



HM Government

UK TRANSITION



EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES

NEW RULES FROM 1 JANUARY 2021

will apply to exports from GB to EU



TIME IS RUNNING OUT, ACT NOW AT

[GOV.UK/GUIDANCE/GET-AN-EXPORT-HEALTH-CERTIFICATE](https://gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate)

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WHAT IS AN EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE (EHC)?

Export Health Certificates are official documents confirming that your export meets the health requirements of the European Union.

As we've left the European Union single market and customs union, you will need to have an Export Health Certificate for most live animals and products of animal origin you send to the EU from 1st January 2021. This is a requirement set by the EU and is mandatory.

For goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, the following will be relevant where health checks are a requirement.

If you don't have a valid, certified Export Health Certificate then your consignment could be rejected when it enters at a Border Control Post (BCP) in the EU. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) are the government agency that administers and oversees the issuing of EHCs from Great Britain. APHA undertake checks and assure that the process is being followed correctly before EHCs are issued.

What information will I need to complete an EHC?

You'll need to use the EHC Online service to apply for your EHCs. To create an EHC Online account you'll be asked to set up a Government Gateway and a Defra account. If you do not have them, you'll be guided to set them up when you use the service for the first time.

This specimen EHC demonstrates the types of information that you will need and shows the format of an Export Health Certificate.

You can find the EHC you need for your goods here, with further information on how to apply.

There are some types of animals or animal products that you cannot export, and some cases where you do not need a certificate. If you cannot find the EHC you need online, please contact APHA.

WHAT COMMODITIES NEED AN EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE?

An Export Health Certificate is required for live animals and products of animal origin exports to the EU.

This means, if you have three products, for example pork sausages, beef steaks and cheese, that you need to export in one load, you will need three Export Health Certificates, one for each of the animal products – one for pork, a second for beef and a third for dairy.

Composite goods

Many composite food products require an Export Health Certificate. Composite food products are for human consumption only. They contain a mix of: processed products of animal origin (POAO), plant products used as a main ingredient – not just added for flavouring or processing.

Examples are: lasagne, pork pies, pepperoni pizza, cream liqueurs, chicken burritos.

Some composite goods are exempt from needing an Export Health Certificate for export to the EU.

For more information on composite goods see gov.uk.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE?

As the exporting business, it is your responsibility to ensure you have a certified Export Health Certificate that travels with your consignment into the EU.

To get a certified Export Health Certificate, your goods will need to be inspected and verified by an authorised certifying officer. Once they have physically inspected your goods, they will certify the Export Health Certificate and give your goods the green light to leave your premises and be exported to the EU.

In Great Britain, there are two types of certifying officers:

1. Firstly, there are Official Veterinarians (OV) who are qualified vets who hold additional qualifications to inspect and certify Export Health Certificates.
2. Secondly, there are Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) who are generally environmental health officers, based in Local Authorities. These Food Competent Certifying Officers generally only certify fish and fish products.

You need to locate and secure the services of a certifying officer before you apply for an Export Health Certificate. We recommend you do this as soon as possible and ensure the certifying officer(s) you select is: trained, accredited to inspect your goods and can provide timely certification to maintain efficient dispatch of your goods.

The certifying officer will charge for the inspection and certifying of the exports. You should look to get in contact with your certifying officer to discuss costs and timeframes of certification as soon as possible.

It is important to make sure that your selected OV or FCCO can inspect your consignment and sign your EHC in the days before your export.

HOW TO GET AN EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATE?

To get your Export Health Certificate you must register for the new digital service – EHC Online – this can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

You need to register your business for EHC Online before you start your first EHC application – please check to see if your business is already registered. You do not need to re-register if you and your business are already registered for export to countries outside of the EU.

You will need a Government Gateway account before you can register for the EHC online service.

Both you and your certifying officer will need to be registered for the online service before you can start your EHC application, this is so you can select them from a list when asked who will certify your consignment.

As the exporter, you need to select the appropriate Export Health Certificate and start and complete the application as much as you can before it goes to the certifying officer for review and approval.

You should discuss the lead times required for applying and certifying your goods with your certifying officer before you apply, as different products have different requirements.

Your certifier will print your EHC from the online service and give it to you after they have inspected your goods.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO WITH MY EXPORT

HEALTH CERTIFICATE?

The original signed and stamped EHC must travel with your goods so you must give the EHC to the driver/ haulier.

Send an electronic copy of the EHC to your EU importer to ensure that they can submit pre-notification on TRACES NT in plenty of time before your goods arrive at the EU Border Control Post.

The Export Health Certificates accompanying your goods will be checked as they arrive into the EU via a Border Control Post. You should ensure that your BCP is approved to process the commodity you are exporting.

Without a valid and certified Export Health Certificate your consignment could be rejected when it enters at an EU Border Control Post.

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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