



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 55/21

# Certifying Officers to Obtain Avian Influenza Disease Clearance for certain EHCs from the APHA Vet Gateway and advice on certification of products containing poultry meat obtained from and produced in restricted zones.

**Date issued: 17 December 2021 v1.2, updated 20 December 2021 and 9 February 2022 and 11 November 2022**

This Briefing Note replaces 01/21 published on 8 January 2021. Changes are highlighted.

### Purpose

- To confirm to OV's that, as the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) will not be issuing Avian Influenza disease clearances for certain Export Health Certificates (EHC) for the EU and Northern Ireland (NI), certifying Officers will be required to obtain their own clearance for certain EHCs from an interactive map that can be accessed via the APHA Vet Gateway.
- To inform OV's that areas of Great Britain (GB) that are free of AI are classed by the EU for fresh meat and meat products as **GB-1** zones and areas with an AI outbreak are regionalised by the EU into **GB-2** zones. These zones are detailed in the [interactive map](#) and in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2021/404](#) (as amended).
- To inform OV's that for egg and egg product export for human consumption continue to be listed by the EU as **GB-0** zones (without regionalisation) but some trade restrictions still apply to eggs and egg products, as detailed below.
- To inform OV's of the impact of AI on the certification to the EU or NI of consignments of fresh meat of poultry and game birds, meat preparations, meat products and composites containing poultry meat originating in, slaughtered in or processed in GB-2 zones.

- To inform OV's of the impact of AI on the certification to the EU or NI of consignments of eggs or egg products for human consumption where the farm of origin is in a restricted zone.

## Background

- Exports from Great Britain (GB) to the EU and movement to NI require EHCs which will be issued to Certifying Officers through the EHC Online service. More information about this service is available for Certifying Officers on the [APHA Vet Gateway](#).
- [APHA Briefing Note 38/20](#) issued on 10 December 2020 explained that Certifying Officers would be able to obtain their own disease clearance for certain EHCs for trade to the EU and NI post transition.
- Due to ongoing Avian Influenza cases it will be necessary for Certifying Officers to obtain additional clearances in certain EHCs for Avian Influenza using an [interactive map for GB](#) and that can also be accessed via a link on the APHA Vet Gateway. The AI situation is subject to change, so OV's should refer to the interactive map for each new consignment.
- Part 1 of Annexes XIV, XV and XIX to [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 2021/404 \(as amended\)](#) provides a list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which fresh poultry meat, and poultry products and eggs may be imported into and transit through the EU.
- Certifying Officers will need to obtain data from exporters on all flock(s) of origin/holding(s) of origin, and if applicable, slaughterhouse(s), of eggs, poultry and poultry products and plot the postcode(s) on the interactive map. This data will include the date that the poultry or eggs left the holding of origin and the date of slaughter or further processing. The status of these premises (within a restricted or GB-2 zone) on this date is critical for eligibility for export.
- If all flock(s) of origin/holding(s) of origin, and if applicable, slaughterhouse(s), processing or storage facilities of eggs, poultry and poultry products are **outside** all HPAI 10km surveillance zones on the relevant dates, the eggs/poultry/poultry products are eligible for export.
- The Notes for Guidance (NFG) available on [EHC Form Finder](#) have been updated and advise where the interactive map can be used to obtain disease clearance for HPAI for the EHCs listed in the below Appendix. Any additional EHCs that can be routed to use this method for HPAI clearance will be updated in the Appendix and NFG updated accordingly.
- The requirement to restrict exports of poultry meat, meat preparations, meat products and composite products from within the 10km zones will remain in place

for at least 90 days. Once the EU has notified Defra that it has opened the relevant GB-2 zone it will be removed from the interactive map and products originating, slaughtered, or processed within the zone after that date are eligible for export.

- Additional guidance on the Regional code (GB-0 / GB-1 / GB-2 as detailed in section 2 above) to enter in section I.8 of the EHC and the health attestation can be obtained in the Notes for Guidance of the relevant certificate.

## Detailed Guidance - Certification of poultry/game bird meat, meat preparations, meat products and composite products

15. Fresh meat, meat preparations, meat products and composite products containing poultry meat are subject to restrictions as a result of the imposition of GB-2 zones. OVs should follow the guidance below when certifying these products

### 16. Fresh meat of poultry and game birds – EHCs 8291, 8296, 8371, 8372

- Fresh meat from farms within GB-2 zones can't be exported to the EU or moved to NI within the closing and opening dates of the GB-2 zones.
- Where the slaughterhouse **and cutting plant** of the fresh meat is within a GB-2 zone the meat cannot be exported if the poultry or game bird is slaughtered within the closing and opening dates of the GB-2 zone. This applies even if the farm of origin is in a GB-1 zone.
- **There is also a requirement that the poultry from which the fresh meat originates have remained in the GB-1 zone since hatching. Meat from poultry that originated from chicks hatched in a hatchery situated in a GB-2 restricted zone and moved to a farm in a GB-1 unrestricted zone cannot be exported to the EU.**
- **All premises of origin **of fresh meat** (e.g. hatchery, farm of origin, slaughterhouse/cutting/ packaging/storage premises as applicable) have to be located in GB-1 zone. **If a fully packaged product is solely stored in a GB-2 zone cold store, but otherwise entirely produced and packaged in GB-1 zone then it is eligible for export.****
- If birds were from a farm that was in a GB-1 zone at the time of slaughter, but subsequently is in a GB-2 zone at the time of export (e.g. frozen product where a zone has been closed due to an outbreak within 10km of the farm of origin) the meat is eligible for export, assuming it is not ineligible due to the slaughterhouse or cutting plant being in a GB-2 zone at the time of slaughter or cutting respectively.
- All meat to be exported using EHCs 8371 and 8372 must be strictly segregated from meat that does not comply with requirements for entry into the EU during slaughter and cutting and until packing/loading for export. **This means** that a slaughterhouse or cutting plants processing meat **not eligible** for export (e.g., for domestic purposes) **must:**

- Keep this meat separate from meat eligible for export - either in a completely separate space or with processing undertaken at a separate time
- Parts of the slaughterhouse/cutting plant and equipment (or any other item) used in the slaughter/cutting process must be cleaned and disinfected before processing of export eligible meat.
- Slaughterhouses and cutting plants processing GB-2 origin meat for domestic purposes should have robust processes in place already to ensure this segregation.

They should also have robust traceability measures in place to identify meat not eligible for export throughout processing.

Meat exported using EHCs 8371 and 8372 must also come from birds which have not passed through GB-2 zones during transport to the slaughterhouse. This should be evidenced to the certifying OV in the format of a transporter/FBO declaration. This does not need to be unique to the product being certified but should relate to the specific load. This is not a requirement of EHC 8296 (the pre-Animal Health Regulation poultry meat certificate). The EU have requested Member States show flexibility if pre-AHR EHCs are used until April. 8296 remains available for use but exporters should check that the relevant BCP is willing to accept it before using it.

#### **17. Meat preparations – EHCs 8256, 8257 and 8383**

- Meat preparations must meet the same animal health requirements as for fresh meat exports.
- Fresh meat from a farm or slaughterhouse or cutting plant located in a GB-2 zone is not eligible for export between the closing and opening dates of the zone as part of a meat preparation.
- Meat preparations cannot be exported from processing facilities or cold stores within a
- GB-2 zone during the closing and opening dates of the zone, even if the farm or origin and slaughterhouse were in a GB-1 zone.

#### **18. Meat products – EHCs 8254, 8255, 8384 and 8385**

1. Meat products may not contain fresh meat originating from a farm within a GB-2 zone dispatched to slaughter within 30 days the closure of that GB-2 Zone. This applies regardless of the treatment of the product. After 30 days, providing the farm has not been affected by a more recent GB-2 zone, the meat from these farms is eligible for export provided it has been subject to treatment D (as per [Annex XXVI of Regulation 2020/692](#)).
2. Where the slaughterhouse of the meat used in the meat product is within a GB-2 zone, the meat product must be subject to treatment D in order to be eligible for export.

3. If the cutting plant or establishment processing the meat product, or cold store storing the meat product, is in a GB-2 zone then the meat product must be subject to at least Treatment D in order to be eligible for export.

#### **19. Composite products – EHCs 9350,8351**

- The same rules and restrictions outlined above for meat products also apply to meat products in composite products.
- The location of the establishment manufacturing the composite product is not relevant.

For example, composite products produced at an establishment manufacturing in a GB-2 zone, using pre-processed POAO originating in GB-1 zones, will remain eligible for export.

- Composite products can contain both GB-1 origin meat products subject to a minimum of treatment A and GB-2 origin meat products subject to a minimum of treatment D.

#### **20. Eggs and egg products for human consumption – EHCs, 8359, 8360**

- Eggs collected from birds on farms that are within 10km of an establishment infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) cannot be exported if they are collected within 30 days of the outbreak. OVs can check this using the same interactive map as for fresh meat exports by counting 30 days from the date of confirmation but should note that, for eggs and egg products, the areas within the 10km zones continue to be listed by the EU as “GB-0” zones rather than “GB-2”.
- Egg products made from the eggs referred to above are eligible for export provided the eggs are not collected from birds on a farm which is an infected premises within 30 days of an outbreak of HPAI and, if collected from birds on a farm which is not an infected premises but within 10km of which there has been an outbreak within 30 days, have been sufficiently heat treated to mitigate AI risk (see specific heat treatment options provided in the certificate).

#### **21. Northern Ireland Origin Meat**

- Fresh poultry meat produced in NI in a designated slaughterhouse and derived from poultry originating from a farm in a Surveillance Zone (SZ) in NI, shall, for the purpose for export from GB to EU as part of a meat preparation, meat product or composite product, be treated as having the equivalent status as poultry meat derived from poultry originating from farms in a GB1 zone.
- This means no specific heat treatment need be applied when NI SZ origin poultry meat is further processed in GB into meat products for export from GB to EU as

long as the processing/storage takes place in a GB-1 zone. Similarly, meat originating from an NI SZ can be used in the production of meat products in GB within the 30 days following the closure of the zone.

- This applies regardless of the zone of location of the slaughterhouse, as all poultry slaughterhouses in NI have been designated to allow export of fresh meat bearing an oval ID mark (non-PZ flock origin) to EU.
- If the NI SZ meat is processed or stored in an establishment in a GB-2 zone, the requirements outlined for a product subject to processing and storage in a GB-2 zone are applicable.
- Fresh poultry meat produced in NI in a designated slaughterhouse and derived from poultry originating from a farm in a Protection Zone (PZ) in NI can be moved to GB for use on the national UK market, and will bear a special Identification Mark indicating its restricted use within the UK.
- An interactive map of [AI zones in Northern Ireland is available here](#).
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## 22. Closing and opening dates

The closing date is the day at which a GB-2 zone is identified, and exports must stop for certain products. Trade restrictions start on the day the zone “closes”.

The opening date is the day at which exports can resume again on the day that the zone “opens” again.

The closing and opening dates for the GB-2 zones covers the whole day a zone is closed or opened rather than the time it happens.

If you have goods in transit that left on the day a GB-2 zone closed, then please contact APHA at: [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk)

## Further information

- Avian Influenza page on [GOV.UK](#)
- Interactive Map on [APHA Vet Gateway](#)
- APHA’s Centre for International Trade – Carlisle, email: [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 03000 300 201

## Appendix

List of EU EHCs where Certifying Officers are authorised to obtain their own HPAI disease clearance using the interactive map on the APHA Vet Gateway:

- 8444EHC and 8445EHC – consignments of less than 20 units of poultry (LT20)
- 8437EHC – breeding of productive poultry (BPP)
- 8438EHC – breeding or productive ratites (BPR)
- 8435EHC – day-old chicks (DOC)
- 8439EHC – day-old chicks of ratites (DOR)
- 8442EHC – slaughter poultry and poultry for restocking game supplies (SRP)
- 8443EHC – slaughter ratites (SRA)
- 8254 EHC, 8255 EHC, 8384 EHC and 8385 EHC – meat products
- 8256 EHC, 8257 EHC and 8383 – meat preparations (MP-PREP)
- 8350 EHC and 8351 EHC – Composite Products (COMP)
- 8441EHC – specified pathogen free eggs (SPF)
- 8290EHC – transit/storage of SPF eggs, meat, minced meat and mechanically separated meat of poultry including ratites and wild game birds, eggs and egg products
- 8372EHC – wild game-bird meat (WGM)
- 8436EHC – hatching eggs of poultry (HEP)
- 8440EHC – hatching eggs of ratites (HER)
- 8296EHC and 8371EHC – meat of poultry (POU)
- 8377EHC – meat of farmed ratites (RAT)
- 8308EHC – untreated blood products for the manufacture of derived products for purposes outside the feed chain for farmed animals.