating treatment to the EU.
- The new certificate is for dairy products that are required to undergo a pasteurisation process for entry, i.e the milk is sourced from a holding that is not officially free of Tuberculosis or Brucellosis. See point II.1.(e).
- For dairy products that have undergone a higher-level treatment (e.g UHT) by choice, and are currently moved on the 8284 certificate, they may now also use the new 8354 certificate.

17. Meat Products, treated bladders and intestines, rendered fats and greaves (8383, 8384, 8385)

[8383](#) replaces 8257 – meat preparations intended for human consumption

[8384](#) replaces 8255 – meat products and treated bladders or intestines including rendered fats and greaves not required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment. This EHC also replaces [8345](#) – rendered fats and greaves

[8385](#) is a new certificate for meat products intended for human consumption, including rendered animal fats and greaves, meat extracts, treated stomachs, bladders and intestines other than casings that are required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment

Summary of main changes

- The new EHC prohibits the re-export of EU origin meat products (e.g. chorizo produced in Spain or Parma ham produced in Italy) to the EU.
- For meat products required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment, the second attestation II.2.2 in 8385 requires meat products processed from poultry originating from a restricted zone where there has been a case of avian influenza or Newcastle disease. It must have undergone at least the 'specific

treatment D' (heat treatment of 70 degree) as specified in Annex XXVI to Regulation 2020/692.

- In the last attestation (point II.2.2 in 8385), it explains that 'specific treatment B' (e.g. tinned) should be applied if the meat product(s) originate in a different third country/zone of origin listed with a specific treatment for the relevant species of meat and is not approved to export fresh meat of the species of concern.

18. Fish, crustacean and molluscs (8361, 8364)

8361 replaces 8270 – this is to be used for live fish, live crustaceans and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption

8364 replaces 8249 – this is to be used for live bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption

Summary of main changes

- The most significant change concerns who is permitted to certify (sign) the EHC. Our interpretation of the EU rules is that if the product is of aquaculture origin, and **is intended for further processing in the EU**, and the species is listed in the legislation, an OV [rather than a Food Competent Certifying Officer] must certify. Therefore, an OV must certify when Part.II.2 of the EHC is not deleted. The list of species covered by this requirement is included in the Annex to EU regulation 2018/1882. Examples of listed fish and shellfish include named species of Salmon (e.g. Atlantic) and Trout (e.g. Rainbow), all decapod crustaceans, and European Flat Oysters.
- In addition, where certain named fish, or shellfish may act as a vector species, as they live in proximity to a listed species, they are also covered by this regulation. For example, the common edible cockle is named as a disease vector species for the European flat oyster and would require OV certification where they are in contact with (co-habiting or sharing a water supply) with European flat oysters.
- There is also a requirement for veterinary oversight of aquaculture premises to certify the animal health status of the site and in certain circumstances (for example the export of un-eviscerated listed dead fish from aquaculture) a requirement for clinical investigation within 72 hours of loading by an OV.
- Aquaculture establishments must be registered in GB, maintain records of up to 3 years regarding the species, categories and number of aquaculture animals on the establishment, their movement into and out the establishment and mortality in the establishment as set out in point II.2.2.1. All GB aquaculture establishments should already be authorised by CEFAS or Marine Scotland in compliance with the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) or (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

- When animals are transported in water, that water cannot be changed in a 3rd country not listed for entry to the EU, for the particular species and category of aquatic animal as set out in point II.2.6.1.
- Once certified and signed the EHC is now valid for 10 days. In case of transport by waterway/sea this period of 10 days may be extended by the length of the journey on water (point II.2.8).
- Businesses must list the name of species and number of animals in each container. Further details are in point II.2.7.1 – 2.7.2. (a – d).

19. Equines (8431, 8432, 8433)

[8431](#) replaces 8335 - equine animals not intended for slaughter

[8432](#) replaces 8337 - transit of equine animals not intended for slaughter

[8433](#) replaces 8334 - re-entry into the Union of registered horses for racing, competition and cultural events after temporary export for a period of not more than 30 days

Summary of main changes

- The new equine EHCs require a registration number for the place of dispatch of the equine being sent to the EU. Not all equine establishments are currently registered. Equine establishments will be able seek a CPH number from APHA if they don't already have one and that number will need to be included on the certificate. Exporters should register with APHA before 21 July 2021 if they want to export on or immediately after 21 August. This will apply not only to equine holdings, but also racecourses, other sporting venues, sales yards and other locations from which equines are loaded to depart GB. OV's will be able to use a letter of evidence from APHA provided to the owner when signing the certificate. **Further information on this process will be published shortly.**
- Under the AHR certificates, moves are no longer distinguished by whether they are permanent or temporary.
- Pre-export residency is now 40 days for all horses
- Pre-export residency requirements now refer to residency in country of origin (previously referred to residency in specific holding(/s) in country of origin).
- Pre-export isolation requirements have been removed for all registered horses (previously was only temporary registered moves) but require vet supervision for 30 days pre-export.
- No equines need an Equine Viral Arteritis test pre-export under the new certificates.
- All moves can now have Equine Infectious Anaemia testing done within 90 days of travel (previously this only applied to temporary moves of registered horses; all permanent moves and temporary moves of unregistered horses had to be tested within 30 days of export).

- The current EHCs contain separate declarations from the Captain of the exporting vessel/aeroplane relating to transport conditions. These are removed from the AHR certificates.

20. Germinal Products (8401, 8402, 8404, 8405, 8406, 8407, 8408, 8410)

[8401](#) *new certificate for semen of bovine animals collected after April 20th*

[8402](#) *new certificate for oocytes and embryos of bovine animals collected after April 20th*

[8404](#) *new certificate for semen of ovine and caprine animals collected after April 20th*

[8405](#) *new certificate for oocytes and embryos of ovine and caprine animals collected after April 20th*

[8406](#) *new certificate for semen of porcine animals collected after April 20th*

[8407](#) *new certificate for semen of equine animals collected after April 20th*

[8408](#) *new certificate for oocytes and embryos of equine animals collected after April 20th.*

[8403](#) *new combination certificate for semen, oocytes and embryos of bovine animals dispatched from a storage centre (replacing in part certificate 8211, bovine semen dispatched from a storage centre)*

Summary of main changes and actions required by approved establishments

The AHR makes a number of changes to the export conditions for germinal products collected after 20 April 2021 which are applicable across all species types. The requirements are outlined in Regulation (EU) [2016/429](#) and Delegated Regulation (EU) [2020/692](#). These regulations refer to detailed requirements in Delegated Regulation (EU) [2020/686](#).

- There is a requirement for **livestock donor animals**, except equines, to be **identified with an ISO compliant (alpha) country code**. This applies to germinal products collected after 20 April 2021. GB animals are identified with a 'UK' code by default but for ISO compliance would need to be identified with the code 'GB'. Additional tagging of donor animals may therefore be required. The ID requirement applies to all donor animals that germinal products are collected from (including those from which embryos are collected) and not all animals in the unit (i.e. non-working animals). Requirements for ISO code compliance applies to donor animals as referred to in Articles 21 and 81 to Regulation 2020/692 and Article 16 to Regulation 2020/686. Germinal products collected after 20 April 2021 must meet all the requirements of an approved establishment

including being identified with a GB ID. Any germinal products that do not comply with these requirements may only be used for domestic trade. Exporters may wish to export non-compliant germinal products by 21 August 2021 and make use of the transitional provisions by using the old certificates in the EU Directives.

- There is a requirement for straws or other packages containing germinal product to identify the **species donor animal in the marking**. Defra is confirming with the EU if reference to the unique approval number of the establishment alone is sufficient, but in the meantime we recommend establishments include the species reference on the marking of straws or other packages in any format that is suitable, e.g. POR for porcine, OVI for ovine, BOV for bovine, CAP for caprine. The exporter can choose how to do it subject to the over-arching aim to make the information clearer.
- **Existing establishments will need to comply with AHR export requirements.** Establishments must check they comply with relevant requirements in the AHR (Regulation 2020/692 and Regulation 2020/686). The Commission has automatically rolled over approved establishment lists from 21 April 2021 on the EU website, however APHA will be writing to germinal product establishments shortly, seeking confirmation of their compliance with the new requirements.
- Regarding Bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24), **GB has not been officially recognised by the EU as a BTV free territory** (in Annex II to Regulation 2021/404 concerning live ungulates). However, no specific animal health guarantees have been applied to GB for germinal products in Annex IX and Annex X in the same regulation. Defra is working urgently to ensure the UK is recognised as BTV free by the EU. In the meantime, until this is resolved, the Commission has confirmed GB does not have automatic recognition of BTV freedom and so Defra advise to certify the serological or antigen identification test attestation (either of the last two options) in the 8401 or 8404 EHCs. The fourth option maybe certified if the centre can demonstrate vector protection requirements are met as equivalent to the requirements stipulated in Part F of Annex XII to Regulation 2020/692 for confined establishments.
- Storage centres may store multi-species and types of germinal products so long as cross contamination and hygiene conditions are complied with. Germinal products from different species can be transported in mixed containers.
- Internal Movement Certificates (IMC) are being developed by Defra and APHA to facilitate internal transfer within GB of germinal products from different approved centres (e.g. from semen collection centre to germinal product storage centre). These IMCs must accompany the EHC and consignment to the EU BCP. The IMC templates will be published alongside the Notes for Guidance and EHCs for storage and processing.
- Defra has confirmed with the Commission that short-term resident bovines/caprine/ovine animals do not need exit testing if not captured in annual tests due to being short-term residents.

a) Bovine germinal products

- There is a 6-month residency requirement for donor animals in GB and the certificate does not permit the animals to be imported from an EU approved third country during the 6 months.
- The AHR EHCs clarifies donor bovine animals of embryos/oocytes have to originate from TB (and brucellosis and Enzootic Bovine Leukosis) free holdings and to never have been kept on holdings of a lower health status.
- The AHR EHCs introduce specific testing requirements for *B.abortus*, *B.melitensis* and *B.suis*. Although please note that these are already covered under the routine tests performed at APHA Weybridge.

b) Porcine germinal products

- There is a 3-month residency requirement for donor animals in GB and the certificate does not permit the animals to be imported from an EU approved third country during the 3 months.
- For donor boars, Porcine Reproductive Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) testing will be required for first and second series testing as well as routine testing. A PCR test is required for PRRS at second series in addition to a serological test. Serological testing is only required for first series and routine testing on semen collection centre.
- There is a new requirement for Classical Swine Fever (CSF) testing to be included as part of the second series of tests.
- The AHR EHCs introduces specific testing requirements for *Brucella suis*.

c) Ovine/Caprine germinal products

- There is a 6-month residency requirement for donor animals in GB and the certificate does not permit the animals to be imported from an EU approved third country during the 6 months.
- The AHR EHCs introduce specific testing requirements for *Brucella suis*
- There is a requirement for caprine animals to be TB tested annually as per requirements in the health certificate referring to compliance with conditions laid down in Part 1-3 of Part 1 of Annex II of 2020/688.
- The AHR EHCs introduce specific testing requirements for *B.abortus*, *B.melitensis* and *B.suis*. Although please note that these are already covered under the routine tests performed at APHA Weybridge.

21. AHR changes to other live animal certificates for commodities previously covered by Balai (8453, 8454)

- **Captive birds:** A new certificate [8453](#) for hatching eggs of captive birds. As currently drafted, the legislation now includes racing pigeons as a type of captive bird (in addition to birds of prey and certain pet birds).
- **Dogs, cats and ferrets:** 1 new certificate for *commercial* movements ([8454](#) replaces 8218). For dogs, if tapeworm treatment is required, the time window has been reduced from 24-120 hours before arrival to 24-48 hours before arrival.

EHCs available on 29 July 2021 - key changes

The following EHCs will be available on form finder from 29 July 2021 so you can familiarise yourself with them. You will need to use these EHCs for goods being exported from 21 August 2021.

22. Live animals for slaughter - bovines, ovines, caprines, porcines (8447, 8449, 8451)

8447 replaces 8224 - bovine animals intended for slaughter

8449 replaces 8221 - ovine and caprine animals intended for slaughter

8451 replaces 8219 - porcine animals intended for slaughter

- Please see point 6 above for more information on newly introduced requirements for livestock.

23. Poultry (8437)

8437 replaces 8235 - breeding poultry other than ratites and productive poultry other than ratites

Summary of main changes

- The AHR continues to require live poultry exports to come from approved premises. This is not new – the GB Poultry Health Scheme and the NIPHAS in Northern Ireland are based on the same principles. Although there are no drastically new requirements regarding baseline biosecurity and pathogen surveillance to be carried out on these premises, the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) is being reviewed to accommodate the additional details required by the AHR. This includes a requirement to carry out environmental sampling to monitor the presence of bacteria in hatcheries. We will be contacting PHS members directly on these requirements.
- The AHR certificate for breeding poultry introduces a requirement for separation from animals of a lower health status for six weeks prior to export.

- The AHR certificates specify Competent Authority control over establishments of origin and certain record keeping requirements.
- For breeding poultry, the new certificate reduces the requirement for time spent on the holding of origin prior to export from 6 weeks to 30 days for poultry for the re-stock of game supplies.

24. Equines (8434)

8434 replaces 8336 - re-entry into the Union of registered horses for competition after temporary export for a period of not more than 90 days to participate in equestrian events organised under the auspices of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI)

- Please see point 13 above for more information.

25. Germinal Products

There are new format certificates for all other grandfathered germinal products collected prior to 21 April 2021 and the introduction of AHR. There is one new germinal products certificate for consignments of oocytes and embryos of porcine animals (8412) allowing trade in these goods with the EU for the first time. Defra will make this certificate available when industry requires it as the technology for it advances.

- Please see point 14 above for further information.

26. Animals from confined establishments (8456, 8457, 8458, 8459, 8417)

8456 replaces 8225 - animals listed in Section 1 of Chapter 19 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) C(2020)8101

8457 replaces 8226 - animals listed in section 1 of Chapter 20 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) C(2020)8101 that are originating from and intended for a confined establishment

8458 replaces 8227 - animals listed in Section 1 of Chapter 21 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) C(2020)8101 that are originating from and intended for a confined establishment

8459 replaces 8226 - family Hippopotamidae

8417 is a new certificate for consignments of semen, oocytes and embryos of terrestrial animals kept at confined establishment which were collected or produced, processed and stored in accordance 2020/692

Summary of main changes

- The AHR repeals and replaces the Balai Directive and introduces a new type of establishment called a “confined establishment” which has similar requirements to establishments that were previously “Balai approved”.
- This requires the approval/re-approval of relevant establishments as “confined establishments” in order for the following new certificates to be used:
 - Ungulates moving from and to a confined establishment: 4 certificates (8456, 8457, 8458, 8459)
 - Germinal products collected from animals kept at confined establishments: 1 certificate (8147)

27. AHR changes to other live animal certificates for commodities previously covered by Balai

- **Captive birds:** 8460 replaces 8231
- **Bumble bees and queen honeybees:** 2 new certificates - bumblebees and queen honeybees.