

# BREXIT HUB

## EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES (EHC)

### Introduction

The transition period between the UK and the EU will end on 31 December 2020. This means that the UK will no longer be a member of the EU's Single Market nor the Common Customs Union. These changes will result in a series of significant, and depending on the timing, abrupt changes to how rural businesses operate. Arrangements for the provision and requirements for an Export Health Certificate will change.

This briefing note, and others on different subjects that can be found on the CLA Brexit Hub - <https://www.cla.org.uk/brexit> - provides rural business owners with a detailed framework for the steps which will need to be taken and where you can find more information relating to export health certificates for the export of animals and animal products and has been independently compiled by CLA experts. It covers:

- The importance of an Export Health Certificate;
- How the rules of exporting to the EU after 31 December 2020 will change;
- Applying now for an EHC for exports from 1 January 2021;
- Exporting to non-EU countries;
- Authorising EHCs and the exporting process;
- Waivers from EHCs.

Of course, the decision about what actions to take will be unique to every businesses' needs. This guidance is not intended to make a judgement on the specific activities you should be undertaking, or about the longer-term effects of the UK's exit from the EU.

### What is an Export Health Certificate (EHC) and why is it necessary?

The Export Health Certificate (EHC) is an official document that confirms your export meets the health requirements of the destination country.

You must include a completed an EHC for each type of animal or animal product you export from the UK to an EU or non-EU country (third country).

If you are exporting a consignment which includes a mix of products, you will need an EHC for each product type, unless it is part of the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS).

You may also need an EHC for each country that you [transit](#) through (as well as an EHC for your final destination country).

### Are the rules changing from 1 January 2021?

You will need an EHC from 1 January 2021 to:

- export live animals and animal products from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) to the EU;
- move live animals and animal products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland;
- transit through the EU and Northern Ireland.



You'll no longer be able to use the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).

## Can I start applying for EHCs?

You can get ready for any exports that are planned for 1 January 2021 onwards by registering to use the service and drafting applications for EHCs.

Make sure you contact the official vet or inspector who will certify your EHC before you submit any applications.

Your goods will not need this EHC to enter the EU or Northern Ireland until 1 January 2021.

You will still need to follow the current rules until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020

You will need to apply for your EHC using the online service. To register, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-fresh-meat-including-minced-meat-of-domestic-porcine-animals-to-the-european-union-certificate-8260>

## How do I export to non-EU countries?

You can find the EHC required for each non-EU country destination market by going to:

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

There are likely to be some animal products which will be excluded from some non-EU markets.

## Who authorises an EHC?

You will need to choose an Official Veterinarian (OV) or local authority inspector and:

- name them in your application;
- check they can inspect your consignment and sign your EHC in the days before your export.

The OV is authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to perform statutory duties (work that is required by law).

## How does the process work?

APHA will need to approve the EHC. It will then 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:

- 7 working days before your export date;
- within one working day of receiving it, if you plan to export in the next 7 working days

Once you have 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 EHC must travel with your consignment to the export destination. The goods must not be split up during transit.

If the export is travelling through another country before it reaches its destination market, it is likely to need a transit EHC. You will need to check whether your export requires a transit



EHC by contacting the competent authority in the transit country. Competent authority will be the equivalent of Defra in that country.

If you do need a transit certificate, you'll need to apply for an EHC for that country in the usual way.

If the export is transiting through an EU country it will need to be accompanied with a transit Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) or commercial documents in the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES)

For any changes that need to be made to an EHC application or you wish to cancel an application, you should contact APHA if you are not registered with the online service. If you are registered as well as your chosen OV, you can ask them to cancel the EHC and ask for a replacement.

### **What happens if my export fails to meet the conditions of the EHC?**

You should contact the competent authority in the country you're exporting to and request if they will grant a waiver for the conditions that cannot be met. If they agree to waive any of the conditions, then an APHA vet can provide your OV with a 'derogation' which gives them an exemption so that they can still certify your EHC.

You should attach the waiver to your EHC application at the time you submit it to APHA.