



HM Government

UK TRANSITION

# Trader Readiness

## Export of Animals and POAO from Great Britain to European Union

### Useful Information – Issue 2

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V1.0

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

## Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Boarder Control Post .....                              | 3 |
| TRACES .....  | 4 |
| Export Health Certificate – Multiple Destinations ..... | 5 |
| Trichinella and live pig/pig meat export.....           | 6 |
| Useful resources .....                                  | 7 |
| Trader webinars .....                                   | 7 |
| EU guidance .....                                       | 7 |
| Defra Helplines .....                                   | 7 |
| Exports to the EU: Customs/handling Agents.....         | 7 |

## Boarder Control Post

### Ensure correct paperwork for live animal and animal product health checks at the EU border

Traders must ensure that UK hauliers have the correct paperwork to comply with new animal and animal product checks at the EU border. Traders should take the following steps to obtain the necessary paperwork before exporting goods to EU member states.

#### Check if you need an Export Health Certificate

Exports of live animals and products of animal origin to the EU require an Export Health Certificate (EHC) signed by an Official Vet (OV) or Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO). The original signed EHC must travel with the consignment.

You can check which EHC you need via Defra's [Form Finder](#) and apply online. Full guidance on the [EHC process is available on gov.uk](#). You should ensure that you have [found an OV or FCCO who can certify your consignment](#) before you start the application process.

If you cannot find an EHC, you'll need to contact the competent authority in the EU country you're exporting to, in advance, to find out what paperwork you'll need. If the competent authority says that you need an EHC, you'll need to get their import conditions. Email the conditions to APHA at [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk) who'll arrange an EHC for you.

#### Find the correct Border Control Post for your goods

You must get your animals and animal products checked at an EU Border Control Post (BCP). There are more than 400 BCPs in the EU and they're usually at EU ports and airports. The most frequently used are:

- [Belgium BCPs](#)
- [France BCPs](#)
- [Germany BCPs](#)
- [Netherlands BCPs](#)
- [Portugal BCPs](#)
- [Spain BCPs](#)

When it is updated, the full list of BCPs can be found at:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/vet-border-control/bip_en)

Your goods may be refused entry, seized, destroyed or returned to GB if they arrive at:

- a port in the EU without a BCP or where checks cannot be carried out
- an EU BCP that cannot check your type of animal
- an EU BCP without the correct documentation

## Give advance notice to the EU Border Control Post (pre-notification)

You need to give EU BCPs advance notice of goods arriving (pre-notify) – this is a legal requirement. You do this via your EU-based import agent who will pre-notify the BCP on your behalf.

You should check with the BCP you're planning to use how much advance notice is needed.

You should send digital copies of the required information to your import agent so they can complete the pre-notification of the consignments arrival at the BCP through the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES). They must do this within the time limits set out by the BCP or point of entry.

EU border authorities will inspect all consignments of live animals and animal products on arrival at the BCP. Traders are responsible for ensuring their EU importer has all the required information to be able to:

- pre-notify the EU BCP of the consignment's arrival
- book the inspection
- When your consignment arrives at the EU BCP your EU Importer agent should be available to be contacted to answer questions on your behalf and be available to attend the BCP in person if required

## Comply with new customs requirements

Comply with wider [HMRC guidance on customs requirements for exporting to the EU](#), follow [HMRC guidance for moving goods from GB](#) and follow [rules on identifying animals](#), if you want to export them to the EU.

## TRACES

### Traces approval number - approved establishments for export to the EU

Exporters wishing to send Products of Animal Origin (POAO), Animal by-products (ABP) or Germinal Products to the EU must have their Exporting Business approved in order to do this. Approval is given by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Food Standards Scotland (FSS), or the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) depending on the commodity.

Once approval has been granted, the Exporting Business are allocated a **unique identification number (TRACES approval number)**. This number is recorded on the EU's TRACES NT system, along with the business details and its approved activities. This TRACES approval number **must** be used to fully complete required EHCs.

When applying for an approved establishment you need to follow the process carefully as any errors or missing information can result in consignments of goods being delayed or refused at BCPs. Therefore, it is essential that the specifications set out by the EU are followed correctly. There is further guidance provided by the EU:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/biosafety\\_fh\\_eu\\_food\\_establishments-techspecs\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/biosafety_fh_eu_food_establishments-techspecs_en.pdf)

Approved exporting businesses who do not know their TRACES/approval number can find it by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/businesses-approved-to-export-to-the-eu>

## Export Health Certificate – Multiple Destinations

### The possible procedures for certifying an Export Health Certificate for a consignment with multiple destinations within the EU.

In the situation where a consignment has multiple destinations within the EU there are three possible procedures:

1. A separate EHC is applied for each different destination.
2. A single EHC is applied for the entire consignment stating the destination as the BCP with a request to the BCP for the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) to be split, providing the conditions are met. You must contact the BCP to confirm this process can take place.
3. A single EHC is applied for with a single destination hub within the EU. This hub can then act as a distribution centre providing traceability data is retained.

The conditions for a CHED to be split at a Border Control Post for different destinations are detailed in Article 5 of [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1602](#) and summarised below.

1. Pre- notification of the arrival of the consignment at the BCP undertaken by the operator responsible for the consignment, involves **declaring the BCP as the place of destination in part I of the CHED for the entire consignment.**
2. Once the competent authority at the BCP has finalised the CHED for the entire consignment the operator responsible for the consignment shall request that the consignment be split. The operator shall then submit, through IMSOC (Integrated Management System for Official Controls) a CHED for each part of the split consignment. These CHEDs will declare **the quantity, the means of transport and the place of destination for the relevant parts of the split consignment.**
3. The competent authority at the BCP shall finalise the CHEDs for the individual parts of the split consignment ensuring that the sum of the quantities declared in those CHEDs does not exceed the total quantity set out in the CHED for the entire consignment.
4. The operator responsible for the consignment shall ensure that **a copy, on paper or in electronic form, of the CHED** for each part of **the split consignment** accompanies the relevant part of the split consignment to the place of destination stated therein and until it is released for free circulation.

## **Trichinella and live pig/pig meat export**

### **What is happening with the UK's listing application for trichinella controls and the export of live pigs and pig meat?**

Defra applied to the EU Commission for listing of GB as a third country to allow us to certify live pigs or pig meat for export as coming from controlled housing without the need for trichinella testing.

GB has been granted use of a derogation from testing un-weaned piglets under the age of 5 weeks.

We are awaiting the final outcome of our application regarding the ability to certify other pigs or fresh meat from them as coming from controlled housing without the need for trichinella testing.

Until the outcome is known, GB exports of live pigs or fresh pig meat will not be able to be certified as coming from controlled housing

### **When will the final outcome be known?**

This is not expected before the end of February 2021 at the earliest. We will keep industry updated on the latest position.

### **Is this a change to the guidance issued on 1 January 2021?**

This latest position reflects the status of Defra's discussions with the EU Commission. It is intended to reduce the risk of pigs and pig meat being rejected when entering Member States.

### **What about exports from Northern Ireland?**

Northern Ireland does not need to be listed as a third country for export purposes but does need to be identified alongside Member States as a country using controlled housing.

The Commission has advised that this process is complete. This means NI is recognised as applying controlled housing conditions and can make use of the derogation not to have to test pigs or pig meat coming from such conditions.

NI is also able to apply the derogation from testing un-weaned piglets under five weeks old.

### **What is Government doing about exports already in transit that may have been certified as coming from controlled housing?**

Any GB exporter experiencing problems on entry to a Member State should contact Defra at SM-Defra-traders (DEFRA) [traders@defra.gov.uk](mailto:traders@defra.gov.uk)

## Useful resources

### Trader webinars

View webinars for exporters of animals and products of animal origin to the EU. Follow the links below for:

- [Export Health Certificate \(EHC\) and the online service](#)
- [Products of Animal Origin](#)
- [Live animals or livestock](#)
- [Equines](#)
- [Composite food products](#)

### EU guidance

- [Guidance: Sanitary and phytosanitary controls on goods imported from the UK into EU entering via France - French Ministry for Agriculture and Food](#)

### Defra Helplines

- Select the most appropriate Helpline for the commodity you are exporting to the EU at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-defra>

### Exports to the EU: Customs/handling Agents





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