



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 33/21

Update on Animal Health Regulation: New EHCs published

Date issued: 2 August 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. Defra published 31 AHR EHCs on 30 July including those for live animals, (including those from confined establishments), germinal products and captive birds. Details about the main changes are below.
4. We published 42 new EHCs from 30 June. EHCs for composite products changed in April, and a small number of new EHCs were introduced at that time. The new EHCs for all products of animal origin, live animals and germinal products will need to be used from 21 August 2021.

Further information

5. More details about the 42 AHR EHCs published in June is available in [this briefing note](#).

6. Further information on composite products – see this [briefing note](#).
7. Defra held webinars for OV's last month on the AHR and new EHCs. Please see the POAO and germinal products [slides](#) and [narrative](#) and the [fish slides](#) and [narrative](#) from these webinars.
8. Defra is holding two further webinars for OV's with a panel of experts and there is further information in [this briefing note](#) including details on how to register.
9. If you have any questions about the AHR and new EHCs please contact: traders@defra.gov.uk

Timing

10. Traders can start to use the new EHCs on EHC Online as soon as they are available. The EHCs published previously, as well as the 31 published on 30 July, will be available on EHC Online from Monday 2 August. The new EHCs will need to be used for all goods exported to the EU from 21 August 2021. We have informed traders that they can start using the new EHCs as soon as they are available.
11. The existing EHCs will be switched off on 20 August. From 2pm on 20 August traders will no longer be able to apply for a new certificate and certifiers will be unable to access or amend outstanding applications on EHC Online.
12. Any certificate applied for prior to that time can still accompany goods if it is signed before 11.59pm on August 20 and reaches the destination within the EU before 20 October 2021.

New EHCs – key changes

10. 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

Summary of main changes

- Introduce 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 recognition by the EU, although we are currently in discussions with them about our status. Therefore, the pre-export testing or vaccination will be required for susceptible animals until the UK receives official recognition of BTV freedom.
- Introduce 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 annual testing of the herd and specific diagnostic methods referenced on the [EURL website](#). The EU will be amending Regulation 2020/688 to allow TB breakdown herds to be lifted from export restrictions subject to negative skin tests. The date the amendment comes into force is unknown but should be in 1-2 months. Further guidance on this is available in the relevant Notes for Guidance.

11. Poultry (8437, 8442)

[8437](#) replaces 8235 - *breeding poultry other than ratites and productive poultry other than ratites*

[8442](#) replaces 8239 – *poultry for slaughter*

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.

12. Germinal Products

- There are new format certificates for all 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.
- Certificates for germinal products dispatched from a processing establishment have also been published. These are a new class of germinal product establishment, which undertake novel processing including sex selection. APHA will release guidance on approvals for these new establishments shortly.

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

[8456](#) replaces 8225 – ruminants

8457 replaces 8226 – suidae and tayasuidae (porcine animals) (this will be published shortly)

[8458](#) replaces 8227 - elephants tapirs and rhinos (this will be published shortly)

8459 replaces 8226 – zoo Hippopotamidae (this will be published shortly)

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 (this will be published shortly)

Summary of main changes

- The AHR repeals and replaces the Balai Directive in the EU and introduces a new type of establishment called a “confined establishment” which has similar

requirements for establishments that were previously “Balai approved”, but only covers certain ungulates.

- 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 (8417)
- If you are not currently approved or have not been re-approved by APHA, please contact APHA so that arrangements can be made.
- Other animals would need to be moved under other legislation or the national rules of the importing Member State.
- Balai approvals remain in place for domestic moves and import purposes.

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

- **Captive birds:** [8460](#) replaces 8231