



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 42/21

Movement Assistance Scheme: Reimbursements now available for Support Attestations

Date issued: 27 September 2021

Purpose

To update Certifying Officers (COs) on the [Movement Assistance Scheme \(MAS\)](#) policy change that comes into effect from 27 September 2021 allowing traders to claim reimbursement from the Government for GB-NI declared support attestations (SAs).

Background

Under the Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS), the Government currently reimburses certifiers for some of the direct costs of certifying agri-food goods being moved from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI).

From 27 September 2021, where SAs are clearly required to provide assurance for a CO (either an APHA authorised Official Veterinarian (OV) or Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO)) to issue an EHC, the costs for producing the attestations will be reimbursable up to a set amount. This will be reimbursed to traders directly through MAS.

Supporting Traders with certification costs

Traders who require SAs to support the certification of agri-foods moving between GB-NI can receive financial support for some of the direct costs paid to veterinarians or FCCOs (who may complete some SAs) for checking and issuing the attestations. Traders can claim up to £150 excluding VAT for each GB-NI declared SA.

Traders will need to pay the invoice from the veterinarian or FCCO and then invoice the government for the costs of the service.

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SAs are not required if the agri-food goods moving from GB to NI are not subject to the new NI Protocol requirements.

Eligible SAs for reimbursement

Only GB-NI declared SAs are eligible for reimbursement.

The steps for obtaining a SA valid for reimbursement are:

1. The trader talks to the CO (OV or FCCO who is due to sign the export certification) to determine whether the goods require a SA to enable them to complete the certificate.
2. For the SA to be eligible for reimbursement, it must have a declaration printed in the header that says “Valid for GB-NI trade use only”
3. The trader must arrange for a veterinarian or where permitted an FCCO to conduct the necessary checks and sign the required SA with “Valid for GB-NI trade use only” printed in the header.
4. The veterinarian/FCCO invoices the costs of providing the SA to the trader. The trader that pays the invoice then applies for reimbursement from the government.
5. A certificate number of a GB-NI EHC linked to the good covered by the SA must be secured from the relevant exporter.

Evidence required for reimbursement

To be eligible for reimbursement, traders must complete the evidence table in the application form on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) to support each application for reimbursement of SA costs and attach the required pieces of evidence (c and d):

- a) Unique SA number for each SA;
- b) The export health certificate (EHC) number linked to the goods covered by your SA from the relevant exporter;
- c) Copy of the SA(s) that states ‘Valid for GB-NI trade use only’ in the header of each page; and
- d) Copy of invoice(s) from the veterinarian/FCCO, including cost breakdown (including any associated travel time charged).

How traders submit an application

Traders should submit applications to MAS_SAINvoices@apha.gov.uk on a at least a monthly basis, to include all GB-NI SAs where certification checks have been completed and additional evidence secured. For new traders, upon securing approval for their first application, they will then receive an email to complete a one time (per year) set up

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process to apply for a purchase order number to use on subsequent invoices. For details of what should be included, refer to the application form on [GOV.UK](#) and the process flowchart included within this document.

More information

[Guidance on GOV.UK](#)

[SA process map on GB-NI Trader Showcase](#)

For queries related to SAs, please contact APHA via email or phone:

MAS_SAINVOICES@apha.gov.uk

0208 026 5644

Do not contact the general MAS helpline for queries related to SAs – they will not be able to help.

For more information on MAS, visit

[Movement Assistance Scheme on APHA Vet Gateway](#)

[Movement Assistance Scheme on GOV.UK](#)

For more information on the use of Support Attestations see [here](#)