



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 38/21

Certification of Products of Animal Origin for export to Canada

Date issued: 07 September 2021

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OV's) of the need for increased vigilance in respect of certifying products of animal origin for export to Canada.

Background

Non-compliances for a number of UK food (meat/products) consignments have been observed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in recent months, which have resulted in the de-listing of Food Business Operators (FBOs) for export, as well as detainment, return or destruction of the consignments.

It is imperative that FBOs exporting to Canada and officials certifying product for export to Canada uphold full compliance with the requirements outlined in the relevant Export Health Certificate (EHC), Notes for Guidance (NFGs) and the other requirements of CFIA, such as the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) as they apply to the commodity/product/consignment in question.

Particularly, FBOs must ensure that the specifications of the meat for export as laid down by CFIA, which the Canadian importer needs to comply with under SFCR, are strictly adhered to, including specification/labelling requirements. FBOs must provide OVs with the necessary assurances, which may include a company declaration of compliance with the above terms.

Actions

As with any export certification, OVs must ensure they are aware of the export health certification requirements before signing an EHC. OVs must also be confident that the

product meets the import requirements, that the FBOs in the supply chain are listed by CFIA to export that product, and that the supporting documentation is correct.

Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in de-listing of FBOs for export by CFIA, and in detainment or destruction of the products, bringing with it associated costs.

Please note that some NFGs for exports of products of animal origin, specifically meat and poultry products, to Canada will be strengthened in the coming weeks, with a focus on increasing compliance.

Further Information

If you have any questions, please contact exports@apha.gov.uk.