



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 34/24

Checking ET200 and/or the EHCO system before signing Support Attestations and EHCs for GEFS products

Date issued: 08 October 2024

Purpose

To provide guidance on how to check if a Support Attestation (SA) or Export Health Certificate (EHC) can be issued under the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS), based on recent updates to the scheme.

Background

GEFS facilitates exports from approved food business operators with steady supply chains, by using 30-day SAs to help in the certification process. Based on feedback from RCVS, industry and OV's, Defra has begun making improvements to the scheme. Some of these changes may impact how OV's currently sign SAs and EHCs.

Information

1. After a recent data audit of GEFS members, several have ended their membership, for example, because they no longer use the scheme; are suppliers rather than exporters; or were no longer in contact with Defra. The list of approved GEFS members ([ET200](#)) has now been updated to reflect these changes.
2. To make it easier for certifying officers to identify EHCs requested using GEFS, a question was added to Export Health Certificates Online (EHCO) system for applicable EHCs.

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.

Action

- Before signing a SA, registered veterinarians, FCCOs and CSOs should always check [ET200](#) to ensure the exporter is still an approved member of the scheme.
- Before issuing an EHC requested using GEFS, certifying officers should also check [ET200](#) to ensure the exporter is still an approved member of the scheme.
- To confirm if an EHC is requested using GEFS:
 - On the EHCO certifier service dashboard, click “Review certificate.”
 - Click on the “APHA processing information” tab.
 - Check the answer to the last question, “Will this consignment be part of the Groupage Exports Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)?” (See screenshot)
- If the question has been answered “No” but you are aware that the EHC is being issued using GEFS, please notify the exporter to ensure the question is answered correctly in any future applications.

Review these answers for certificate 24/2/

Export health certificate:

Exporter's certificate reference:

Certificate information **APHA processing information**

Information needed by APHA

This information has been provided by the exporter and cannot be changed

Your reference for this application

Number of certificates

Select the certifier practice to include with your application

What is the name of the exporter?

In which region will the certification take place?

What is the planned export date of the consignment?

Will this consignment be part of the Groupage Exports Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)? Yes

Further Information

For further questions or clarification, exporters, suppliers and certifying officers should contact the GEFS team at APHA at gefsteam@apha.gov.uk

APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle, email: exports@apha.gov.uk Telephone: 03000 300 201

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