Chapter 3

Imported and Exported Meat and Animals

1. Introduction

1.1 Legislation

EU legislation which applied directly or indirectly to the UK before leaving the EU on 31 December 2020 has been retained in UK law as a form of domestic legislation known as 'retained EU legislation'. This is set out in sections 2 and 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (c. 16). Section 4 of the 2018 Act ensures that any remaining EU rights and obligations, including directly effective rights within continues to have effect in domestic law.

1.1.1 Applicable regulations

- Retained Regulation 178/2002
- Retained Regulation 852/2004
- Retained Regulation 853/2004
- The Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006
- Retained Regulation 2017/625
- Retained Commission Delegated Regulation 2019/625
- Retained Regulation 2016/429
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/404
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/405
- Retained Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/2235
- Retained Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/632
- Retained Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2007
- Retained Commission Decision 2007/275/EC
- Retained Regulation 999/2001
- Retained Commission Decision 2007/453/EC

- The TSE (Scotland) Regulations 2010
- Retained Regulation 2016/429
- Retained Regulation 1396/2016
- Retained Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/692
- The General Food Regulations 2004
- The Official Controls (Agriculture etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 2019
- The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
- Retained Regulation 1069/2009
- Retained Regulation 142/2011
- The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended)
- The Cattle Identification Regulations (Scotland) 2007 (as amended)

1.2 Food Business Operator Responsibilities

1.2.1 Duties of the FBO

It is the Food Business Operator's (FBO) duty to ensure that imported and / or exported meat and meat products comply with all relevant legislation.

FBO's must have appropriate food safety management systems in place to ensure that imported carcases and carcases for export meet requirements for microbiological criteria, medicine and environmental residues, plant biosecurity, removal of SRM, HACCP, food hygiene and traceability.

1.2.2 Notification of imported beef

The FBO must contact their FSS Technical Lead 72 hours in advance of an imported beef delivery from countries with a controlled or undetermined BSE risk containing vertebral column.

Reference: see 5.5 SRM in this chapter

The FSS Technical Lead will arrange appropriate FSS verification of the process and controls in place, as required.

Reference: Retained Regulation 999/2001, Annex V, point 11.1

2. FSS role: Checks on imported fresh meat

2.1 Imports

2.1.1 Background

Meat and other products of animal origin (POAO) can be placed on the market provided that POAOs:

- Have been produced in compliance with Retained Regulation 852/2004 and 853/2004 in an approved establishment or establishments;
- Have been subject to the official controls in Retained Regulation 2017/625;
- Comply with any exceptional requirement and is not subject to specific restrictions.
- Have entered via a Border Control Post (BCP) and undergone SPS checks

Based on the International Agreements between the EU and Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, animal products from Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein must comply with the same requirements applying to animal products from EU Member States.

Requirements for health certificates for imports of animal products from EU into Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) are introduced in phases from January 2021 (see 2.1.4- POAO imported from EU between).

The UK also has a formal list of third countries that are approved for food imports. It is primarily about sanitary rules for products of animal origin, and making sure they meet UK requirements in relation to food safety for sale in the UK.

Regulation: Retained CIR 2021/405, Article 3-25

Products must be produced in an approved establishment for the relevant type of POAO. Consolidated lists of approved plants are available on the Gov.UK website.

Reference: Lists of approved EU food establishments

List of Non-EU Countries Authorised Establishments

List of establishments in non-EU countries that are approved to export animal products to the UK

In event of a disease outbreak or a public health issue, emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain products from certain countries. Information on the latest updates concerning disease outbreaks, which may affect imports into the UK, can be found on Topical Issues page on the website.

Further information on the International and UK monitoring of animal diseases may be found on the animal disease monitoring website.

The latest news about exotic notifiable disease outbreaks can be obtained from the APHA subscription service.

2.1.2 Border control posts (BCPs)

BCPs operate under the responsibility of a Portal OV. The designation for a Portal OV is different to the designation of OV by FSS. Portal OVs are appointed by a Local Authority in Scotland and designated by Defra after completion of a specific Defra training course.

Reference: UK border control posts: animal and animal product imports

POAO, which are subject to official controls at BCPs:

- meat products as defined in point 7.1 of Annex I to Retained Regulation 853/2004;
- processed products listed under point 7 of Annex I to Retained Regulation 853/2004;
- composite products as defined in Article 4 and 6 to Commission Decision 2007/275/EC as amended by Retained Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2007
- Additional requirements for importing POAO (fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparations, meat products and raw materials for production of gelatine and collagen) from Third countries (TCs) or region thereof as defined in Article 4, 5 and 7 to Retained CDR 2019/625

Regulation: Retained CIR 2019/2007 defines the list of POAOs subject to official control at the BCPs

2.1.3 Definition of Consignment

- Group/batch consigned from the same premises of origin to the same place of destination in one vehicle, covered by the same official certificate, official attestation or any other document. If the consignment is transported in more than one vehicle or container, an official certificate is required for each vehicle.
- If a vehicle contains more than one constituent group of commodities being exported to different premises of destination, then a certificate must be provided for each consignment and destination.

Regulation: Retained Regulation 2017/625, Article 3(37)

2.1.4 POAO imported from EU

To access the latest information about imports from EU please go the following link:

Import food and drink from the EU to Great Britain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2.1.5 Movements from Northern Ireland (NI) to GB

For POAO intended to remain on the GB internal market no additional documentation is required to accompany the POAO moving from NI to GB. Imports from Northern Ireland will not be subject to BCP checks.

2.1.6 Transiting POAO from Third country (TC) through EU to GB

POAO consignments exported from a TC, transiting EU territory, before being imported to GB must enter GB via a BCP with the appropriate designation and correct CN code for the product.

POAO must:

- enter via an appropriately approved BCP
- be pre-notified using IPAFFS at least one working day in advance of arrival
- have a GB health certificate
- subject to documentary, identity and physical checks at the BCP (see 2.2.1 Checks on imports at BCP in this chapter)

If the consignment has undergone full animal and public health checks on the entry to the EU and has been cleared for circulation on the EU market, the import must follow the phasing requirements in 2.1.4 (POAO imported from EU).

Reference: Transiting animals and animal products through Great Britain

[UK border control posts: animal and animal product imports - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)]

2.1.7 Other Third country (TC) imports

In relation to emergency measures where it is evident that food or feed imported into Great Britain from outside the United Kingdom is likely to constitute a serious risk to human health, animal health or the environment, the appropriate authority may make regulations, containing measures based on the gravity of the situation.

In Scotland, these measures are implemented by way of Declarations using the following Scottish Statutory Instruments:

- The Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/446) - Declarations under Regulation 35
- The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (SSI 2012/177) - Declarations under Regulation 25

POAO possessing a serious risk to animal or public health and issued written declaration suspending or imposing conditions on the introduction into Scotland of that product are published and updated on FSS website.

Reference: Declarations

2.1.8 Organic products

- Organic POAO must be obtained from animals kept in ways, which minimise the need for medicines, and processed foods are prepared with limited additives.

  Regulation: 834/2007, Article 14 and 19
- Imported organic products must be compliant with organic production standards
- Defra Organic Farming Branch is the responsible CA.

2.1.9 Channelling of goods

Certain animal by-products (ABPs) from TCs associated with a higher potential animal and public health risk, may only be transported from a BCP to the establishment of destination under special conditions:

- supervised by APHA
- under specific channelling procedure
- the establishment of destination requires an additional permit from the APHA to receive these ABPs
- the receiver must inform APHA upon receiving these ABPs within three working days of it being released by the BCP.

2.1.10 Illegal imports

- POAO which have not entered GB via a BCP
- POAO not accompanied by the required documentation
- Inaccurately identified and/or mis-described products
- Hidden (smuggled) product which is not subject to official controls

2.2 Checks at BCP

The main reasons we aim to undertake checks at BCPs are:

- ensure that only products safe for human consumption enter the food chain
- protect animal and public health
- ensure compliance with UK rules and international trading standards.

Each import consignment must:

- come from a country approved to export that type of product to the EU / UK
    - Importing country must have an approved residue monitoring plan for the category of food in accordance with Annex I to Council Directive 96/23/EC.

      Regulation: Commission Implementing Decision 2017/903 (List of products and TCs with approved residue monitoring plan); Retained OCR 2017/625, Article 150, point 1 and 2
    - If relevant for the food, the country of origin must have an implemented salmonella control program.

      Regulation: Retained Regulation 2160/2003
- enter GB via a BCP, where veterinary checks must be carried out

  (see 2.1.2 Border control posts (BCPs) in this chapter)
- be pre-notified to the BCP, via IPAFFS or TRACES NT (Trade Control and Expert System) for POAO transiting EU and being subject to veterinary control at the EU's BCP. Importer or their agent completes part 1 of the CHED
- be accompanied by animal health and public health certification signed by the relevant Central Competent Authority (CCA) for the third country

Remember that general EU regulations will also apply.

The table below outlines the checks on third country imports.

Step	Details
1	Imported POAOs are checked at an authorised BCP. (see 2.1.7 in this chapter)
2	After satisfactory inspection at the BCP, the Portal OV issues a certificate confirming that veterinary checks have been carried out (see 2.1.4 - POAO imported from EU). The certificate known as a Common Health Entry Document (CHED) is issued (i.e. Portal OV signs and stamps Part II of the CHED). **Reference**: See Annex 1 in this chapter.
3	The original health certificates issued by the originating country are retained at the BCP and an authenticated copy is given to the transporter.
4	Accompanying documentation (original CHED, copy of the Health Certificate, invoice, bill of landing, airway bill, packing list, etc.) travels with the consignment to the first approved establishment whilst under customs bond. The accompanying documentation must be retained by the importer wherever the consignment first entered the EU. However, the importer should provide an authenticated copy upon request.
5	From the first approved establishment, the meat then travels between establishments in GB with commercial documents and/or Support Health Attestation for POAO intended to be exported to the EU.
6	The OV at any subsequent approved establishment will make random checks on consignments and accompanying paperwork. These checks include: Rules on the origin of the product (authorised country and establishment) • health marking, or • identification marking • documentation • transport • product temperature • wrapping and packaging

2.3 Checks carried out by the OV in FSS approved establishments

Regulations:

- Retained Regulation 999/2001 Annex IX, Chapter C, (as amended)
- Retained Regulation 2017/625, Article 43 to 57.3, Article 65 to 68.2

- The Official Controls (Agriculture etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 2019
- The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

The OV carries out random verification that the meat complies with the relevant requirements, via targeted inspections. These checks are to ensure that fresh meat, poultry meat and other animal products comply with animal and veterinary public health conditions relating to trade. For example, checks are made on health marking or identification marking and accompanying documentation.

Regulation: Retained Regulation 853/2004, Article 5

Random checks should be conducted to ensure:

- SRM controls have been fully complied with EU and national legislation
- The meat is properly health marked or identification marked
- Label information is accurate
- Accompanying documentation (CHED, copy of the Health Certificate, invoice, bill of lading, airway bill, packing list, etc.) is correct and has been completed accurately (approval code or establishment number)
- Traceability, particularly for POAO purchased from a third party (commercial document /and copy of CHED, health certificate)
- Hygiene rules have not been breached
- Any seals on packaging are intact
- The consignment has not come from a restricted region subject to specific animal health controls (see 2.1.1 – Background, in this chapter).

Note: FSS is no longer required to carry out 100% checks on compliance with SRM removal requirements. However, the OV must verify that the FBO has robust systems in place to ensure that meat entering the food chain is free from SRM.

2.3.1 Documentation missing

All imported consignments, regardless of the point of entry i.e. EU/GB, should arrive at the first point of destination accompanied by an original CHED.

If documentation for a consignment selected for checking is missing, contact FSS Operations: Operations@fss.scot.

2.3.2 Action post check

If the initial checks on health marking or identification marking and documentation raise suspicion that rules have been breached, the OV is to use professional judgement on what further action is appropriate. These cases also need to be reported

to the Scottish food crime and incidents unit (SFCIU) by email to foodcrime@fss.scot and copy to incidents mailbox (incidents@fss.scot)

Reference: See section 4 on 'Action for unsatisfactory consignments' in this chapter for additional OV guidance.

2.4 Returned consignment

Any consignment exported from Great Britain to a trading partner which is returning to GB following a refusal of entry by trading partner competent authorities, is subject to certain conditions laid down in The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012, Regulation 23. For further information and requirements for returned consignments please refer to:

Import of Animal Products Returned to Great Britain (defra.gov.uk)

Import Information Note (IIN) RPTC/1

OVS NOTES - Import controls for animals and products of animal origin

The OV should check to see that all such consignments are accompanied by a CHED and the necessary EU guarantees, and that EU requirements concerning marking are still met.

2.4.1 Authorisation of returned consignments

Consignments of meat and other animal products, which originated in Scotland can be rejected by a competent authority of importing country for failure to comply with the regulations. For example, meat incorrectly or inadequately health marked or identification marked.

These consignments may only be returned to Scotland if authorisation is granted by the following authorities:

Scotland
Ian Cox | Policy Manager | Disease Control Branch - Trade | Animal Health and Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Edinburgh EH11 3XD Tel 0300 244 6835 BlackBerry 07393 753 530 Email: ian.cox@gov.scot

2.4.2 FSS OV action

The licence from the competent authority of the importing country will provide the reason for return. Upon receipt at the Scottish plant, the OV should establish whether the meat:

- poses a risk to human or animal health
- fails to comply with the relevant regulations, or
- needs to be placed under restrictions, for example pending further decisions for salmonella cases

If the OV suspects that the returned meat or animal products are unsatisfactory, then action should be taken.

Reference: See section 4 on 'Action for unsatisfactory consignments' in this chapter for additional information.

3. Additional duties for imported beef

3.1 FSS duties at cutting premises: Imported beef

3.1.1 Overview of OV responsibilities

The OV must carry out random inspection of consignments of imported meat to verify FBO compliance with SRM controls to ensure that imported beef is free from SRM.

3.1.2 Verification checks

FSS is no longer required to carry out 100% checks on compliance with SRM removal requirements. However, the OV must verify that the FBO has robust systems in place to ensure that meat entering the food chain is free from SRM.

The level of checks will depend on the type of meat being imported. Random unannounced verification inspections should be carried out by an authorised officer, with further intelligence based inspections as appropriate (taking into account status of the country of origin).

Full checks on the FBO's procedures must be carried out as part of the audit process (see chapter 4 on 'Audit, HACCP and verifying operator's own checks'). As part of the audit, the OV must verify that the FBO has robust systems in place to ensure that meat entering the food chain is free from SRM.

3.2 SRM definition and inspection duties

3.2.1 Regulations

Imported animals and animal products must meet the requirements of Retained Regulation 999/2001 (as amended) which lays down rules designed to prevent, control and eradicate Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs).

Retained Regulation 999/2001 applies to production and placing on the market of live animals and products of animal origin, and in certain specific cases to exports.

3.2.2 Definition of SRM in imported beef

SRM in beef imported from countries with a controlled or undetermined BSE risk is defined as:

	Controlled or Undetermined Risk Status	Negligible Risk Status
All ages	• tonsils • last four meters of the small intestine • caecum • mesentery	
Over 12 months	• Skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes, • Spinal cord.	• Skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes, • Spinal cord.
Over 30 months	Vertebral column including the dorsal root ganglia, but excluding: • vertebrae of the tail • spinous and transverse process of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae • median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum	

Note: Before reporting SRM, remember to check the age and provenance of the animals on the documentation.

3.2.3 Permitted cuts containing SRM vertebral column

It is permitted to import:

- whole carcases
- half carcases
- half carcases cut into no more than 3 wholesale cuts
- quarter carcases

With the vertebral column remaining, providing that they are sent directly to a licensed cutting plant, which holds an additional approval to remove bovine vertebral column.

All carcases/part carcases containing VC that is SRM must be identified by a clearly visible red stripe on the label referred to in Article 13 of Retained Regulation 1760/2000. The red stripe makes it clear that the VC is SRM and must be removed.

The consignments must be accompanied by commercial documentation and/or CHED stating the specific number of carcases/part carcases from which removal of the VC is required (i.e. the VC is SRM).

Reference: See chapter 2.7 on 'SRM' for further details on additional approvals to remove bovine vertebral column.

As of 1st July 2017, it is no longer a requirement of Retained Regulation 999/2001 for the commercial documentation to have the number of carcases/part carcases where removal of the VC is not required.

Reference: Retained Regulation 999/2001 (as amended) Annex V, 11 3 (b).

3.2.4 Non-permitted cuts containing SRM vertebral column

Smaller cuts of beef containing vertebral column are not permitted to be imported into GB from countries with a controlled or undetermined BSE risk and are an illegal import of SRM, unless accompanied by a declaration stating they are derived from animals, which are under 30 months at the time of slaughter.

3.2.5 Operator responsibility for beef from countries with a controlled or undetermined BSE risk containing vertebral column

The FBO must contact their FSS technical lead 72 hours in advance of an imported beef delivery from countries with a controlled or undetermined BSE risk containing vertebral column.

The FSS Technical Lead will arrange appropriate FSS verification of the process and controls in place.

3.3 SRM bovine vertebral column labelling requirements

3.3.1 Vertebral column

The vertebral column does not need to be removed from:

- bovine animals less than 30 months of age.
- bovines of any age if coming from a Negligible Risk Status area (e.g. Northern Ireland). Please refer to Retained Commission Implementing Decision 2017/1396 which is the recent amendment to Commission Decision 2007/453/EC (establishing the BSE status of EU Member States or third countries or regions thereof according to their BSE risk status) for a full list of the risk status of all countries.

3.3.2 Red stripe

The EU TSE legislation requires that carcases or parts of carcases that require the vertebral column to be removed as SRM to be identified by a clearly visible red stripe on the label referred to in Article 13 or 15 of Retained Regulation 1760/2000.

Reference: Retained Regulation 999/2001 (as amended), Annex V, 11 3 (a) and Annex IX, Chapter C, Section B (d).

Where bovine carcases or parts of carcases containing vertebral column are marked with a red striped label the vertebral column is designated SRM and the vertebral column must be removed at a cutting plant which holds an authorisation for its removal.

3.3.3 Information on label

EU legislation requires the label to indicate:

- the ID number for the animal (or relevant group of animals)
- the approval number for the slaughterhouse / cutting establishment and / or
- the EU Member State /TC of slaughter, cutting and/or export.

Reference: Retained Regulation 1760/2000, Article 12 requires the label to be attached to the meat, pieces of meat or to the packaging material.

4. Action for unsatisfactory consignments

4.1 Types of unsatisfactory consignments of imported meat

4.1.1 Unchecked consignments

Consignments are considered unchecked where evidence exists that consignments may have been:

- imported into GB other than through an approved BCP
- removed from a BCP without a CHED or the authority of the BCP's OV
- transported from a BCP to a destination other than the one specified in the CHED,

OV to follow steps in 4.2 Unsatisfactory consignments - FSS OV action in this chapter

4.1.2 Public health unsatisfactory consignment

Unsatisfactory consignments can be classified where there is evidence of non-compliance related to public health:

- Wrapping and packaging
    - Wrapping and packaging must conform to the requirements of Retained Regulation 852/2004, Annex II, Chapter X.
    - Checks should be made to ensure the integrity of the packaging and that the packaging fully protects the meat from the risk of contamination.
- Contamination
    - Approved residue monitoring plan for the category of food in accordance with Annex I to Council Directive 96/23/EC.

      Regulation: Retained OCR 2017/625, Article 150, point 1 and 2

      Reference: See 2.2 Checks at BCP in this chapter
- Health marking / identification marking

- Imported consignments received in approved establishments must bear the appropriate health mark/ identification mark.

  Reference: Retained Regulation 2017/625, Article 18(4), and Retained Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/627, Article 48 and Annex II. Identification marking requirements of Retained Regulation 853/2004, Articles 5 and 6(1)(c)(i) and Annex II.

- Labelling / health certificates / commercial documents
  - Consignments received in approved establishments must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

    Reference: See the section 2.3 Checks carried by OVs in FSS approved establishments in this chapter for additional information.

- Temperature limits
  - Fresh meat must not be exported from the country of origin, unless it has been chilled to a specified internal temperature, and maintained at that temperature throughout the period of transport. The internal temperature that the meat must not exceed is listed in the tables below:

Type of meat	Part of meat	Maximum temperature (°C)
Fresh meat (red)	Carcases and cuts	+7
	Offal	+3
White meat	Poultry carcase	+4
	Poultry offal	+4
Wild game	Large	+7
	Small	+4
Type of meat	**Maximum temperature for storage and transport (°C)**	
Mince meat	Fresh	+2
	Frozen	-18
Meat preparations	Fresh	+4
	Frozen	-18
Mechanically separated meat	Fresh	+2
	Frozen	-18

- Disease / animal health
  - The consignment origin is not from a restricted region/country subject to specific animal health controls

    Reference: See the section 2.1.1 Background in this chapter for additional information.

  - Implemented salmonella control program by the country of origin.

    Reference: See 2.2 Checks at BCP in this chapter

- SRM presence
    - **Reference:** See section 3 on 'Additional duties for imported beef' in this chapter for action on SRM non-compliances.

4.1.3 Animal health unsatisfactory consignment

A consignment may be considered unsatisfactory if:

- the presence of an agent responsible for a notifiable disease is detected
- any cause likely to constitute a serious hazard to humans or animals is present
- uncertified product comes from an area infected by an epizootic disease
- documentation fails to certify the consignment is free from disease.

Examples:

- consignments imported from countries or regions that are restricted due to disease outbreaks
- meat from Foot and Mouth Disease vaccinating countries

Note: Defra and APHA take responsibility for all animal health aspects of imports.

4.2 Unsatisfactory consignments - FSS OV action

Any evidence or intelligence on unsatisfactory consignments should be reported to FSS Operational Delivery Technical Lead, FSS Head of Imports and Exports, APHA and DEFRA and any action to be taken will be agreed between the different agencies

4.3 Disposal of unsatisfactory consignments

4.3.1 Permitted disposal routes

APHA will be able to advise on the approval status of plants receiving all categories of by-products from approved establishments, or see: Guidance for the animal by-product industry - GOV.UK

Reference: See chapter 2.8 on 'Animal by-products' for additional information.

To prevent diversion of unfit consignments back into the human food chain, the OV must supervise the despatch of such consignments.

5. Checks on imported live animals

5.1 General conditions and checks applicable to live animals entering GB from EU Member States or Northern Ireland

5.1.1 Introduction

Importers are required to give at least 24 hours' notice in writing (including by fax) to the APHA office responsible for the place of destination of the animals of their intention to import from EU Member State /NI.

The Notice should state:

- name, full postal address and telephone number of the importer
- name, full postal address and telephone number of the place destination
- date and time of arrival at place of destination
- details of the animal(s) being imported including quantity, breed, sex, passport number (if applicable), name (if applicable)
- name and full postal address of the premises of origin where the animal(s) are being imported from
- signature and date

Regulation: The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012- Part 2.

Date from	Importer responsibilities		Veterinary checks
	IPAFFS pre-notification	Health Certificate	
1 January 2021	Consignment must be pre-notified by the importer using IPAFFS (completing Part I of the CHED) at least one working day before the expected time of arrival at the point of entry. A unique notification number (UNN) automatically generated by IPAFFS must be provided to APHA OV The format of UNN is IMP.GB.2021.1XXXXXX.	Imported animals must be accompanied by a health certificate (i.e. with signed version in English language) issued by the CA of the country of origin. Health certificate must: • contain only those paragraph of the model relevant to the country. • certify single consignments • **Reference:** Health certificates for animal	**Documentary check:** APHA OV must add the UNN to the health certificate and to attach a copy of the health certificate to the import notification. **Identity and physical checks:** Carried out by APHA at the point of destination, based on a risk assessment. Completed and validated CHED is issued by the portal OV to accompany the consignment to the first point of destination given on the CHED.
1 July 2022	Live animals must enter Great Britain through an established point of entry with an appropriate border control post (BCP)		
	Same continue to apply. However, it is not required the importer to provide UNN to the APHA OV.	Same continue to apply	Same continue to apply **Documentary, identity and physical checks.** Carried out at the approved BCP. The level of physical and identity checks is based on assessments of biosecurity and public health risks.

[1] Import live animals and germinal products from the EU to Great Britain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Importer responsibilities:

- Live animals may only be imported into Scotland through an approved BCP; the BCP must be approved to handle the category of animal being imported.

  Reference: UK border control posts: animal and animal product imports

  Contact details of EU BCPs

- importers must pre-notify the import via IPAFFS by completing the information in Part I of the CHED.
- under Regulation 1/2005 and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulation 2006, importers must comply with the rules of animal welfare during transport
- on arrival, the animal(s) must be conveyed directly to the BCP where they will be subject to documentary and identity checks and, in most cases, to a physical examination
- importers must notify the APHA official responsible for the BCP if, for any reason, the arrival of a consignment is cancelled, postponed or delayed
- the animals will not be permitted to leave the BCP or the HMRC clearance area, except with a CHED provided by the Portal OV, confirming that all the veterinary checks have been carried out; the animals must be taken directly to the place of destination which must be the destination given on the CHED
- on arrival at the destination after leaving the BCP, animals for breeding and production may not be moved from the establishment unless authorised in writing by APHA

NB – Checks on imports of live animals and germinal products from EU:

Live animals and germinal product may have document, identity and physical checks, including tests, at the place of destination. **Checks will depend on biosecurity and public health risks.**

Checks on live animals imports from July 2022: Live animals imported to GB from July 2022 through a BCP and will be subject to document, identity and physical checks. Live animal imports that enter through a point of entry without a BCP will have a document check and may have identity and physical checks at the place of destination

5.1.2 Delivery of imported livestock

The animals must be taken directly to the place of destination which must be the place of destination given on the export health certificate. The appropriate health certificate must accompany the consignment to its place of destination where it must be retained

by the consignee for a minimum period of 12 months. The route plan or animal transport certificate must also accompany the consignment.

For transporting live animals from EU to GB or transiting to NI via GB, transporter must have the following documents issued by GB:

- transport authorisation
- certificate of competence
- vehicle approval certificate
- Two journey logs
    - one approved by APHA
    - one approved by the EU member state of origin

Note: EU-issued versions of these documents are not acceptable in GB. For transporting live animals from NI to GB, Transporter authorisation, certificates of competence and vehicle approval certificates issued in NI are valid for use in GB.

All consignees must, before the consignment is divided up or subsequently marketed:

- check either that each animal is identified and that they are accompanied by certification in accordance with EU and national legislation.
- notify APHA of any irregularity or anomaly in either identification or in certification of the animals
- report signs of illness or disease to APHA
- where an irregularity or anomaly in the certification is found, isolate the animals or products in question until a veterinary inspector has authorised their release in writing

All cattle imported into GB from European Union (EU) Member States must comply with the following:

- Bovine animals must come from an officially tuberculosis-free bovine herd, be tuberculosis-free and in particular have reacted negatively to an intradermal tuberculin test
- A bovine animal is considered to be tuberculosis-free if it shows no clinical signs of tuberculosis nor a reaction to an intradermal tuberculin test carried out not more than thirty days before loading, nor any specific reaction, and when it is from an officially tuberculosis-free bovine herd.
- A bovine herd is considered to be officially tuberculosis-free if:

    (a) all the animals are free from clinical signs of tuberculosis;

    (b) all the animals over six weeks old have reacted negatively to at least two official intradermal tuberculin tests, the first one six months after completion of

disinfection of the stock, the second one six months later and the remainder at one- or two-yearly intervals in the case of Member States whose entire bovine herd is under official veterinary supervision and has a rate of tubercular infection lower than 1 %;

(c) no bovine animal has been introduced without a certificate from an official veterinarian showing that the animal has reacted negatively to an intradermal tuberculin test, and that it comes from an officially tuberculosis-free herd.

Note: All cattle sent directly to slaughter are exempt from post-import TB testing.

5.2 General conditions and checks applicable to live animals entering Great Britain from a third country

Importing live animals from TCs to GB will follow the same steps prescribed in 5.1.1 Introduction in this chapter.

Import of live animals can only be permitted from TCs listed in Annex I Part I of Retained Commission Regulation 206/2010 as amended. Depending on the animal health situation in the territories of origin the EU Commission may require supplementary guarantees provided by certain country.

APHA may take an emergency safeguard action can be taken at very short notice to prohibit or restrict the importation of certain animals from certain countries following an outbreak of disease or a public health issue (Annex I, Part I, Column 6 of Retained Commission Regulation 206/2010 as amended)

Reference: 2.1.1 Background in this chapter

Animals intended for immediate slaughter must be conveyed without delay from the BCP to the slaughterhouse where they should be slaughtered as soon as possible but at least within 5 working days.

5.3 General conditions and checks applicable to live animals entering GB from a third country via Member States

The following conditions apply in respect of animals originating in a third country which are imported into Scotland via another Member State and where the veterinary checks at a BCP have been carried out in the EU Member State of entry.

- The animal must, on arrival in Scotland, be accompanied by a CHED and an authenticated copy of the original health certificate, issued by the Portal OV of the BCP. These documents must be retained by the consignee for at least 12 months and be made available, on request, to an officer of Scottish Government or LA.

- Importers must give notice of the proposed entry of consignment. The notification shall be made to the inspection staff at the BCP using the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS). The common health entry document (CHED) is used by operators to give prior notification of arrival of a consignment

Reference: Veterinary Checks on Live Animals (defra.gov.uk)

5.4 Imported cattle identification

5.4.1 Non-direct to slaughter cattle

All cattle born or imported (not direct to slaughter) into Scotland since 1 July 1996 must be registered with ScotEID (since 4 October 2021) or previously the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) within 15 days of arrival at the holding. They must be moved to the licensed slaughterhouse accompanied by an official GB passport.

For imported animals with a ScotEID or BCMS-issued passports, the passport will provide details of the country from which the animal was imported.

5.4.2 Direct to slaughter: EU Member States

All cattle imported from EU Member States or from Northern Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands and sent direct for slaughter must be accompanied by:

- a passport issued by the Member State or island authority
- an export health certificate
- a Permit Authorising Movement Of Cattle (BT1) issued by DARD (for cattle from Northern Ireland only)

5.4.3 Direct to slaughter: other third countries

Animals imported since 1 July 1996 from third countries, will be accompanied by a GB passport unless they are presented for slaughter within 15 days of import, in which case they will be accompanied by an export health certificate.

5.4.4 FSS action

Chapter 2.5 on ‘Animal identification’ sets out all FSS action required including:

- FSS responsibilities in relation to checking cattle ID
- Action to take when cattle are not properly identified

5.5 SRM

5.5.1 Cattle from EU Member States and countries with a controlled or undetermined BSE risk

Cattle imported live from all EU Member States and countries with a controlled or undetermined BSE risk are subject to SRM controls when slaughtered in GB. These controls may vary from those for cattle born, reared and slaughtered in Scotland and involve the removal of additional SRM from the carcase.

Example: Vertebral column in an authorised cutting plant.

Regulation:

- Retained Regulation 999/2001 (as amended), Annex IX, Chapter B on Imports of bovine animals.
- Retained Commission Decision 2007/453/EC (consolidated text) for lists of countries or regions by BSE risk category.

5.5.2 Cattle from the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands

Cattle imported live from the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are Controlled risk and subject to the same SRM controls as England and Wales.

5.6 Welfare issues for imported animals

5.6.1 Resting

The animals may be rested prior to slaughter, provided that the health certificate is valid at the date of slaughter.

5.6.2 Legislation

- Retained Regulation 1/2005 and
- The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

5.6.3 Documentation required during transportation

The person transporting animals must carry with them documentation stating:

- the origin of the animals and their ownership
- the place, date and time of departure
- the intended destination
- the expected duration of the intended journey

Which must be made available to the Competent Authority on request?

Reference: Retained Regulation 1/2005, Article 4, Paragraph 2.

5.6.4 OV duties

The OV should check that consignments have been transported in accordance with the legislation quoted above.

The OV at the slaughterhouse should carry out checks as part of their animal welfare inspections under Retained Regulation 2017/625 to ensure that water and feeding intervals, journey times and resting periods comply with Regulation 1/2005, Annex I, Chapter V.

A model document setting out the journey details that must be recorded is contained in Regulation 1/2005, Annex II.

Note: Journey time begins when the first arrival is moved. A ‘long journey’ will be any journey exceeding 8 hours.

Additional provisions relating to long journeys are contained in Regulation 1/2005, Annex I, Chapter VI. Certain derogations from these provisions exist for journeys less than 12 hours.

Reference: The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, Part 3.

Where the haulier breaches these provisions, the OV should refer such matters to APHA / LA.

Reference: See chapter 2.3 on ‘Animal welfare’ for additional information.

5.7 Incorrect certification or identification of imported animals

5.7.1 Confirmation to APHA

All the animals that are imported must be accounted for.

The OV should confirm to APHA that all the animals certified have arrived and have been slaughtered.

5.7.2 Unidentified animals

If the OV identifies that imported animals are accompanied by incorrect certification or cannot be readily identified, the animals must not be slaughtered, and they must immediately notify APHA, who will arrange for the animals to be examined by an APHA Veterinary Officer (VO).

Regulations:

Retained Regulation 853/2004, Annex II, Section II, Paragraph 2(a) and Annex III, Section I, Chapter IV, Paragraph 3

The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

5.7.3 APHA action

After examination, the APHA VO will either certify that the animals are:

- fit to be slaughtered and used for their intended purpose, or
- by notice in writing served on the person in charge of the animals, require the animals to be slaughtered and destroyed or re-exported (in exceptional circumstances), in each case at the expense of the importer

Regulations: The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

5.8 Detained animal arrangements

5.8.1 Detention method

The various methods of detention available to the OV are detailed in chapter 7 on 'Enforcement'. To summarise, detention is possible under:

- the Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006, Regulation 9 (5) form ENF 11/26 – Detention Notice)
- Retained Regulation 2017/625, Article 66(6) for consignments from third countries (form ENF 11/32 – Letter of Official Detention).

5.8.2 Protocol

Best practice is for the OV and the FBO to agree a detention procedure within the establishment.

6. Exports

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Purpose

In certain situations FBOs may decide to trade their products outside of the UK.

It is entirely the responsibility of the exporter to ensure that all necessary export documentation is in place for any consignment.

Depending on the country of destination and the type of product, the FBO is required to comply with all relevant legislation regarding production of meat and meat products for export. This may require additional measures and controls to be in place for meat products intended to be exported. Additional official controls may also be required.

All countries that are not members of the EU are regarded as Third Countries (TC) for the purposes of importing and exporting.

6.1.2 Competent Authority

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the UK Central Competent Authority (CCA) for International Trade. They are responsible for negotiating new export markets in other non-EU countries and for ensuring continued access to those export markets.

With regards to the facilitation of international trade in animals, products of animal origin, and plants, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, which also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

Reference: APHA contacts

Some certificates require endorsement (i.e. countersigning) by an APHA Veterinarian after being signed by an Official Veterinarian.

The Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) are responsible for making arrangements for the countersignature of certificates between the certifying OV and an APHA Veterinarian.

Reference: CITC contacts

FSS is the central competent authority empowered by Defra to assess the compliance of establishments with the requirements of a third country and to formally recommend to Defra on whether an establishment should be recommended as eligible to export the relevant meat commodity to the specific country. Defra reserves the full right for listing and de-listing the establishments for TC exports.

6.1.3 OV Export Designation

Improve International is appointed by APHA to manage the registration and training of OVs for carrying out export of POAO in England, Scotland and Wales.

For granting export designation, the OV should:

- pass relevant OCQ(V)s courses,
- must be Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) member.
- must be authorised as an OV by APHA on successful completion of the training.
- must have OV stamp with unique SP number.

Reference: Improve International - Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary)

Email: enquiries@improve-ov.com

Tel: 0330 202 0380

6.1.4 Certification Support Officer (CSO)

CSOs are trained paraprofessionals who work on behalf of the Government, under the direction of a Certifying Officer (CO), to collect the evidence required for the CO to complete Export Health Certificates for animal products (excluding germplasm/germinal products). CSO authorisation is granted by APHA:

- after passing OCQ(AHP) course
- be listed on AHP database
- authorisation is for a period of three years from the date of obtaining the OCQ(AHP)_CSO Certificate
- must have CSO official stamp with an unique number assigned to that authorised CSO

Reference: APHA Briefing Note 32/20

Policy for APHA Authorisation of Export Certification Support Officers (CSOs) in GB (ET175)

CSO role:

- To support a Products authorised OV to certify POAO
- CSOs may not carry out any functions that require the exercise of veterinary judgement. They may only carry out such inspections, factual verification and evidence collection as specified by their directing OV for the directly related product and certificate, and only with respect to animal products, excluding germplasm.
- CSOs are not authorised to sign an EHC in their own right or on behalf of an OV.
- CSOs must be in an official employment that they will be supporting and should have professional indemnity insurance or equivalent arrangements in place.
- All documentary evidence recorded by the CSO for supporting the certification process must be signed, stamped (using the CSO's personal AHP stamp), and dated by the CSO, demonstrating that it has been personally attested by them. These documents must be submitted to the OV as supporting evidence before the OV can certify the relevant EHC.
- The CSO must inform the OV as soon as they become aware of a potential conflict of interest. A CSO must not be involved in supporting the certification of any EHC where they may have a conflict of interest.

OV responsibilities in relation to CSOs:

- CSOs, OVs and EHOs must be aware of the Policy for APHA Authorisation of Export Certification Support Officers in GB (ET175) – see the reference above in this section.
- OV should be familiar with the relevant products, production process, certificate requirements and carefully use professional judgement whether CSOs can provide such assistance. OVs need to familiarise the CSO with these product(s) and processes before directing CSO to collect and verify evidence on an ongoing basis.
- OV must train and direct the CSO as to how and where any necessary evidence relevant to the requirements of the EHC should be obtained. The OV is responsible for ensuring that the CSO understands what evidence they can collect and how to obtain that evidence.
- Any supporting evidence (including photographic) provided by the CSO must be saved by the OV in its original format with original date and time details.
- OV need to regularly verify the method of evidence collection and evidence provided by the CSO. The OV must inform the competent authority if any concern arises regarding the ability of the CSO to perform their role.

Reference: Utilisation of Certification Support Officers for Permissible Certificates

6.1.5 Products of Animal Origin (POAO) containing SRM

EU Member States may allow dispatch of heads or of un-split carcases containing SRM from GB to EU Member States only after prior agreement from that state.

Important: There are currently no agreements in place relating to bovine heads exported from GB.

Carcases, half carcases or half carcases cut into no more than three wholesale cuts, and quarters containing no SRM other than the vertebral column, including dorsal root ganglia, may be exported from GB to the EU Member State without the latter's prior agreement.

However, certain exceptions apply.

Important: Exports outside the EU Community of heads and of fresh meat from bovine, ovine or caprine animals containing SRM is prohibited.

6.2 Exporting POAO from Great Britain to the European Union or Northern Ireland

The UK has left the EU, and the transition period ended on 31 December 2020, meaning that the POAO destined to the EU after 1 January 2021, need to follow trade rules as a "third country" exporter to the EU i.e. the UK is no longer part of the EU single market and customs union.

POAO can only be dispatched to the EU/NI from an establishment approved under food hygiene regulations of that food type i.e. approval category, associated activities and species. For that reason the exporter must be listed for export purposes by the EU.

Reference: Businesses approved to export to the EU

Approved UK Establishment List: https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/publications-and-research/publications/approved-premises-register

Approved EU food establishments:
https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/biosafety/food_hygiene/eu_food_establishments_en

Some countries which are not currently members of the EU may be prepared to accept EU harmonised certificates. Dependent on the commodity, these may include the nations of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA):

- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Norway

- Switzerland.

Some countries may specify additional requirements. In written instructions prepared by the Commission, and when using the Trade Control and Exports System (TRACES), what would commonly be referred to as an 'export to another European country' is called 'Intra-Community trade'.

From 22 February, each Prohibited and Restricted (P&R) product type must be accompanied with a new type of EHC called a P&R EHC to move goods from GB to NI . The traders must ensure that they have registered as Authorised Traders. The exporting goods need to:

- be accompanied by official certificates issued by the UK competent authorities
- enter NI through a designated place as defined in point (38) of Article 3 of Retained Regulation 2017/625
- be subject to a channelling procedure applicable from the designated place to the destination supermarket in NI
- be sold exclusively to end consumers in supermarkets located in NI, and they are not to be sold to other operators of the food chain
- be packaged and or wrapped for the final consumers and they bear a label reading “These products from the United Kingdom may not be marketed outside Northern Ireland”.

Definition of Authorised Trader:

- Authorised traders are ‘supermarkets’ and their ‘trusted suppliers’
- A trusted supplier is any business that independently moves its products from GB to NI for sale to the end consumer in NI

P&R goods include products of animal origin (POAO) for human consumption:

- Minced meat of poultry, wild game birds, frozen or chilled
- Chilled minced meat from animals other than poultry
- Chilled meat preparations
- Any unprocessed meat produced from meat initially imported in GB from the EUs

Certification of the P&R goods moved from GB to NI:

- P&R goods require the EU suggested EHCs signed by an OV

Reference:

DAERA – Useful EU Exit links

DEFRA showcase site

Certifying Prohibited and Restricted Goods – Great Britain to Northern Ireland (defra.gov.uk)

6.2.1 Health mark / Identification mark

The Health mark / identification mark is applied to POAO to show it has been produced in an establishment approved in accordance with food safety and hygiene regulations. Health mark is applied to the carcasses fit for human consumption, whereas identification mark is typically applied to wrapping, packaging, or labelling which contains, or is attached to, the POAO.

After the end of Transition Period which endede at 11pm GMT on 31 December 2020, the following marks must be used for POAO produced and placed on the market in Great Britain and Northern Ireland or exported outside of the UK.

- **GB** (for health and ID marks)
- **United Kingdom** (for ID marks)
- **UNITED KINGDOM** (for the health mark)
- **UK** (for health and ID marks)

Health mark examples:

Health mark	Identification mark	UK region where mark is applied	GB market	NI market	EU 27 market	Non – EU market
GB 1234	GB 1234	Great Britain (FSA / FSS approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y
UNITED KINGDOM 1234	United Kingdom 1234	Great Britain (FSA / FSS approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y
UK 1234	UK 1234	Great Britain (FSA / FSS approvals)	Y	N	N	Y

		Northern Ireland (FSA approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y
		Northern Ireland (FSA approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y
		Great Britain (local authority approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y
		Great Britain (local authority approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y
		Great Britain (local authority approvals)	Y	N	N	Y
		Northern Ireland (District Council approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y

		Northern Ireland (District Council approvals)	Y	Y	Y	Y

Size and dimension of the marks:

- must be legible and indelible;
- health mark:
    - oval with at least 6.5 cm wide by 4.5 cm high;
    - letters must be at least 0.8 cm high and figures at least 1 cm high;
    - ink used for the health mark must be authorised in accordance with food law which governs the use of colouring substances in food;
    - dimensions and characters of the health mark may be reduced for health marking of lamb, kids and piglets.
- identification mark - no minimum or maximum size for the identification mark. However, the characters easily decipherable.

Food businesses are allowed to use up existing stocks of labels, wrapping and packaging with the EC identification mark for a 21 month adjustment period after the Transition Period. This adjustment period will commence on 1 January 2021 and end on 30 September 2022.

Note: POAO bearing EC identification mark are not eligible for placing on the Northern Ireland, EU or non-EU markets. After the end of the adjustment period the use of old labels, wrapping and packaging will be unlawful.

Regulations: Retained Regulation 178/2002, Article 3(8)

Reference: EU Exit: Health and Identification Marks at the end of the transition period

6.2.2 Rules of Origin (RoO)

Rules of Origin (RoO) are used to determine the “economic nationality” of a product and are used by customs authorities to classify where an export has come from in order to work out tariffs and restrictions.

Packaging materials are generally not considered when determining the origin of your product. This includes when calculating the weight of the final product (net weight)

Product-Specific Rules:

- Wholly obtained products:
    - Live animals born and reared continuously in the UK
    - Meat and edible offal obtained from live animals born, reared, and slaughtered continuously in the UK.
- Bilateral Cumulation - products produced from 'originating' ingredients in the EU and further processed (see the Insufficient Processing section below) in the UK can then be exported back to the EU preferentially.
    - Meat and edible offal obtained from a slaughtered animal born and raised in the UK or EU.
- Insufficient Processing - all EU materials used in the production of a final UK product can be considered originating if they undergo processing **beyond** 'insufficient' in the UK.
    - drying, chilling, freezing, keeping in brine, simple grinding or simple cutting, sorting, classifying, grading, simple placing in bags, cases, boxes, fixing on cards or boards, affixing or printing marks, labels, logos and other like distinguishing signs on products or their packaging, simple mixing of products, simple mixing of products, simple addition of water or dilution with water or another substance that does not materially alter the characteristics of the product, or dehydration or denaturation of products, slaughter of animals

      Simple' refers to operations that require neither special skills nor machines, apparatus or equipment specifically produced or installed to carry out those operations
    - POAO not referred as wholly obtained or bilateral cumulation products;
    - POAO from imported animals
    - Any imported POAO can be used provided that it is further processed in the UK

Reference: Defra EU Rules of Origin Business Guidance

6.2.3 Veterinary Support Health Attestation (SHA)

SHA is designed to facilitate the movement within the UK and eventual export certification of POAO for human consumption and animal by-products (*excluding germinal products and live animals) from the United Kingdom to other countries. It may be used to support official export certification by Official Veterinarians (OVs) in approved slaughterhouses. The SHA must be certified by an official veterinarian and stamped with the plant Approval stamp. FSS Official veterinarians must only use the

forms available in SharePoint, and are not permitted to sign Food Business Operator (FBO) versions as an MRCVS. However, the FBO is able to pre-fill the SHA for signing.

A Notes for Guidance (NFG) can with instructions regarding issuing and signing SHAs can also be found in SharePoint.

SHAs are designed to be signed daily, each time animal products* are consigned from one establishment to another within the United Kingdom. The SHA should be certified before the products are moved and not signed retrospectively.

There is one SHA per species, as there are differing requirements in each species.

Note: The SHA is not an official export document or an export certificate. It must **not** be used as a substitute for official certification and/or for the internal movement of animal products destined for export to certain countries for which a specific, "bespoke" official attestation is required:

[e.g. China – pig meat (7006EHC, 1734IMC); Eurasian Customs Union – poultry meat (7459EHC/IMC,7468EHC/IMC), sheep and goat meat (7537EHC/IMC), bovine meat (7538EHC/IMC), milk and milk products (6409EHC/IMC); India – Pig meat (7534EHC/IMC), Poultry meat (7514EHC/IMC); Australia - cooked pig meat imported from an approved country that has undergone further preparation in GB (8021EHC/IMC); Canada – fresh beef (7833EHC/IMC)].

The SHA must **not** be used as a substitute for any official certification required for movements of animal products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Protocol**.

** For products moving within the UK (e.g. between GB and NI) an SHA may be used in addition to official certification requirements where needed to support onward export to other countries.

Signing SHA:

- can only be signed by an OV who holds the appropriate designation for the premises being certified.
- The SHA should be certified before the products are moved, however retrospective signing and stamping is allowed as long as the products were produced after January 2021 or produced before January 2021 and re-worked after that date, to ensure products with old ID mark are not attested.
- If the products were produced before January 21 only retrospective signing should be applied.
- Signing/stamping SHA retrospectively, product traceability records might be requested by the OV.

- SHAs can be issued for the plants where FSS have daily attendance, and only within the agreed business hours.
- OV has the relevant, knowledge of, and familiarity with, the processes carried out in the establishment from which it is issued.
- OV is in possession of veterinary declarations attesting to the facts required in order to sign the attestation, for example from the primary producer's veterinary surgeon or the FBO.
- the signature and stamp on the SHA must be in a colour **other than the printed text**.
- With the agreement of the export Certifying Veterinarian or Certifying Officer (CO), SHA's may also be issued electronically, subject to sufficient safeguards and security and in accordance with RCVS guidance (linked below). For example, colour scanned copies of original signed SHAs may be sent electronically directly from the OV to the CO in such a way that document tampering by a third party is not possible – for example as a pdf file.

Some export health certificates require detailed understanding of complex requirements. OV in Approved Meat premises should work with the final Certifying Official Veterinarian to agree the information required to be provided in the SHA and ensure that they strictly adhere to the RCVS's 10 Principles of Certification (link below).

http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification

Note: This SHA is not an official document issued under the control of APHA/Defra/DAERA. This is an FSS document to support export health certification. Veterinarians certifying this SHA do not need to be APHA export designated Official Veterinarians (OVs) and, where veterinarians are also designated as APHA export OVs, they should not sign this SHA in this capacity or using their OV stamp.

For the purposes of audit and reference to assist with post-movement queries or when SHAs are being used to support export health certification procedures, OVs must determine their own document retention period after which time these documents may be disposed of – but in general at least 6 months from certification.

SHA copies should not be returned to the APHA Centre for International Trade. However, they may be requested by APHA or DAERA for audit purposes.

Copies of SHAs should be retain alongside with any relevant support attestations and/or copies of other relevant documents for at least 6 months from certification.

See Notes for Guidance (NFG) for generating a unique serial number and completing SHA.

6.2.4 Groupage exports from Great Britain to the EU or NI (transit or direct export)

Exporters and suppliers who export multiple POAOs (known as groupage exports) from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) to, or through, the EU/NI can use groupage exports facilitation scheme (GEFS). A groupage export is defined as either:

- different commodity types grouped in a single container
- quantities of the same commodity type from more than one source, grouped in the same container
- multiple products of the same commodity type grouped as a single consignment

Exporter must be a GEFS member to benefit and the scheme of 30 day Support Attestations from the end of the transition period.

Reference: Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS): Members list

Products **eligible** for 30 day Support Attestations:

- composite products, meat products, meat preparations (chilled/frozen);
- live bivalve molluscs, fish/fishery products (chilled/frozen) where they are for human consumption

The 30 day Support Attestations can only applied for **fully packaged products for the final consumer (or to be re-packaged directly at the point of sale)** and sourced from a documented and stable supplier list for the POAO included into the consignment. The supplier list with sufficient traceability details must be available on request from a certifying officer (CO) and/or OV.

30 Day Support Attestations cannot be used for fresh meat, products of animal origin (POAO) not for human consumption (except processed pet food).

Reference: Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS)

6.2.5 Export Health Certificate (EHC)

Importing countries or regions require that goods traded with them are safe in order to protect public health and animal health. This safety is generally assured by requiring an EHC issued by, or on behalf of, the government of the exporting country. EHCs are usually established by the importing country in negotiations between the competent authorities of the trading countries. EHC is an official document that confirms your export meets the health requirements of the destination country.

EHCs are a definitive and authoritative statement of compliance with the requirements set out by the importing country or region. From 1st January 2021, EHCs is required for exports of POAO from Great Britain (GB) to the European Union (EU) and, where

relevant, movements from GB to Northern Ireland (NI) under the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP).

FBOs intending to export POAO from GB has to register the business by creating a Government Gateway account and a Defra account in order to be able to apply for an EHC. The new Export Health Certificates (EHC) Online digital platform developed by Defra and APHA allows the exporter to complete the majority of the fields in the EHC, copy existing applications, apply for blocks of certificates, multiple certificates in a single application and see the status of current application.

APHA does not accept PDF applications via email, for any EHCs which are available in EHC Online.

Note: EHC is required for exporting or moving POAO from GB to, or through the EU, non-EU, NI and transit through an EU country. For transit through a non-EU country Defra has to be requested due to various requirements for each country.

Reference: Guidance for applying an export health certificate

Guidance how to register for export health certificate (EHC) online

Export goods from the UK: step by step

EHC for meat products must be certified by an appropriately designated Official Veterinarian (OV) – see 6.1.3 OV Export Designation in this Chapter.

Export designated OV must be registered onto EHC online in order to get access to the submitted EHCs.

Reference:

Step by Step Guide for Certifiers on How to Register for an EHC Online Account

Submitted by the exporter EHC will be processed by APHA and notification e-mail will be sent to exports@fss.scot. This e-mail will be forwarded to the nominated CO/OV.

Nominated CO can source a specimen of a current EHC and associated NFG (either online or from CIT Carlisle) and get familiar with the requirements for the intended export:

- identifying relevant checks and inspections specified in the NFG, EHC, SHA, declarations, approval certificates, test results, calibration results and HACCP records.
- ensure that EHC compliance has been met – BSE status as regards the farms of origin of the of the animals from which the exported meat is derived and the checking and verification of documentation accompanying the cattle to the slaughterhouse, temperature treatment for a defined period of time, storage, etc.

Reference: Commission Decision 2007/453/EC

List of the OIE countries BSE disease statuses

CO may require additional documentation from the exporter, with the necessary action for the export in order to carry out examination, inspection, testing, sampling and treatment in accordance:

- with APHA instructions and
- the requirements of the export health certificate, notes for guidance issued SHAs and checklists.

For completing EHC by the CO, exporter need to provide a truck manifest with all relevant information relating to the product, number of boxes, batch numbers, weights (gross and net), production premises etc. Additionally, all products should be accompanied by full back to farm traceability. CO can request from the FBO the traceability of random products. The history of compliance with previous consignments can be used to determine the level of checks.

Where the consignment contains POAO from another approved establishment and being processed and/or store at exported establishment, CO must ensure that valid SHAs and FBOs declarations for these products are available and compliant with EHC requirements:

- origination from an approved establishment on the UK/EU export list
- HM/ID mark applied is appropriate for EU Export

Due to the requirements of the importing country, APHA issues notifiable disease clearance and /or may request additional documentation, e.g. supplementary certification. Disease Clearance statement cannot routinely be certified by an Official Veterinarian (OV) without specific authorisation from Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). NFG will inform you whether a disease clearance document is required or whether you are authorised to obtain disease clearance by checking the UK disease lists. For certain EHC used for trade to the EU and NI, CO is required to obtain its own disease clearances – check NFG.

Reference: Notifiable Disease Occurrence List for GB and NI

UK Status for Non-Notifiable Disease Relevant to Export Certification

Certifying Officers to Obtain Disease Clearance for certain Export Health Certificates from the APHA Vet Gateway

Own Disease Clearance check:

- the last occurrence of the disease and if applicable when World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) freedom was achieved, to ensure the exact wording on the EHC can be certified
- as close as possible to the date of certification

EHCs which require disease clearance check, additional data entry field will be activated and need to be completed i.e. date for obtaining disease clearance. In the event of a disease outbreak, disease clearances may need to be issued by CITC with the EHC. In the event of a disease outbreak, disease clearances may need to be issued by CITC with the EHC (**Note:** This does not apply to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) or Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) freedom statements).

Note: The UK is granted derogation for Trichinella testing of carcases derived from domestic porcine animals either coming from a holding officially recognised as applying control housing conditions in accordance with Article 8 of Retained Regulation 2015/1375. With regards to the level of assurance related to certifying EHC and NFG, CO should make its own professional judgement for carrying out physical check:

- Random verification check on the random sample from the consignment. This inspection may involve physically examining a representative sample from all parts of the consignment:
    - health mark / ID mark
    - temperature requirements

      Note: It is not permissible to have two batches of product with the same commodity code, one of which is frozen and the other chilled, and which are both listed on the same EHC.
    - batch identification
    - labelling and/or packaging
- Compliance level on previous consignments
- Cleaning and disinfection status of the container prior loading (DO NOT go inside the trailer – H&S risk!).

Where attendance at loading is not required, final inspection/examination of the consignment should be carried out as close to the time of dispatch as is practicable.

Note: EHC must not be signed and stamped if any documentary discrepancies or product non-compliances have been identified until they are rectified by the exporter.

6.2.6 Certifying EHC

COs should satisfy themselves that all supporting documents, declarations received from owners etc. are valid whenever possible, either by inspection of the commodity or by scrutiny of other records, e.g. meat plant records. The OV must be in possession of all necessary documents before completing the certificate.

Certifying EHC:

- Certificates should be signed as close as possible to the time of dispatch.
- Certificates should not be signed for consignments which have already been dispatched. At the time the certificate is signed the consignment must still be available for inspection i.e. still under the control of the certifying OV.

Regulation: Retained OCR 2017/625, Article 88, point 3(c) and Article 89, point 2

- COs must keep copies of declarations and record the procedures they have used to verify the validity of supporting documents and EHC. Further information is detailed in Requirement for Due Diligence (link below).

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

- EHC must be authentic and accurate
- All pages of EHC and attached schedule must have the same reference number – printed or hand written.

Regulation: Retained OCR 2017/625, Article 89, point 1(d)

- Verifying the accuracy of Part I from EHC
- Empty boxes should be scored out with a pen in a different colour than the printed text.
- All the procedures required by the notes for guidance must be followed.
- Any hand written (legible) corrections, text amendments or text deletions need to be initiated and stamped by the CO (in the margin) who signs the EHC.
- Where it is applicable and in accordance with the NFG some paragraphs in EHC may need be deleted before or after printing by crossing out the text. Permissible deletions are normally indicated in the ‘Notes’ section at the end of the certificate, with the instruction ‘Keep as appropriate’. Optional or contextual statements, the statements which are not relevant shall be crossed out, individually initialled and stamped by the certifying officer, or completely removed from the certificate. Permitted paragraphs and sections may be crossed out by applying a ‘Z’ across the section or paragraph rather than crossing out line by line.

- When more information is required, the same must be provided in a form of an attached additional schedule(s) bearing the EHC number on all pages, the total number of pages numbering each page, and be signed and stamped by the CO.
    - in the section for details of the consignment, annotate the certificate 'see attached schedule'
    - amendments or deletions, must be initialled and stamped (in the margin) by the OV showing that this is an authorised change to the schedule
    - the certifying officer must draw a line under the last entry on each page and sign, date and affix the OV stamp on that line in order to prevent the unauthorised addition of more entries. Any blank space under the line should be ruled off.
    - the schedule is firmly stapled to the export certificate in the top left hand corner.
    - all pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped once individually.
- Non-official documents must not be endorsed with the official OV stamp. OVs must only officially certify (i.e. sign/stamp/date in their capacity as OVs) documents which have been issued to them by Defra/APHA (unless specifically advised otherwise by Defra/APHA – e.g. in Notes for Guidance).
- Exporter may requests other documents (e.g. from the importing country) to be officially certified which contain the same information as the official Defra/APHA issued Export Health Certificate (EHC), OVs should advise that the EHC alone should be sufficient (unless the Notes for Guidance state otherwise).
- If a genuine mistake – such as the entry of an incorrect date – is made, the error should be crossed out with a single line and the correct text inserted, then initialled and stamped by the OV.
- Never use correcting fluid to correct mistakes.
- Where required (check relevant NFG), CO should witness sealing of the container and the CO shall record the seal number on the EHC. Consignments collected from several sites each with different EHCs cannot be sealed at the final premises where the last consignment is added.

Sign and stamp EHC:

- CO/OV must follow the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) certification advice in the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct, the RCVS Principles of Certification and the guidelines on good certification practice as below.

  http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification
- CO/OV should consider:

  - caution - scrutinise the document
  - clarity - be clear what the document is asking
  - certainty - be sure what it is they are able to attest to
  - challenge - if challenged, whether they have a defence?

- Manuscript entries on the certificate, the signature and stamp must be made in a colour other than black.
- OV has no perceived conflict of interest in the exporting company or commodity being exported.
- Verify that the reference number at the top right hand corner of each page of the Schedule (and the supplementary certificate if this has not already been issued officially) is the same as the reference number of the Export Certificate.
- EHCs and relevant schedules must be printed in all alternative language/s and should be attached and stapled together in order with the English version on the top, followed by the alternative language/s, and finally the page(s) of the schedule (if any).
- Sign, date and stamp in a colour other than black.
- The stamp should be fully applied within the box.

- All pages (as opposed to sheets of paper) are signed and stamped individually.

Completed EHC and relevant schedules must be scanned and uploaded along with any supporting documents, onto FSS Share Point - Area X / Plant XXXX / Operations / Exports / EHC.

The original fully completed, signed and stamped EHC will accompany the export load.

Reference: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) - Export Health Certification – Products of Animal Origin (POAO)* intended for export from FSS approved establishments (Annex 2).

Further guidance developed by FSS on how to complete fresh meat, including frozen minced meat of domestic bovine animals to EU and NI can be found here and for fresh meat including minced meat of domestic ovine animals to EU and NI, here.

6.2.7 Certified copy of EHC

- OV to ensure that facilities are available to copy the certificate(s) and associated documents when signed.
- Make a copy of the completion i.e. Export Health Certificate (EHC), supplementary certificate and schedules to the EHC.
- Mark it 'Certified Copy' and initial.

- A certified copy should only be made for the Certifying Officer (CO) to retain themselves or when the risk of the certificate getting lost is high and the original is forwarded to the BCP by post or courier and the certified copy accompanies the consignment.

6.2.8 Replacement EU EHCs

- A replacement certificate will not be considered if the original certificate has not been signed and the consignment has been dispatched from the UK
- Replacement EHC might be issued where an administrative error has been made or where the initial certificate has been damaged or lost. The replacement certificate shall not modify information in the initial certificate concerning the identification, traceability and health guarantees of consignments.
    - Errors on the EHC could result in the consignment being: held pending a replacement EHC being issued, if it is possible to issue a cancel and replacement EHC
    - returned to Great Britain, or
    - destroyed.

Reference: Cancel and replacement certificates - guidance for certifiers (defra.gov.uk)

6.3 Other third country exports

Meat and products of animal origin intended for export to third countries (Non-EU Countries) must comply with the requirement of the importing country.

These requirements may differ between countries and it is the exporter's responsibility to be aware and comply with any requirements.

Such additional requirements may include the specific approval of the establishment ('Third country approval'), continuous compliance with the requirements of the approval and certification issued by the competent authority.

6.3.1 Third country approval

Some third countries require formal approval of establishments before they accept their products. It is the exporter's responsibility to be aware of such requirements and obtain approval before any export takes place.

Depending on the destination and type of POAO, the FBO is required to implement additional measures and controls regarding production of meat eligible for export to TCs.

With regards to SOP developed by the FBO, the OV should agree and sign off the SOP before production for export commences. In order to assess whether the FBO's SOP is sufficient to ensure compliance with the TC requirements, OV must be familiar with the specific requirements indicated in the relevant Third Country EHC and associated Notes For Guidance (NFG).

Particular attention should be paid to processes for establishing eligibility and maintaining segregation and identification of eligible product from ineligible throughout the slaughter, production, storage, and transport process.

All SOPS should be reviewed at least annually as a minimum and when there is a change to FBO processes / nature of exports.

Certain countries may also require the exporting establishment to meet specific operational conditions covered by Required Methods of Operation (RMOPs) and Sanitary Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs). The RMOPs and SSOPs need to be signed by the FBO, the site OV and the FSS technical lead. Third country approvals are issued by Defra after a recommendation by Food Standards Scotland. See 6.1.2 Competent Authority in this chapter.

The OV should be aware of all third country approvals currently held by the establishment and keep copies in the premises file.

Reference: Annex 3 - Third Country Approvals Process

6.3.2 FBO and FSS duties in third country approved establishments

FBO's role	OV role
• Comply with national regulations and specific requirements of the importing country applied to the general approval and specific requirements of the TC applied to the specific approval • Implement and comply with food safety management systems based on HACCP principles, SOPs, SSOPs and RMOP if applicable • Notify FSS/OV and APHA CIT for any changes in trading name or any other relevant details to the granted approvals. • When required by the importing TC, carry out a pre-shipment review on the product records including CCPs, deviations, corrective actions,	• Familiarise itself with the TC's EHC and NFG and when is required complete specific training on the requirements for exports to the specific country • Familiarise itself with the updated versions of the FBO's RMOP, SOPs and SSOPs and verify them regularly (as required by the specific country) • Verify the plant HACCP-based procedures • Complete the relevant checklists as required for each particular country at the required frequency

associated prerequisites, disposal of defective products, etc. This must be ascertained by signing and dating the review form.	• Identified document issues and taken corrective actions must be recorded on the appropriate checklists for each particular country • Verify the pre-shipment review (when required by the importing country) • Checks on FBO's microbiological results and required testing methods completed by approved lab. • Hold and have blank copies of relevant internal movement certificates, EHC and NFG for the relevant TC • sign and retain copies of internal movement certificates and/or EHC.

6.3.3 Non Compliance with SOP / TC requirements

POAO not processed to the requirements of the importing TC is not eligible for export. Any non-compliances compromising export certification of the product must be discussed with the FBO verbally and in writing that the veterinary certification may not be issued for the affected product. This may apply to both internal movement and final export certification.

6.3.4 Third country audits in approved establishments

FSS is authorised by Defra to ensure an establishment approved for third country export continues to maintain the terms and conditions of the export approval.

Audits are carried out by the Veterinary Auditor in regard to operational and systems compliance (see Chapter 4 Audit, HACCP and Verifying Operator's Own Checks) and includes auditing the OV performance (in plants with permanent OV presence) to ensure that they are carrying out the required checks and completing records at the established frequency required.

FSS may recommend to Defra the third country export approval to be suspended or the meat establishment to be de-listed from the third country approved establishments list, when:

- Audit outcome is 'Improvement Necessary' or 'Urgent Improvement Necessary'
- FBO fails to address in a timely manner the non-compliances with EU and domestic regulations leading to hierarchy of enforcement.

- FBO breaches the importing country requirements leading to hierarchy of enforcement.

6.3.5 Supporting documentation

The requirement for additional support documentation (such as written declarations, veterinary certificates and lab results) is determined by the content of both the EHC and associated Notes for Guidance. These documents or photocopies of them must be retained by you and filed with certified copy of the EHC to which they apply. In some cases the importing country requires that certain support documents are attached to the health certificate, in these cases the EHC or NFG will state which documents are required.

It is the exporter's responsibility to provide any relevant information and when assistance is necessary to obtain any support certificates required.

6.3.6 Internal movement certificates (IMCs)

When the certification takes place at the end of the chain of establishments, certain Third Countries require official Internal Movement Certificates to be issued for each movement of the meat. Some TCs may require specific IMCs stated in the relevant NFG, whereas other TCs may require a general IMCs requested by email from APHA - Centre for International Trade – Carlisle.

For certain countries where an Internal Movement Certificate is not an official requirement, the POAO can be certified by using SHA (see 6.2.3 Veterinary Support Health Attestation (SHA) in this chapter)

Based on the information provided on the IMCs and using professional judgment, the certifying OV will be able certify POAO intended to be exported for TCs.

Any official attestation issued should comply with the RCVS principles of certification

6.3.7 Notifiable disease clearance (NDC)

Some certificates require the OV to certify that the country or a region is free of certain animal diseases. These are issued by the Centre for International Trade in Carlisle (CIT Carlisle). They are usually valid for 10 days, but in some cases could be from 5 days up to 20 days, so it is important the OV to check this. The date of the signature on the NDC is day 1. An NDC can be withdrawn at any time by APHA if there is a notifiable disease outbreak.

In order to be able to certify that statement, the OV needs NDC issued by APHA.

This supporting certificate takes the form of 'disease clearance certificates'.

Reference: see 6.2.5 Export Health Certificate (EHC) in this chapter

6.3.8 Issue of blank certificates

Export or Internal Movement Certificates are issued by APHA.

There are specific certificates for different products and destinations.

It is the exporter's responsibility to order certificates and ensure that they are available at the time of certification.

Reference: For further information, see APHA website at

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-on-importing-and-exporting-live-animals-or-animal-products

6.3.9 Security of blank certificates

All certificates and water marked paper used for printing certificates should be kept securely by the certifying OV. It is the responsibility of the OV to printout the certificate using the water marked paper.

Printing of large numbers of certificates should be avoided for security reasons, and also to prevent the use or retention of outdated pre-printed certificates. It is the responsibility of the OV to ensure that the certificate that they are using is the current version.

6.3.10 Completion of certificates

Each certificate is accompanied by the current guidance notes on completion issued by Defra. OVs must adhere to these instructions.

Note: It is advisable for the OV to retain relevant guidance notes with completed certificates.

Reference: see 6.2.6 Certifying EHC in this chapter

6.3.11 Fan Stamping of Non-EU Export Health Certificates

All pages of EHC together with associated additional documents e.g. schedules or supplementary certificates, must be stapled and 'fan stamped' to make a tamper proof composite document.

The pages of the certificate and associated documents must be 'fanned' to overlap each page by approximately 2 cm at the foot and the overlying edges stamped several times with the OV stamp in a colour other than black to authenticate each page.

The top left hand corner of the documents must be folded down, then stapled and the OV stamp applied over the join

6.3.12 Application of official stamps

The OV must ensure that the correct official stamp is applied to documents, depending on the designation under which their signature is applied.

Reference: see 6.2.6 Certifying EHC in this chapter

When the certifier must apply for a Cancel and Replacement EHC on behalf of the exporter, through the EHC Certification Portal, the OV should:

- Follow the prescribed steps into Quick Reference Guide for Exporters and Certifiers for EHCs signed by an APHA Veterinarian
- For additional support: APHA contacts 03000 200 301 or Exports@apha.gov.uk

6.4 Transit Certificates

If the consignment will be exported to a non-EU country via another non-EU country, the consignment may require an EHC to meet the requirements of transit. An EHC will be required to meet the requirements of the destination non-EU country.

Where a consignment is being exported to a non-EU country via an EU country, the consignment will require a certificate to meet the requirements of transiting the EU.

6.5 Record keeping

The OV must retained securely any relevant to the EHC evidences such as supporting documentations, FBOs declarations, NDC, IMCs, SHAs, SOPs, RMOPs, SSOPs schedules, export manifests, correspondences, lab results, traceability records, photographic evidences and certified copy of EHCs.

The OV should keep a copy of the signed certificate and any supporting documents for at least two years after signature or receipt/dispatch of the consignment, whichever is later. These can be electronic copies.

6.6 Copies of Certificates

Some third countries may require a certified copy to be returned to APHA - Centre for International Trade and another copy to be filed on the plant folder.

Reference: see 6.2.7 Certified copy of EHC in this chapter

APHA - Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
General Contact Details
Eden Bridge House

Lowther Street, Carlisle, CA3 8DX
Telephone: 03000 200 301
Email: SSC.Carlisle@apha.gov.uk; processingteam@apha.gov.uk

Additional instructions may be found in the guidance notes issued with the blank certificates.

7. Annexes

Annex 1 Common Health Entry Document for POAO (CHED-P) - sample document

Annex 2 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) - EHC – POAO intended for export from FSS approved establishments

Annex 3 Third Country Approvals Process