



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 53/21

Update on Animal Health Regulation and revisions to Animal By-Product EHCs

Date issued: 17 December 2021

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) on updates to the Animal Health Regulation (AHR) Export Health Certificates (EHCs).
2. To make OVs aware of revisions to EHCs for certain Animal By-Products (ABP).

Background

3. From 15 January 2022, traders will need to use the Animal Health Regulation (AHR) Export Health Certificates (EHCs) for goods exported from Great Britain (GB) to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland if an EHC is required.
4. The majority of AHR EHCs have been available for use on EHC Online since August 2021.
5. The EU has also updated a small number of ABP EHCs. These changes are unrelated to the AHR, but the revised certificates are now available to use on EHC Online.

Timing for using the AHR EHCs

6. The old EHCs will be withdrawn from EHC Online on 14 January. From 1pm on that date traders will no longer be able to raise new applications for these EHCs.
7. Any in-progress exports using the non-AHR EHCs will still be valid for entry into the EU so long as the EHC is signed before 11.59 pm on 14 January, and the consignment arrives at the point of entry in the EU by 15 March 2022.

Update on AHR EHCs

Live animal EHCs

8. The EU has confirmed its intention to recognise GB as free of bluetongue in legislation. The live animal EHCs 8446, 8447, 8448, 8449 and 8452 for live cattle, sheep and goats which were removed from EHC online until this was resolved will be made available again shortly. We will keep you updated on this.

Dairy EHCs

9. The EU has confirmed its intention to update the AHR dairy EHCs in line with recent changes in legislation on the residency requirements for animals producing milk present in dairy products.
10. We have proposed to the Commission that the AHR dairy EHCs be certified in line with this intention as an interim solution. Dairy EHCs 8354, 8353 and 8358, which were removed from EHC Online, will be made available again once we have confirmation from the Commission.
11. We will let you know when the EHCs are available and how they should be certified from 15 January.

Hatching eggs

12. The requirement for the hatching eggs AHR EHCs is for an OV to inspect the flocks of origin 24 hrs before loading for dispatch. The Commission has signalled their intention to amend this requirement and have updated the associated legislation.
13. We are proposing an interim arrangement to allow certification of the existing AHR certificate model and will update the Notes for Guidance once an agreement on this has been reached with the EU. Alternatively, if a revised EHC is made available in time by the EU we will make this available on EHC online.

Fish EHCs

14. Defra has recently received further clarification on EHC [8361](#) – this covers live fish, live crustaceans and products of animal origin from those animals intended for human consumption.
15. The EU has clarified the definition of further processing in the EU to include any anatomical change to the fish or shellfish prior to final sale to the consumer – this includes bleeding, gutting, filleting and scaling. The 'Notes for Guidance' for this EHC will be updated to reflect the clarification.
16. We have informed traders that if fish, shellfish or fishery products will undergo any further anatomical change that produces waste in the EU, then the 'further processing' box must be checked. If this box is checked, and a trader's

consignment contains fish or shellfish listed in [the legislation](#) (for example Atlantic Salmon) is intended for further processing **and is also** from an aquaculture source or is hand gathered, then the EHC must be signed by an OV.

17. However, if the fish is wild caught and landed onto a fishing vessel or is not a species listed in the legislation, and for human consumption, then it can also be certified by a Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO).

18. **Only one of the four options in section I.20 of the EHC must be checked** – for example the ‘further processing’ box or the ‘products for human consumption’.

Re-export EHC

19. The new EHCs for a number products of animal origin, including meat products, meat preparations, fishery products and dairy products cannot be used to re-export EU origin product back to the EU. However, the EU have recently introduced a new EHC, [8461](#), for the re-export of EU origin product held in storage in GB.

20. We are continuing to discuss the re-export of EU origin product that cannot use this new EHC with the EU and will issue further communications as soon as we receive clarity.

Animal by-products - rendered fats EHCs

21. EHC [8301](#) has been updated to remove the requirement to add a marker to rendered fats not for human consumption from Category 3 animal by-products.

22. [8311](#) and [8312](#) have also been updated to provide an alternative to the requirement for these animal by-products to originate from livestock that comply with a 40-day residency in their last holding. The Notes for Guidance explain how the alternative conditions can be satisfied. These EHCs are for animal by-products used in pet food or trade samples.

Further Information

- [Briefing note on AHRs](#)
- [Briefing note on Composite products](#)
- [FAQs for certifiers on AHR](#)
- If you have any questions about the AHR EHCs please contact: traders@defra.gov.uk