

Exporting wild game-bird meat

Version 2.0, Issued 5th Nov 2020

General guidance relating to the supply of wild game for human consumption [is available here](#). The rules outlined in this guidance will apply after the 1st January 2021. This includes the requirement for a trained person to inspect small wild game intended for subsequent supply to an Approved Game Handling Establishment ([AGHE](#)) as soon as possible after killing.

Exporting to the EU after the Transition Period

There will be changes to the processes for exporting wild game. As a product of animal origin (POAO), exports of in wild game-bird meat will require:

- An Export Health Certificate ([8291 EHC](#)) signed by an [APHA](#) (Animal Plant and Health Agency) registered Official Veterinarian (OV) with appropriate qualifications and an OCQ(V) for Px. APHA have provided a [list of OVs](#) who can sign EHCs;
- To be exported via an AGHE approved by the Food Standards Agency ([FSA](#)) in England and Wales and the Food Standards Scotland ([FSS](#)) in Scotland, under EC Regulation 853/2004; and,
- To enter the European Union (EU) via a Border Control Post (BCP) with the relevant designation.

The FSA operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. FSS operates in Scotland. You should consult them regarding [AGHEs](#)

Processes for EHC from Northern Ireland differ to those in Great Britain and you should [contact DAERA](#) for more information.

The process for [obtaining an EHC](#) is detailed on Gov.uk. An appropriately qualified OV will be required to certify the products of animal origin for export and will need to [sign the EHC](#) in accordance with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) principles of certification.

Please note that the specific export health certification responsibilities of an appropriately qualified OV differ from the official food control responsibilities of an FSA appointed OV in an AGHE. The exporter will therefore need to make separate commercial arrangements with an appropriately qualified OV for EHC purposes.

The exporting business will need to provide evidence as detailed in the [notes for guidance](#) which will be used by the OV as assurance that that the range of requirements, have been met. The evidence they will need to provide is:

- That the game entered cold storage at 4°C or below within 12 hours of the time of killing at a collection centre or an AGHE;
- That it has been chilled (but not frozen) in storage at no more than 4°C for no more than 15 days; and
- That the game has been identified by affixing an official identification mark in compliance with Regulation (EC) 853/2004, either on a tag attached to the bird or directly to any packaging.

Please check the [guidance on changes to ID marking](#) at the end of the Transition Period.

- The “EC” referred to in 853/2004 for ID marks will no longer be relevant for exports; and,
- The “UK” abbreviation referred to in 853/2004 for ID marks will no longer be permitted for exports to the EU or POAO being sent to Northern Ireland.

A collection centre could be based at the location of, or near to, a shoot. This would enable game to be stored appropriately within the 12-hour time frame and transported to an AGHE at a later date, within the 15-day time frame.

However, you would need to seek advice from the appropriately qualified OV as to what form of attestation from the collection centre they would require in order to certify the game for export in line with RCVS principles of certification.

Approved game handling establishments (AGHE)

Collection centres may be located within the vicinity of shoots and are not required to be approved game handling establishments. However, export of game carcasses can only take place from an AGHE. Therefore, it is crucial that collection centres:

- Make arrangements with an existing AGHE that has the capacity to receive their game carcasses;
- Consider seeking FSA / FSS approval as an AGHE if they meet the legislative requirements; or,
- Consider the establishment of new AGHE in the appropriate geographical location to facilitate the continuation of the existing trade.

If existing AGHE's do have capacity to support additional throughput, it is not necessarily the case that FSA / FSS will immediately have the additional meat hygiene inspector resource to carry out official controls. Increases in capacity would need to be planned and funded by the AGHE.

Approval of AGHEs is undertaken by the FSA / FSS and may take some time to secure. An initial assessment visit by the FSA / FSS will normally take place around 6 weeks from the point of application so it is therefore not necessarily the case that a new establishment would be approved in time for 1st January 2021.

To obtain approval, an establishment will need to demonstrate that the operations taking place at the site meet the requirements for approval under Regulation (EC) 853/2004. The approval process will require all game to be supplied by trained hunters and some structural changes (e.g. to facilitate dressing and inspection) might be required, so industry should be aware of the potential costs involved.

Details of how to apply for approval in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are available [here](#). For Scotland, you should contact [FSS](#).

Official controls check undertaken by the FSA / FSS veterinary team at the AGHE will include a post-mortem check on a representative sample of birds from each batch. Batches are made up of carcasses of the same species, from the same source on the same day so birds from the same collection centre from different shoots, are unlikely to be deemed to be a single batch. However, multiple batches can be combined into a single consignment for export certification purposes.

Border Control Posts (BCPs)

Game certified by an APHA registered OV dispatched from AGHE will need to enter the EU via a BCP with the relevant designation. The BCPs used will need to be approved for POAO for human consumption. The importer in the EU will need to notify the BCP in advance of the import. Timescales for notification differ and exporters will need to check with the BCP directly.

A list of approved EU BCPs and their contact details is available [here](#). This list may be updated ahead of exit so you should check it regularly. Just because a BCP is approved to handle a specific commodity does not mean that may agree to do so. If you have questions regarding the operation of a BCP it is best to contact them directly.

Other considerations

Exporters should also be aware of the need to comply with new EU and UK customs processes that will apply from the 1st January 2021 and the need to pay any potential tariffs and VAT.

Exporters should:

- register for an [Economic Operator Register and Identification \(EORI\) number](#);
- be aware of potential [EU trade tariff](#) changes;
- find out the [commodity code for their goods](#) ;
- check [guidance on changes to ID marking](#) from the end of the Transition Period;
- choose the correct [customs procedure code](#) (CPC) for their goods; and,
- check the wider [HMRC guidance for exporters](#).

Links to further information on EHCs:

- Register for EHC webinars: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/webinars-for-exporters-of-animals-and-products-of-animal-origin-to-the-eu>
- Register as an export business: www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-export-health-certificate
- Register as a Certifier (for Official Veterinarians, Food Safety Competency Officers, Certification Support Officers and their support staff only): www.gov.uk/guidance/certify-an-export-health-certificate
- Guidance on how to get an EHC: www.gov.uk/guidance/get-an-export-health-certificate
- Guidance Document Repository on Gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-register-for-export-health-certificate-ehc-online>
- YouTube link to webinar on Export Health Certificates: <https://youtu.be/5Kp8Q6t20DI>
- YouTube link to webinar on Exporting Products of Animal Origin (POAO) from Great Britain to the European Union: <https://youtu.be/-s5Hrlq5Ojc>