



HM Government

UK TRANSITION

Trader Readiness

Frequently Asked Questions

Export Health Certificates

And

EHC Online

13 November 2020

V5.0

**UK'S
NEW START
LET'S GET
GOING** 

The following FAQs will attempt to clarify some of the key changes surrounding the changes to Export Health Certificates and support you with EHC Online.

This document is intended to be continually edited and updated as and when new questions are received. The date on which the document was last updated, and version number is included for ease of reference. Any new chapters or questions that have been added since the last version are identified by ****New****.

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Export Health Certificates (EHCs)

General

What is an Export Health Certificates (EHC)?

An EHC is a document that confirms certain information, health standards and regulations have been met, so live animals and products of animal origin can be exported. They need to be completed and signed by an OV (Official Veterinarian) or Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO), recognised by The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) as having the correct qualifications to certify the product in question.

Why do I need an EHC?

You must include a completed EHC for each type of animal or animal product you export from the UK.

An EHC is an official document that confirms your export meets the health requirements of the destination country.

If you're exporting a consignment which includes a mix of products, you'll need an EHC for each product type although some certificates for composite products are available.

You may also need an EHC for both the point of entry into the EU and the destination country. For example, if an exporter has animals passing through France to enter Italy, they will only need one EHC but in two languages. The exporter will apply once but will indicate the route they are taking, and they will receive an English version, a French version (entering via the Border Control Post (BCP)) and an Italian version (destination).

A Transit Certificate may be required for consignments from GB, entering the EU, which are transiting to a destination outside the EU as part of the same journey. For example, a horse travelling from GB will enter a BCP in France, travel to Holland and then will fly from Schiphol Airport to the USA.

Who is the government body who oversees the EHC process?

The government body who are responsible for the EHCs is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), is an agency of the Department for Food and Rural Affairs. They administer the EHC process and oversee the issuing of export health documentation. The APHA's Centre for International Trade manages

the EHC Online system and provides support to exporters and certifiers in the application and certification process.

When should you register for EHC Online?

Exporters who trade with the EU Exporters and those who trade with third countries can register now. This must be done before the first application is made.

When can I start to apply for EU EHCs?

EHCs for EU trade will be available via EHC Online for exporters to register for from **Tuesday 13 October**. Consignments entering the EU before and on Thursday 31 December do not require an EHC, but an Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) will still be required for live animals and germplasm up to this point. Exports entering an EU Border Control Post (BCP) from and including Friday 1 January 2021 will need an EHC.

What are the process steps for Exporters and Certifiers?

Both the exporter and the certifier need to be registered to complete an application on the EHC Online service. New exporters will need to locate a certifier and secure their services before making an EHC application.

Certifiers charge for their services and there will be a cost associated for EHC certification. Exporters will need to build finding a certifier into their business model. Some processes may be different depending on the commodity being exported and certifiers may need to be familiar with your business to enable certification to take place i.e. single or block applications or some food business organisations.

Exporter Actions:

1. Go onto Defra's Form Finder and check if the commodity meets the requirements for export. If in doubt, the exporter should contact their certifier
2. Register for an EHC Online account
3. Once registered and logged in you can search for the [EHC](#) you need via GOV.UK form finder
4. It is the exporters responsibility to have their application certified. They should check that the Certifying Officer (CO) they wish to use is also registered for EHC Online; you cannot use them if they are not
5. Complete your EHC application via EHC Online
6. Read and check the accompanying Notes for Guidance to ensure that the products being exported meet the requirements of the destination country
7. Have your consignment inspected and certified by your CO
8. Ensure that your certified EHC travels with the export consignment
9. Failure to get a certified EHC will stop the export entering the BCP in the EU

Certifier Actions:

1. [Register](#) for an EHC Online account
2. Once logged in your online dashboard will show you any EHC cases that need action
3. Use information on the APHA [Vet Gateway](#) to support the certification of an EHC, including information on UK disease status contained within the ET171 disease status document
4. Use EHC Online to let APHA know the outcome of an inspection. The service allows you to review, approve, reject or replace an EHC and see your upcoming certification workload on your dashboard
5. Print the EHC from EHC Online or receive via post (for some types of EHC) from APHA and give to your exporter. Keep a certified copy for your own records. APHA may need it for audit checks

Can I apply for an Export Health Certificate online?

Yes. You can apply on EHC Online. [Find the EHC you need](#) for your product or animal and search for the certificate you require along with the accompanying Notes for Guidance (NFGs).

For most exports, you can apply online on the EHC page for your product or animal. Applying online means you can:

- See when APHA has sent your EHC to your official vet or inspector
 - See the status of your application
 - Copy previous applications for similar exports
 - Always use the latest version of the EHC
 - It is advisable to check you are using the most recent version of Notes for Guidance (NFG) and other support documents from EHC Form Finder. At the bottom of each page on EHC Form Finder there are details of when the page was last updated
 - Consider 'Subscribing to Feeds' if you want to receive an email informing you when a page on EHC Form Finder has been updated
- Official vets (OVs) or inspectors who are registered to use the service can download and print your EHC as soon as APHA has finished checking your application

How do I know which EHC to use?

You must include a completed EHC for each type of animal or animal product you export.

An EHC is an official document that confirms your export meets the health requirements of the destination country. It is strongly recommended that exporters obtain full details of importing requirements from the relevant country (or their UK representatives) prior to each consignment being exported.

If you're exporting a consignment which includes a mix of products, you'll need an EHC for each product type.

You may also need an EHC for each country that you [transit](#) through (as well as an EHC for your final destination country). If you are unsure what type of certificate you need. Speak to your certifier and they will be able to help you understand the requirements.

Do I need to register for a system so I can submit the EHC digitally?

Yes. You will need to use EHC Online to apply for an EHC.

You can register at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-export-health-certificate>.

Will the process (pre-notification and health certificates) be digital and automated end to end or will there be manual steps, e.g. using mail or post / copying etc?

Certificates issued on white paper can be printed by the certifier directly from EHC Online, removing the delay caused by using the postal system.

Where can I find guidance on EHCs?

You can contact APHA or DAERA if you need help getting an EHC.

England, Scotland or Wales:

You can contact the APHA Centre for International Trade in Carlisle.

Email: exports@apha.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 0200 301

[Find out about call charges.](#)

You can also use these contact details if you're having any difficulties using the online service.

Northern Ireland:

You can [find your DAERA direct regional office](#) or contact DAERA by phone.

Telephone: 0300 0200 7840

[Find out about call charges.](#)

How long does the process take from submitting an EHC to the OV conducting an inspection?

APHA will send your EHC to your official vet or inspector, or let them know it is ready to download and print if they are registered to use the service:

- Seven working days before your export date within one working day of receiving it, if you plan to export in the next seven working days. If you apply within the seven-day window prior to export via EHC Online your certificate will be instantaneously routed to your certifier. Where disease clearance is required to be issued by APHA your certificate will be with your certifier within one working day
- If you've applied online, you'll be able to see when APHA has sent your certificate to your OV or inspector. [Contact APHA](#) if your OV or inspector does not receive the EHC

Will I receive a certification number?

All certificates issued bear a unique serial number.

Does each consignment need to be inspected before dispatch?

There are different export inspection processes depending on what you are exporting.

Exporting from England, Scotland or Wales:

Once you've applied to APHA for an EHC, you need to arrange for your nominated OV or inspector to complete, sign and give the EHC to you. The original EHC must travel with your consignment to the export destination. The goods must not be split up during transit.

Can Guernsey access EHC Online to export commodities to the EU?

Guernsey would do their own certification (not using the EHC Online system). If the exporter is based in Guernsey, they would need to apply to the Guernsey authorities for the export certification.

Does the EHC need to be presented in the language of the importing country?

The EHC accompanying the consignment comprise the original English EHC and any required additional EHCs in the foreign language/s. These should be arranged in order with the English version on the top, followed by the foreign language/s version/s, and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any) at the bottom. They must be all stapled together, then collectively 'fan stamped' so that each leaf carries a part of a single stamp/watermark so that removing a page or replacing it would be detectable.

What if I get to the border and my paperwork is not correct?

Your goods may be refused entry, seized, destroyed or returned to the UK.

Is the current provision for printing EHCs on white paper instead of Crown Gold paper for some countries due to COVID being extended to EU certs?

The EU does not require EHCs to be printed on Crown Gold paper. All EHCs generated will be on white paper printed by the certifier directly from EHC Online.

Do the certificates need to be printed on a specific type of paper?

The EU does not require EHCs to be printed on Crown Gold paper. All EHCs generated will be on white paper printed by the certifier directly from EHC Online.

What if my consignment is unable to be certified by the OV?

The consignment would not be eligible for export and the OV can refuse to certify.

**Where can I get advice on how to get an Export Health Certificate?
How do I know which EHC I will need?**

Information on how to obtain an EHC can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>.

You can search for EHCs based on the destination status, commodity type and certificate status.

What happens if I can't find my EHC on GOV.UK?

If you can't find it on the EHC form finder, you should contact the APHA [Centre for International Trade Carlisle \(CITC\)](#) or DAERA for Northern Ireland.

Will businesses in the remaining 27-member states need to complete an EHC to export to the UK?

Yes. Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC's) will no longer be valid for exports to GB from the remaining 27-member states. Please see the links below for more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-animals-animal-products-and-high-risk-food-and-feed-not-of-animal-origin-from-1-january-2021>

We have a sister company in the EU. Do we need an EHC for our exports?

Exports of animals, products of animal origin or germplasm from GB to the EU will require an Export Health Certificate.

For more information on exporting animal products from the UK to the EU please see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-animal-products-fish-and-fishery-products-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>

The following information offers more detail on trading and moving goods from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-and-moving-from-northern-ireland-to-ireland-in-a-no-deal-brexite>

I export several products of animal origin to the EU. Do I need a separate Export Health Certificate for each product? Or does one Export Health Certificate cover all the products?

Separate Export Health Certificates will be required for different products. Further information on exporting animal products can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-animal-products-fish-and-fishery-products-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>

Guidance on which EHCs are available can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>.

How long will it take for EHCs to be processed?

Most certificates for trade with the EU will be issued automatically to your certifier via EHC Online. For certificates that require APHA checks, once the correct documentation has been received via EHC Online, your EHC and it will be available for your certifier to download within one working day and sign via EHC Online.

Does the Export Health Certificate travel with the load of goods I am exporting to the EU?

Yes, if exporting animals or animal products you will need to send your goods to the EU with the original EHC. Further information can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-animal-products-fish-and-fishery-products-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>.

Process maps for exporting live animals and for exporting meat and dairy can be found [here](#).

Do EHCs need to be in language of destination country?

Yes—in the language of the BCP of entry and the destination. The destination is the address on the certificate.

You may also need an EHC for each country that you transit through (as well as an EHC for your final destination country). For example, if an exporter has animals passing through France to enter Italy, they will only need one EHC but in two languages. The exporter will apply once but will indicate the route they are taking,

and they will receive an English version, a French version (entering via the Border Control Posts (BCP)) and an Italian version (destination).

Who can sign EHCs?

Official Veterinarians (OVs) who hold the appropriate Official Controls Qualification (Veterinarian) (OCQ(V)), and for some consignments where the EHC conditions allow, primarily fishery products and some composite foods, official Inspectors e.g. Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs), usually Environmental Health Officers (EHO).

How much is it going to cost exporters to get a vet to sign off their EHCs?

EHCs are certified by either an Official Veterinarian (OV) or in some cases a Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs), usually Environmental Health Officer (EHO). Certificates signed by an OV is through a commercial service and therefore we cannot comment on cost. Services provided by Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) varies depending on the Local Authority but are determined on a cost recovery basis. Some Local Authorities subsidise EHC certification.

What happens if the original signed copy of the EHC is lost or destroyed in transit?

The original certificate needs to accompany the consignment to the BCP/destination. If the certificate is lost/destroyed in transit, it could result in potential rejection of the consignment.

How do you add the container and seal number to the EHC after it's been submitted?

The container or seal number can be added at the point of certification. The original certificate which has been stamped and signed will need to travel with the consignment and therefore will be presented at the BCP with the correct details on including seal number etc.

The EHC can be downloaded and printed by the certifier. They are printed on white paper, (EU Certificates are not being issued on the Crown Gold paper) so the certificates can be amended by the CO at the point of inspection and certification. If there is no seal number on the certificate at that point, the seal number can be added when the CO is doing the inspection.

What happens if there is a discrepancy with the quantity loaded onto the vehicle?

All the details and relevant information for the consignment will need to be reflected on the EHC. The Certifying Officer (CO) will check the details are correct at the point of certification. If the certificate is certified incorrectly then this may cause problems at the BCP upon inspection.

Will the EHC also be administered in TRACES?

No, from the 1st January the UK will not have access to TRACES.

Are EHCs required for transit shipments through the EU, and if so, what type of EHC is required?

Yes. You will need an EHC to transit to the EU. A number of transit EHC's are available to be used for some commodities. If a transit certificate is not available, you will need to apply for the certificate relevant to your consignment.

Our understanding is that if the goods are on transshipment to the EU, a new certificate is not required. You will have to liaise with the BCP of entry in the EU to explain in detail what product is, what certification it has, how long is in the customs bond and if there is any change of container, etc.

More information can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/bips_guidance_transit_transshipment.pdf

If there is a mistake on the EHC how we can amend it once the trailer left has the UK?

Unfortunately, you cannot amend. If you did need to change to the EHC please contact APHA to see what options are available before arriving at the BCP.

Please consider that there may not be time to do this as travel time could be quite quick because of our proximity to the EU.

If the export date of the shipment changes due to any reason, is there a way to edit the online EHC to reflect this after you've submitted the EHC?

Once an application is submitted by the applicant the export date is used to generate the EHC and it will be sent to the certifier. If that date changes, please contact APHA to amend or you can discuss with the certifier to re-arrange inspection.

What if the transit route changes at the last minutes e.g. due to delays in Kent. The EHCs may be in the wrong languages, what do we do then?

If the route changes this would result in several changes required to the EHC including I.16 - point of entry and cancel/replacement might be the only option.

Please consult with the BCP for further clarification at:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip-contacts_en

We export to numerous EU destinations within one country i.e. Spain. Do we need an individual EHC per delivery destination or just one to clear border inspection into that country?

An EHC is required, per commodity, with the place of the destination stated.

If our fiscal reps (a freight company in Holland) is going to be importing our goods into the EU and clearing them into the EU, who do we show as the importer? The final customer, fiscal rep or our importer freight company?

The guidance notes on how to complete part 1 of the certificate will help you understand the definitions of consignee vs importer.

We have EU customers who use our raw material to manufacture a product, they then export this product, using the EHC we provide in order to apply for a certificate in their country. Will they still be able to do this?

The EU customer needs to contact the country of destination of the product and ask for their import requirements.

We don't know the net weight at the time of application, only at the time of loading. Do we leave this blank?

Not all the information is known at the time of application and wouldn't be confirmed until the certifier is inspecting the goods. At that point the Certifying Officer can amend the final EHC e.g. by handwriting if the certifier has printed it off and taken it with them for checking. Those details could be amended or entered at that stage.

We are trading company who buy products in the UK and then send to customers in Europe. Are we classed as the exporter when entering on the certificate?

Yes. Please refer to box 1.1 in the further guidance notes below:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32019R0628&qid=1598455332337>

Do we need an EHC for products that were produced in the EU already?

Yes. Please refer to the export certificates at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Do we need multiple hard copies of an EHC if transiting through several countries?

You will need one original EHC at the first BCP entry. At the BCP you will be provided with a CHED (Common Health Entry Document). You will be able to travel through Europe with the CHED and a copy of the EHC.

If you have two companies in GB, one ships their products to the other for consolidation and export, who is responsible for providing the certificate?

The last place of consolidation (the loading of the consignment), will be responsible for providing the certificate.

If products going to a despatch depot for a retailer, who will be responsible for providing the certificate?

The last place of consolidation (the loading of the consignment), will be responsible for providing the certificate.

How do I obtain an EHC if the goods I export do not go through GB but we (the GB company) are the exporter?

If the product is of EU origin and does not enter GB, then no EHC will be required.

What information is required for an EHC attestation?

Please check the EHC and Notes for Guidance at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

If have any questions on EHC attestations, please also liaise with your Certifying Officer.

Where a shipment into the EU is then split and distributed within the EU will only one Health Certificate be required?

An EHC is required for each destination.

What is the process for derogating food items from requiring an EHC?

Please refer to Annex 2 in the link below for commodities that do not require checks at entry point:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02007D0275-20191214&qid=1603984724577>

We use some products of animal origin in our feed blends. These will have gone through the import process by our suppliers. Do we then have to get an OV to certify our finished product for export?

Please refer to the Form Finder for more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Are exporters allowed to keep a copy of the EHC?

The original EHC must travel with the consignment, however you may keep a copy for your requirements.

Can our supplier apply for a health certificate on our behalf?

Anyone can apply for an EHC.

What happens if you don't know the first country the shipment is going to hit?

The exporter will have to know the first country the consignment will arrive at.

We are a trading company and buy products from a site in the UK and then we send out to our customer in Europe. Are classed as the exporter when entering on the certificate?

Please refer to the Notes for Guidance for completion of Part I of the certificate.

Is there also an EHC of category3 (pet food) products?

There are different EHCs for pet food, including raw material. Please refer to Form Finder for more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Will the EHC also administrated in Traces?

Not for Export Certificates.

What if the transit route changes at the last minute, causing the EHCs to be in the wrong language? What do exporters do then?

The exporter will require a new EHC as the information in Part I will no longer be accurate.

What happens if the original signed copy is lost or destroyed in transit?

A replacement will be required; therefore, you will have to apply for a new EHC, and your CO will have to sign.

How do you apply for an EHC in advance if the trailer needs inspecting?

The CO will be unable to certify days in advance if the consignment has not been inspected.

Will EHCs be required for small consignments travelling via the parcel courier networks?

Yes, if the material is of animal origin and is listed in the legislation that requires SPS checks.

Is there a full list of what the agreements will be with each country outside the EU post 1 January 2020?

No. To date this list has not been published.

Will certificates of origin be required?

They are not required to accompany the EHC, although the information in it may be required by the certifying officer to sign the final EHC.

By Category

Animal by Products

What about exporting animal by products? What are the rules?

In the event of a no deal, depending on the type of ABP you will need:

Either

- An Export Health Certificate (EHC), which will need to be applied for in advance; or
- A model declaration which will need to be applied for in advance; or
- Official documentation from the competent authority permitting the export of the ABP from the UK which will need to be obtained in advance from the competent authority of the Member State of destination

You will also need:

- To check if your Animal By Product (ABP) CN number is listed as required to undergo vet checks at a BCP
- Please note that all ABPs should pass via a BCP regardless of whether they need vet checks. In the case of ABP that is required to be vet checked at a BCP, ensure that your EU-based import agent has notified the BCP that the consignment is arriving prior to arrival
- If your ABP does not require to be vet checked, ensure your EU based import agent has contacted the competent authority of the Member State of destination to determine the correct pre-notification procedure

Certifiers

Is there a list of certifiers and if so where can it be accessed?

The list of certificates can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-a-professional-to-certify-export-health-certificates>.

Please be aware that it is not a complete list as certifying officers need to opt in to be on that list. We know there are over 1,000 certifying officers and there are currently about 300 on Gov.UK. We are working to improve that list.

You should confirm with your certifier before applying for your EHC, that they are registered for EHC online. If they are not you will not be able to use them.

You will also need to contact the certifiers to ensure they can certify the type of product that you export. If you are aware of a certifying officer who might be able to certify your goods, please contact them even if they are not on the Gov.UK list. A google search may help to find a certifying officer/business in your area who may be able to help. If after exhausting these options, and you have still not found a

certifying officer, then please contact the APHA for help and support to find a certifying officer.

Will the certifier have to sign all EHCs or just the English pages?

The certifier will have to sign all certificates, including those not in English.

Will certifiers physically have to see the stock to certify it?

Yes, the stock must be physically inspected.

What supporting documents, if any, will the Official Veterinarian/Certifying Officer need to sign of the EHC?

The Certifying Officer (CO), which may be the OV, will need to sign the EHC. For example: A ham and cheese pizza—the CO would need to be comfortable that the cheese and ham met the requirements of the receiving health country and understand where they came from.

The CO may need supporting documentation to complete the certification of the consignment/EHC. The supporting documentation needed will depend on the scope of the certificate and health attestation outlined in the EHC.

What support information do exporters need to capture to enable Official Veterinarians (OV) need to sign final EHC?

- You need to plan as much as possible in advance
- You need to tell your EU counterparty what veterinary attestations you need before the consignment leaves the EU. This is so that the EU vet can provide the attestation and do any inspections/evidence gathering that is needed.
- You also need to contact the UK Official OV you intend to use for exporting your consignment. They need to agree what evidence is needed
- Then speak to your EU counterparty and line them up to produce the attestations. They do not in principle have to be from an EU OV but can be from any vet. You will need to agree with your UK CVO exactly what they need from whom

For further information please refer to the EU EHCs that are on Form Finder.

Is the supporting documentation uploaded at time of application or can this be supplied direct to the certifying officer?

It doesn't need to be uploaded at time of creating the certificate - it can be sent straight to the CO if that is an easier way to manage it.

Can my Exports Health Officer certify Live Bivalve Molluscs (LBM) in all cases?

No. An EHO can only certify when the LBM is ready and fit for human consumption and using the products of animal origin certificates for LBMs. When that is not the case, the certification is done by the fish health organisation, i.e. CEFAS or Marine Scotland.

Will certifiers physically have to see the stock?

Yes. CO's will need to see the stock.

****New** We have on onsite OV, will they be qualified enough to sign the EHC?**

Possibly. Your certifying officer (OV or FCCO) needs to have the appropriate training and qualifications to check and certify your consignment and sign the export health certificate. You should check with your certifying officer what the scope of their competencies and qualifications are.

****New** How many more OVs are being supplied by APHA?**

OVs are not supplied by APHA. Private Veterinarians act in a commercial manner to economic demand. However, should they wish to provide export certification services, they must undertake the training and obtain the qualifications required to certify goods for export.

Defra provided funding for training of Veterinarians to become Official Veterinarians (OVs). This training enabled them to obtain the qualification needed to certify exports of animal products.

The number of OVs holding the relevant qualification for products of animal origin has increased from around 600 in February 2019 to approximately 1200 currently. However, OVs must have additional competencies and training for particular food categories and OVs cannot certify all types of POAO without this.

Defra has allocated further funding for training for OVs and Certification Support Officers.

****New** If we produce at one location and consolidate stock at another location before exporting, is the OV inspection needed at both locations and at the last location before exporting?**

Both locations. Certifying Officers must satisfy themselves that all aspects of EU compliance are in place and this includes sourcing ingredients, processing, packaging and storage. However, it can be different officers who can then communicate the compliance to each other, or it can be that the CO sends a Certification Support Officer (CSO), for subsequent inspections on their behalf. It is for your CO to determine what is acceptable to them.

****New** Can an Environmental Health Officer certify EHC's in England as well as the OV for Fish products, i.e. fish oil capsules?**

Yes, fish oil is a fishery product and can be signed for by either a Food Competent Certifying Officer or an Official Veterinarian. Fish oil capsules may be classified as a composite product. If this is the case, the same answer still applies. However, if there are other ingredients in the fish oil capsule, such as bovine origin gelatine, you will or may need additional certificates limited to OV certification. Your Certifying

Officer needs to have the appropriate training and qualifications to check and certify your consignment and sign the export health certificate.

****New** What provisions are there for out of hours, bank holiday weekend certifying officers?**

This will depend upon the individual arrangements put in place by the provider of veterinary services.

Rejected Goods

If I export from Germany to the UK, and the consignment is rejected at the BCP in the UK, does an EHC from the UK to Germany be required for the rejected product?

If a consignment is rejected at the BCP of entry in the UK, and the intention is to return it to the country of origin, you will have to speak to the authorities in the country of origin on what documentation is required.

Block Loads

Regarding block certificates for regular shipments, how frequently would the OV need to come out and certify the EHC?

The CO would need to certify the EHC every time one is used.

Will block applications for certificates be allowed?

Exporters can apply for a 'block' of certificates to be called upon when needed. The certificates in the block can be used for different products if they can conform to the scope of the EHC applied for.

A block should only be applied for where the country of entry and destination country will be the same for all the certificates in the block. When applying for a block of certificates, several fields can be left blank at the point of application as some information will not be known by the exporter. These then need to be populated later by the certifier when each certificate is used.

Gelatine and Food Supplement Capsules

Will an EHC be needed for the gelatine on food supplement capsules?

There are no harmonised rules for gelatine capsules. In addition, the exports conditions will depend in the content of the capsule e.g. other POAO in it.

Please contact the country of import for import conditions. In the UK we have a general licence for this, so importers know what is required, although not all EU countries have this published.

Research and Scientific Samples

Will there be exceptions for research/scientific samples? Will research and scientific samples require EHCs?

Research and diagnosis samples are not harmonised in the EU so the exporter should contact the competent authority of the country of destination to ask for the requirements that they need to meet.

Category 3 Products

Does this system apply for CAT 3 products as well as Human Consumption please?

Yes. EHCs are available for several different commodities.

For pet foods, would we need a separate EHC for each species of product exported or is only one required as it is a category 3 product?

No, all the CAT3 material are included in one EHC.

Seal Numbers

If a seal number is not requested on either the EHC or the guidance notes, does that mean that the consignment does not have to be seen to be sealed by the Certifying Officer?

Yes, that is correct, if a seal number is not required in part 1 of the certificate.

Will the EU EHCs require to be signed off with a container seal check like Australia?

Yes, if it is required in part 1 of the certificate.

I want to load in two places; therefore, I need two EHCs. Can I use one seal on the last loading place?

An EHC is required per commodity type from the place of dispatch. If a seal is required, this will be asked for in Part 1 of the certificate.

The Irish Authorities have said that trailers must be sealed with a Competent Authority seal. Does this mean that the Official Veterinarian in GB will have the special Competent Authority seals that must be used the seal the trailer, rather than a commercial seal?

There are no Competent Authority seals, therefore if a seal is needed please use a commercial seal.

If a seal number is not requested on either the EHC or the Guidance Notes, does that mean that the consignment does not have to be seen to be sealed by the CO?

The consignment needs to be inspected regardless of whether a seal is required or not.

Commodity Codes

What determines whether you need a 4, 6, 8 or 10 digit commodity code?

There is a [decision tree](#) on Gov.UK that helps you determine the code of the commodity.

Can multiple commodity codes be added to one EHC or are we limited to one per consignment?

Yes. As far as the definition of the product falls within the scope of the certificate. This can be found in the guidance notes.

Is there a detailed list of which products or commodity codes fall into which group of January, April, July?

No there is no list. Please refer to Form Finder for more information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Can you supply a list of EU CN codes please?

Please use the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/finding-commodity-codes-for-imports-or-exports>

Agents

Where an agent is applying for EHC on behalf of several exporters, would they list all exporters, or can this information be provided as an attachment to the EHC?

The person responsible for the export should be entered in the 'Exporter' field and not several different exporters. If extra information is to be provided, this can be done on a schedule.

Further information can be found at:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/Export_Instructions/Certification_Procedures/index.htm

Can an agent to apply on behalf of an exporter and what is the procedure for this?

Yes. An agent can apply on behalf of an exporter. The agent would need to register for EHC Online as would the exporter.

Can agents acting as the consignor for several exporters apply for membership of Groupage?

GEFS is a membership scheme for exporters.

Groupage

Can you provide any further information about the groupage scheme and how issuing EHC's will be affected by this?

GEFS do not fundamentally change the requirements for export health certification of products to the EU. It enables scheme members exporting qualifying products to make use of time limited support attestations to facilitate certification.

More details are available in the guidance at:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/external-operations-admin/library/documents/exports/ET193.pdf>

Composite Goods

We have a meat product, for example bacon, with cheese on it, will we need an EHC for the bacon an another one for the cheese? Is this related in any way to the % of cheese on the final product or on whether the "processing" of the meat product took place with the cheese already on it?

Composite products are defined as products that include plant and animal products in it. If there is no plant material in the product then it cannot be considered a composite product, it may fall under a composite product.

Please read the guidance included in this link and liaise with your Certifying Officer for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

We need EHCs for the base product of animal origin. For example, the butter, cheese and meat when used in a composite product?

If the product falls under the definition of a composite product, then there is a specific EHC for this. If the product does not fall under the definition, then an EHC for each product of animal origin may be required.

Please consult with your certifying officer for further guidance.

Are EHCs applicable for breaded/battered fish, fishcakes and fish in sauces?

Composite products have their own EHCs.

Please read the guidance provided in the link below and liaise with your Certifying Officer to establish whether your product is a composite product:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

We produce chilled salad meals that contain items such as cooked chicken, cheese and sauces containing dairy. Do we need to complete an EHC?

Yes, if the product meets the definition for a composite product.

Please review the Gov.UK website to see if it does meet that definition, and if it does, most composite products do require an Export Health Certificate—especially if they contain meat products including cooked chicken.

For further information on composite products please refer to the follow:
<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-composite-food-products-intended-for-human-consumption-to-the-european-union-certificate-8281>

Where a composite product uses POAO from multiple suppliers e.g. minced beef may come from 3 different suppliers throughout the year, all suppliers would be approved and from registered establishments, but not all three suppliers would be used in the same batch of finished product. Can we list all three suppliers on the EHC, knowing that the POAO may come from any one of them?

No. Only products that are included in the final products must be certified.

Consolidated Loads

If you have a consolidated load, collated at one site but packed at multiple sites, can you use one EHC for all, or do you need one EHC per packing site?

You will need to look at the available EHCs. Please read the guidance and consult with your certifying officer:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

If we want to load consignments for different end destinations onto one lorry (i.e. a multi drops), are these to be done on different EHCs, or all on one EHC? If they can all be on one EHC, will it matter if the seal has been broken and then does not match the EHC after the breaking of the seal?

An EHC is required per commodity with the place of the destination stated. Please see the guidance notes for completion of part 1 of the certificate for more information.

What happens if a lorry loads at two factories before going to Europe, do I need two EHCs? The first seal will be broken at the second loading, how is this managed?

An EHC is required per commodity type from the place of dispatch. If a seal is required that will be asked for in part 1 of the certificate.

Cold Stores

How do we apply for an EHC for chilled and frozen goods if we have a trailer that is a mixture of both temperatures? Would it be two EHCs if it's the same product, but one is chilled, and one is frozen?

If you are exporting chilled and frozen in the same trailer, you will need different EHCs.

Please read the certificate and associated guidance and consult with your certifying officer at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

In an EHC application it asks for details of the Cold Store. If a cold store is not used i.e. direct dispatch from a slaughterhouse this can't be completed. Does the EHC online system still allow the application to be sent?

Yes, this is not a mandatory question and therefore can be marked as skipped to allow the certificate to be submitted.

If a cold store is not used does the EHC Online system still allow the application to be sent?

Yes. If the exporter does not have the information to complete Part I of the EHC or the information is not required, an EHC can still be produced.

Transporters

We send a container of cheese to Iraq via road route through the EU. How do we apply for the EHC for the EU section of this journey?

A Transit Certificate may be required for consignments from GB, entering the EU that are transiting to a destination outside the EU, but form part of the same journey. For example, a horse travelling from GB will enter a Border Control Post in France, travel to Holland and then will fly from Schiphol Airport to the USA.

Please refer to Defra's Form Finder and check if the commodity meets the requirements for export. If in doubt, you should contact your certifier.

Does the transporter need to register for EHC Online?

No, only the exporter needs to register for EHC Online.

Pallets

What is the best way to send the EHC with pallets? Attach to one pallet?

Regardless of whether the EHC travels on a pallet or handed to the driver, the EHC must be given to the OV at the BCP

Embryos

Can embryos of different parentage go on one EHC, or do they have to go on individual EHC's?

Please refer to content on the EHC for further information and liaise with your CO to confirm.

Dairy

There are currently three export health certificates for dairy products depending on the category of the exporting country (A, B, or C). Which certificate do we need to use if we want to re-export an EU dairy product back into the EU (EU countries are not classified on the EU reg in any of the mentioned categories)?

The category of certificates depends on the heat treatment the milk has undergone (if any). Please look at the heat treatments in the certificate and accompanying guidance to identify which applies to your product.

Will the Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCO) be able to certify dairy products? If yes, how do we find them locally to us?

FCCOs can certify fish, live bivalve molluscs and certain composite products. An Official Vet (OV) will need to certify exports of dairy products.

What about if we export pasteurised cheeses to Australia via France?

There is an EHC for dairy products transiting the EU. This can be located at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-raw-milk-dairy-products-colostrum-and-colostrum-based-products-for-human-consumption-intended-for-transit-through-or-storage-in-the-european-union-certificate-8283>

Do we need an additional EHC for a Dairy product that contains a small amount of gelatine that has itself originated in an approved EU establishment?

Please check with your Certifying Officer for more information.

Does Parmesan cheese need an EHC if put in a salad meal e.g. Caesar salad?

A composite EHC may be required for your product. Please refer to Form Finder for further information at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Meat

To export mutton, lamb and offal, would I require one, two or three EHCs?

The requirement is for one certificate per commodity e.g. one for meat ovine, and one for offal.

Please check the available EHC at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Do meat products need to be of UK origin for the EHC to be signed?

Meat products can be from EU origin. It is not permitted for fresh meat and meat preparations.

Please refer to the wording in the specific EHC below:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-certain-meat-products-and-treated-stomachs-bladders-and-intestines-to-the-european-union-certificate-8254>

Fresh meat products must be produced on the slaughter date and are loaded on slaughter day. Can you still apply for an EHC if the nett weight is not known?

The exporter can apply for the EHC even if the nett weight is unknown. Any missing information can be completed by a Certifying Officer later.

Poultry

Will products that are not for consumption containing egg by-product need to have an EHC for export to EU?

Please refer to the Form Finder for animal by products at:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

Are there any certification requirements for free range egg-containing products, e.g. egg mayonnaise, composite foods containing free range (cooked) chicken?

Please refer to Form Finder and review the EHC for further information. It is likely you will require an EHC for egg products and an EHC for composite goods that contain plant and animal material.

Equines

****New** Is this also applicable for horses going to and from Southern Ireland?**

Currently no health papers are required and Holyhead, Pembroke & Fishguard not shown as BCP.

The Republic of Ireland (ROI) is part of the EU and will require EHCs from us in the same way other Member States will too.

****New** A registered equine and an unregistered EHC cannot be signed on the same day even if they are leaving at the same time?**
An unregistered equine must have its EHC signed off on the day of departure. A registered equine can have its EHC signed off the working day before departure.

EHC Online

General

How to access EHC Online

All exporters and certifiers should use the below online service links:

Exporter start pages—<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-export-health-certificate>

Certifier start pages—<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/certify-an-export-health-certificate>

Get an EHC—<http://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate>

Form Finder—<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates>

APHA Vet Gateway—<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/Guidance/exports/ehc-online.htm>

Where can I go to go get more information on EHC Online?

Below are some useful links:

Recordings of EHC Online demonstrations—hosted on APHA's YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/W9tASCLC9qo>

https://youtu.be/C3zBfrq_kBs

<https://youtu.be/nK4pstt9pZY>

<https://youtu.be/L8WMapCfaTw>

What if I don't have internet access, is there a manual process?

If you are not able to access the internet through alternative means i.e. your local library, friends or family, an application form and a specimen copy of the certificate you require can be posted too you.

If you need help registering for EHC Online or have any operational and technical queries relating to an EHC application, please call the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 0300 0200 301 or email exports@apha.gov.uk.

What is the minimum time we can apply for an EHC Online?

You can usually apply for an EHC 10 days before an export. APHA will send your EHC to your OV or inspector or let them know it is ready to download and print if they are registered to use the service:

If you plan to export in the next seven working days, then seven working days before your export date within one working day of receiving it. If you apply within the seven-day window prior to export via EHC Online your certificate will be instantaneously routed to your certifier. Where disease clearance is required to be issued by APHA, your certificate will be with your certifier within one working day.

If you've applied online, you will be able to see when APHA has sent your certificate to your OV or inspector. Contact APHA if your OV or inspector does not receive the EHC

What is the maximum number of characters for the reference in EHC Online?

The maximum is 20. It can be a combination of letters and numbers.

When entering details into the EHC online tool, does the scientific name need to be in Latin?

Yes. The scientific name of the animal must be in Latin.

When completing an EHC online, do all questions need to be completed to get the final certificate?

Each of the blue hyperlinked questions within each section has a status. If they are not in the 'complete' status, then you cannot review your answers and submit your application. You either need to populate the answer question or skip the question to achieve a 'completed' status and then submit the application.

Why is the EHC online application not immediate?

It's not an immediate process as there will need to be checks carried out for compliance.

The intention is to produce the EHC within 24 hours, but some certificates require notifiable disease clearances. Also, some checks will be done by the OV and some will be done by officials in APHA. They must do some manual checks on the certificates.

Do the EHCs always print off in multiple languages if we state the transit route?

Yes. There will be different permutations that you will select e.g. if your goods are going to France, to Italy (destination) via Spain, you would only receive the languages in French for the BCP and in Italian as the final destination country, along with the English one. You wouldn't receive the EHC in the language of the transit country/countries.

****New** Can you only clone completed forms, or can you leave the changeable elements blank in the master copy?**

You can clone any of the EHCs on your dashboard, regardless of their status. You can populate as many or as few of the questions in the 'master' copy (master would be a draft status).



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