



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 31/20

Products of Animal Origin - Listing of UK Establishments by Trading Partners

Changes to Listing Codes and Associated Matters Information Circular to Exporters and Certifying Officers in the UK

APHA / DAERA / Defra

Date issued: 29 September 2020

Purpose

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

These changes apply to beef, pork, dairy, fish products and live aquatic products exported to CHINA.

The date of change will be 1st OCTOBER 2020 for DAIRY (EHC 6288) and LIVE AQUATIC (EHC 7432 and EHC 7469) products only.

The dates of change for meat and fish products will be communicated later.

Background

In the current context of the UK preparing to leave the EU, references to the “EC” need to be removed from exporting documents. These changes were implemented for all other countries maintaining approved lists in 2019.

Currently, the unique identification codes for UK establishments that are approved and listed for POAO exports to China 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 3 months from 1st October until 31st December, during which both formats will be accepted to allow for consignments in transit and any initial oversights.

Action

Exporters:

To be aware that the approval codes by which premises approved by China are listed will be changing.

Certifying officers:

Certificates requiring entries for approval/registration numbers of establishments must be completed using the format of current or new listing details, as necessary at the time of certification.

The new listing will become in force as soon as the updated lists are published by China or at any time mutually agreed with China.

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.

Further Information

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 changes to Health/Identification Marks.

For animal product commodities to countries which do not require specific listing, where Export Health Certificates (EHCs) include entries for approval/registration numbers of UK establishments, such entries will also be made in the new format from 1st January 2021.

APHA Email exports@apha.gov.uk.