



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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Our Ref: ATIC2377

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

07 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Export Health certificates, which was passed to APHA as the agency most likely to hold this information by Defra and received on 23 March 2021. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“What will be the estimated monthly total number of export health certificates (EHCs) required for export to GB to the EU after the 21 April 2021 extension to include export composite products containing products of animal origin (POAO) as an ingredient?”

Please specify if this is including GB to NI figures

What is the annual estimated cost of these Export Health Certificates (EHCs) to UK businesses?

What is the estimated number of Official Veterinarians (OVs) that will be required to certify these EHCs?”

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) do not hold this information.

“On what evidence do you base your required number of OVs?”

Certain composite products that do not currently need an Export Health Certificate (EHC) will require an EHC document when exported to the EU. However, so long as composite products are shelf stable and do not include meat, and are in line with other EU heat treatment requirements they will only require a private attestation signed by the EU importer, rather than a EHC document.

On products that already require an Export Health Certificate at the moment, the current EHC can be used until August 2021. From 21 April, there will be two new EHCs and one

new model document that need to be applied for composite products. There will also be three new EHCs for other Products of Animal Origin (POAO).

A range of products that require a private attestation to move to the EU, including certain chocolates, pastas, breads, cakes and biscuits will not be required to undergo checks at an EU Border Control Post. The private attestation will only be required at the point they are placed on the market.

The requirements for individual products – whether that be an EHC or private attestation will depend on the ingredients included and the process by which they are made. We will be providing a 'information to traders to help them assess what is required for their own individual products.

To help ensure any disruption after Brexit is kept to a minimum, we have tripled the number of Official Veterinarians qualified to sign EHCs for animal products since 2019. We also funded surge capacity veterinarians as short-term support if it was required, but thus far demand for this service has been low. We will continue to assess certifier capacity and emerging issues via our regular calls with industry.

On 1 October 2020, Defra relaunched funded training to increase the number of OV's able to certify POAO (including fish) and certain live animals. The number of Official Veterinarians qualified to sign EHCs for animal products has increased from around 600 in February 2019 to 1800 currently.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Coronavirus

If you need to contact the ICO during the Coronavirus pandemic, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.