



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T: +44 3459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

1 April 2021

**FOLLOW UP TO LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 2020:
UK ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRADE IN LIVE ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

I wrote to you on 9 December 2020 to inform you about the UK's arrangements for international trade in live animals and animal products from 1 January 2021. I'd like to thank you for your continued engagement regarding the administrative changes that have taken place since the UK's departure from the EU, and to provide an update as set out in the following Annexes:

- Annex 1: Export health certificates (EHCs) for animals and animal products (including extension to the grace period for use of EU model EHCs to 30 June 2021)**
- Annex 2: Update on staged controls for imports of animals and animal products from the EU to GB**
- Annex 3: Requirement to submit residue monitoring control plans and annual reports by 30 April 2021**
- Annex 4: Requirement to inform the UK of animal disease outbreaks and food safety incidents in your country**
- Annex 5: Requirement to submit approved establishment lists for the import of animal products to GB**
- Annex 6: UK SPS points of contact**

I would appreciate your assistance in cascading all messages in this letter to the relevant Competent Authorities in your country.

I would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this letter by contacting ukassurance@defra.gov.uk. You can also use the ukassurance@defra.gov.uk email address for any comments or questions you may have regarding this letter and its Annexes.

Yours sincerely

**PROFESSOR CHRISTINE MIDDLEMISS
UK CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER**

T: +44 20 7238 6495
christine.middlemiss@defra.gov.uk



ANNEX 1:

Export health certificates (EHCs) for animals and animal products

Grace period for transitioning from EU to GB model EHCs for imports into Great Britain: extension to 30 June 2021

The UK is extending the grace period during which it will accept current EU model EHCs accompanying consignments of animals and animal products imported to Great Britain. This extension is to allow further time to incorporate the new GB EHCs into your export systems.

Our authorities will now accept current EU model EHCs signed and dated up to 30 June 2021. This also applies to consignments that arrive in Great Britain after 30 June 2021. EHCs signed after 30 June 2021 should use the new GB model EHC.

Transitioning to the GB EHCs should be completed as a matter of priority to ensure that they are implemented while the grace period is in place. The new GB EHCs are accessible at the following link: www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-certificates-for-animal-and-animal-product-imports-to-great-britain. There is no requirement for GB EHCs to be checked by the UK prior to use, as long as the content accurately reflects the requirements set out in this link.

Additional rules for health certification that the EU is implementing in April 2021: impact on trade with the UK

Imports into Northern Ireland: under the Northern Ireland Protocol, requirements will be changing in line with changes being made to EU import requirements through Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases. You should therefore use new EU model EHCs from April and pre-notify for additional products via TRACES.

Exports from the United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland): The EHCs that accompany UK (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) consignments of animals and animal products to your country, including references to any EU legislation, processes and standards, will remain unchanged from those in use from 1 January 2021 unless changes have subsequently been required by either trading partner.

ANNEX 2:

Update on the introduction of staged controls for imports of animals and animal products from the EU to GB

The UK has announced a revised timetable for the introduction of the next stage of import requirements for consignments of animals and animal products from the EU. This does not impact the existing controls in place for imports of animals and animal products from non-EU countries, which remain unchanged. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-border-operating-model

ANNEX 3:

Requirement to submit residue control plans and annual reports by 30 April 2021

What you need to submit to the UK

Exporting countries must submit relevant residue control plans and the results of the previous year's monitoring to the UK Office for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Trade Assurance each year in order to remain eligible to export products of animal origin to Great Britain. This is a requirement of [Official Controls Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#), which the UK has retained under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and associated legislation.

Lists of approved plans are set out in the [Annex to Retained EU Decision 2011/163](#). There are 12 product categories for residue control plans. Please provide submissions for all product categories for which you have an approved plan, as marked by an X in the Annex.

In order to minimise administration for our trading partners, for 2021 you may submit residue control plans and test results in the same format that you submit to the EU.

Please submit the following to the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance at ukofficeresidues@defra.gov.uk by 30 April 2021:

1. your residue control plan for 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2021
2. your test results for 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020
3. in addition, please provide a copy of your residue control plan for 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

ANNEX 4:

Requirement to notify the UK of animal disease outbreaks and food safety incidents in your country

Animal disease outbreaks

The UK is no longer part of the EU. If an animal disease outbreak occurs in your country that might impact on commodities you export to the UK, you must notify the UK Chief Veterinary Officer at christine.middlemiss@defra.gov.uk as soon as possible, and within 24 hours of confirming the disease. This requirement is in addition to any requirement to notify the EU. The UK may request specific information be supplied about the outbreak and the control measures in place in order to inform any additional import conditions to Great Britain and, where applicable, to facilitate an assessment for regionalisation.

Food and feed safety incidents

The UK should be notified of food and feed safety incidents according to expectations set out in the International Health Regulations 2005 using the WHO/FAO INFOSAN network (International Food Safety Authorities Network) and the UK Emergency Contact Point. Similarly, the UK will in future engage with other countries on food safety issues using the INFOSAN network. The UK Emergency Contact Point is foodincidents@food.gov.uk.

ANNEX 5:

Requirement to submit approved establishment lists for the import of animal products to GB

The UK now manages its lists of approved establishments separately from the EU for the import of animals and animal products to Great Britain.

The competent authority of the exporting country is responsible for ensuring that the establishment lists the UK holds for them are up to date and that the establishments comply with our import requirements as set out in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, which is retained in UK law under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and associated legislation.

Third country establishment lists are published by the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance at www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-with-the-uk-exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-uk.

To ensure trade is not interrupted, please promptly submit updates to your lists to the UK Office at ukassurance@defra.gov.uk. This may be done in two ways:

1. Using the forms at www.gov.uk/government/publications/approved-establishments-amendment-request-forms to notify of additions, removals, or amendments.
2. Submitting an updated, complete list of all of your approved establishments, using the Excel template published at the above link. This will then be uploaded onto IPAFFS in its entirety, minimising the risk of data entry errors.

ANNEX 6:

UK points of contact

For enquiries relating to market access to Great Britain for live animals and animal products, please contact the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance: ukassurance@defra.gov.uk

For enquiries relating to EHCs for the import of live animals and animal products into Great Britain, please contact: importstradeinanimalsandproducts@defra.gov.uk

For enquiries relating to EHCs for the export of live animals and animal products from the UK, please contact: marketaccess@defra.gov.uk

For enquiries relating to plant health imports and exports, please contact the UK National Plant Protection Organisation: uknppo@defra.gov.uk

To notify the UK of animal disease outbreaks in your country, please contact the UK Chief Veterinary Officer at: christine.middlemiss@defra.gov.uk

To notify the UK of food and feed safety incidents in your country, please contact the UK Emergency Contact Point at: foodincidents@food.gov.uk

For SPS World Trade Organisation (WTO) queries please contact: uksps@defra.gov.uk

DEFRA's Trade Secretariat function coordinates the implementation of the agri-food elements of UK's trade agreements. For queries relating to trade agreement implementation in agri-food sectors, please contact: tradesecretariat@defra.gov.uk