



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 30/21

Movement Assistance Scheme - Extension of Scheme and Further Expansions Announced

Date issued: 12 July 2021

Purpose

To update Local Authorities (LAs) on the continuation of the [Movement Assistance Scheme](#) and further expansions that come into effect from **1 July 2021**.

Background

The Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS) was launched in December 2020 to support traders and certifiers. MAS means traders do not need to pay certain certification costs for moving agri-food goods, with the costs incurred by those certifying the products being reimbursed by government up to a set amount. The scheme also includes a dedicated helpline 0330 0416 580 for general enquiries for moving agri-foods from GB to NI.

Action

Defra has announced today an extension of MAS to the end of December 2023 and scheme expansion that will help support traders and certifiers moving agri-food products from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI).

Continuation of Scheme

Following a recent review, certifiers can continue to claim from the Government some of the direct costs for checking and issuing export health certificates (EHCs) and certain certificates for agri-foods moving from GB-NI, including certificates for high-risk foods of non-animal origin (HRFNAO).

The traders of the following HRFNAO products do not need to pay official certification costs (including lab sampling costs):

1. Products listed in [Annex 2 of regulation 2019/1793](#)¹ (*examples incl. but not limited to: nuts, dried spices and dried fruits*)
2. Products originating from countries listed in [Annex 1 of regulation 2020/1158](#)—those at risk due to radioactive elements following the Chernobyl accident (*examples incl. but not limited to: mushrooms, wild berries and other wild fruits*)

The official certification costs for the HRFNAO products listed will be incurred by LAs. LAs should continue to invoice the Government for these costs.

The Government continues to monitor the scheme, to determine how best to provide ongoing support to traders. The scheme will close in December 2023.

Expansion of Scheme

From 1 July 2021, traders will receive financial support in new ways:

- MAS will offer support with the cost of certification requirements under the NI Protocol. This support includes the audit inspection cost incurred to register with PHEATS (Plant Health Exports Audited Trader Scheme) and ongoing audit costs, for the export of fruit, vegetables and cut flowers from GB to NI. It also includes costs related to testing sheep for scrapie as required for certification.
- From 1 August 2021, traders will additionally receive financial support for the costs related to ISTA (International Seed Testing Association) sample testing and certification required for all individual seed lots traded GB to NI.
- From 1 August 2021, the government will look to support businesses with meeting new costs for exporters in GB who move organics solely to NI, and NI importers who face new costs to receive these goods from GB. These expansions do not affect LAs.
- In addition, MAS will also continue to explore the options to cover costs related to Health Attestations. More details will be announced shortly.

MAS Reimbursement Process for Official Certificates

The process for certification of HRFNAO products from GB to NI does not change. For (1) the high-level process LAs should follow for the reimbursement of official certification costs, (2) a list of Frequently Asked Questions on certificates for HRFNAO and (3) a sample invoice, see [APHA Briefing Note 12/21](#).

¹ Annex 1 of regulation 2019/1793 goods are not covered by MAS as these goods are not subject to certification of lab sampling requirements. Traders therefore do not incur a cost for these elements.