



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 30/23

Extension of the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)

Date issued: 13 December 2023

Purpose

To inform OV's and FCCOs that the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS) has been extended until December 2025.

Background

GEFS facilitates exports from food business operators with steady supply chains, by using 30-day Support Attestations to help in the certification process. The scheme was previously [set to end on 31 December 2023](#).

Defra has secured a two-year extension, following discussions with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), representatives from Devolved Administrations, APHA, and other interested parties.

Defra will work on several improvements to the scheme during the two-year extension period as outlined below:

- Clearer guidance and information for Certifying Officers, exporters and suppliers, including more information on audit processes;
- Enhanced checks on Support Attestations and on in-person visits;
- Exploration and analysis of alternative systems; and
- A full evaluation of the scheme.

Defra staff will be conducting consultations in this two-year period and will issue further notices accordingly. The full evaluation of the scheme will be considered in summer 2025, allowing for a six-month closing down period to December 2025, if required.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Further Information

If you have any questions about the scheme or the review, please contact:
gefsteam@apha.gov.uk

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