



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 25/26

Update to certification requirements for domestic solipeds in certain Export Health Certificates for exports to the EU

Date issued: 28 August 2026

Purpose

To inform Certifying Officers of changes to the certification requirements for domestic solipeds in certain Export Health Certificates (EHC) used for exports of equine products and equine live animals to the European Union.

Background

The European Commission has amended the requirements relating to the food-producing animal status of domestic solipeds intended for export to the EU.

Equine Products

For EHCs 8373, 8383, 8384 and 8385, the amendment affects the attestation concerning the food-producing animal status of domestic solipeds. These certificates are used for exports of equine meat, meat preparations and meat products intended for human consumption. The substantive change is that the equines from which the products are derived must have remained eligible for slaughter for human consumption for their entire lifetime, rather than only the previous six months.

Live equine animals

Live equines cannot currently be exported from Great Britain for the purpose of slaughter. For live equines that are not moved to be slaughtered in the EU, Certificate EHC 8431 is available. An amendment has been made to EHC 8431, within the public health attestation (II.6).

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The eligibility status for slaughter for human consumption, of the equines being certified, must be checked against their passport and the correct statement certified in accordance with the Notes for Guidance.

The list of affected Export Health Certificates can be found below in Annex 1.

Notes for Guidance for the affected certificates have already been updated to reflect the changes ahead of the publication of the new EHCs. The new EHCs will be published shortly.

Action

Certifying officers must ensure they are using the latest version of the relevant EHCs when certifying consignments under EHCs 8373, 8383, 8384, 8385 and 8431.

Before signing the certificate, the Certifying Officer must be satisfied that documentary evidence is available to demonstrate that the domestic soliped has maintained its eligibility for the food chain according to EU requirements, i.e. throughout its entire lifetime.

Where evidence indicates that an animal has been excluded from entering the food chain at any point during its lifetime, the animal, or any products derived from such an animal, do not meet the requirements of the amended attestation and cannot be certified under the affected EHCs.

Certification should not be provided unless the Certifying Officer is satisfied that all requirements of the relevant EHC have been met.

Further Information

Contact APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle, email: exports@apha.gov.uk
Telephone: 03000 300 201

Annex 1

POAO certificates:

EQU	Model official certificate for the entry into the Union of fresh meat intended for human consumption, excluding minced meat and mechanically separated meat, of domestic solipeds (Equus caballus, Equus asinus and their cross-breeds)	8373

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MP-PREP	Model animal health/official certificate for the entry into the Union of meat preparations intended for human consumption.	8383
MPNT	Model animal health/official certificate for the entry into the Union of meat products intended for human consumption, including rendered animal fats and greaves, meat extracts and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, others than casings, that are not required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment	8384
MPST	Model animal health/official certificate for the entry into the Union of meat products intended for human consumption, including rendered animal fats and greaves, meat extracts and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, others than casings, that are required to undergo a specific risk-mitigating treatment.	8385

Live animal certificate:

EQUI-Y	Model animal health/official certificate and model declaration for the entry into the Union of equine animals.	8431
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