

FAQs – EU exit and moving equines

Background

If the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal in place there will be changes to the way that equines are moved from the UK to the EU.

Equine owners will need to take steps to prepare for a potential no deal and should consult a vet at least six weeks ahead of when they are intending to move their equine to the EU.

This is because if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the UK will become a third country. Depending on the type of third country the UK becomes, equines entering the EU from the UK will be required to undergo blood tests within 30 days or less of travel to prove the absence of certain diseases.

There would also be changes to the documentation required for an equine to move to the EU from the UK.

If the UK is not granted listed status and becomes an unlisted third country, then no equines will be able to move from the UK to the EU.

For the latest guidance visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-horses-and-ponies-special-rules>

FAQ's

1) **What will I need to do differently after 29 March to move my equine from the UK to the EU (incl. horses, ponies and donkeys)?**

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, then equine owners will be required to make sure that their animal meets the requirements for travelling to the EU from a third country, as we will no longer be a part of the EU.

This means that owners will need to make sure all equines being moved to the EU from the UK;

- are tested for the absence of certain diseases within 30 days or less of their travel date;
- meet the residency and isolation requirements of movements to the EU from a listed third country;
- have the right documentation for travel, which will be an Export Health Certificate and in some cases a Government issued ID document
- enter the EU via a Border Inspection Post (BIP)

2) Will this mean increased costs for owners?

The testing requirements and additional veterinary time needed to prepare an equine for travel are likely to result in additional costs for owners. Exact costs will vary between vet practices.

There will be no cost for the identification document, where this is needed.

There is no charge for the Export Health Certificate, but you may be charged for any additional veterinary time.

3) What will the blood testing requirements be?

The testing requirements are dependent on which Sanitary Group the UK is placed in as a listed country.

In order to be prepared for the most likely outcomes to this decision, we advise owners to consider testing for both A and B Sanitary Group requirements to make sure equines can be moved after 29 March.

If the UK is put in **Sanitary Group A**, equines will need tests for:

- equine infectious anaemia within 30 days of travel for permanent moves
- equine infectious anaemia within 90 days of travel for temporary moves under 90 days of equines registered on a studbook, pedigree register or with an international body for sporting and competition purposes
- equine viral arteritis within 21 days of travel for uncastrated male equines older than 180 days, unless they meet other specific vaccination requirements specified in the Model Health Certificate. These can be found in [EU Commission Implementing Regulation 2018/659](#).

If the UK is put in **Sanitary Group B**, equines will also need blood tests for;

- glanders within 30 days before travel.
- dourine within 30 days before travel for an uncastrated male or a female if they are older than 270 days

4) How often will a blood test be required? Every time a horse moves, annually etc.?

This will depend upon the blood test. Tests must be taken within a certain number of days of travel, dependent on the type of move being undertaken and the sanitary group the UK is placed in. If an equine travels from the UK to the EU again within this time period, tests will not need to be re-taken.

5) When should I consult my vet to start preparations?

It is advised that you contact a vet at least six weeks before you intend to move your equine to the EU to allow sufficient time to prepare.

6) Do I need to book an Official Vet to carry out the blood tests?

No. Sampling can be carried out by any qualified veterinarian. But blood samples must be sent to the APHA laboratory in Weybridge for analysis. If you are in Northern Ireland, contact DAERA.

However, only an Official Vet can authorise your equine for travel and issue the documentation needed for travel.

7) Do the isolation requirements outlined on Gov.uk mean that my horse shouldn't compete ahead of a move to the EU?

In order to comply with pre-export isolation requirements for permanent exports or the temporary export of unregistered horses, owners will need to ensure that their equine is kept apart from other equines not of an equivalent health status for 30 days before export. If the UK is placed in sanitary group B, this isolation must take place under veterinary supervision.

Owners are unlikely to be able to know with any certainty whether other equines attending a competition are of equivalent health status or not. You should therefore avoid these situations to ensure that isolation requirements are met and an export health certificate can be issued.

These requirements do not need to be met to temporarily export a registered horse for less than 90 days.

8) What will happen if the UK agrees a deal with EU before March 29th?

If the UK agrees a deal with the EU, then the process for moving equines from the UK to the EU will continue in the same way as now, including movements made under the TPA during any agreed implementation period.

9) What happens if the EU does not provide the UK with a listed status in time?

If the UK is not granted listed status, the UK will automatically become an unlisted third country. In this event, no movement of equines from the UK to the EU would be able to take place.

10) Will equines that had previously been moved under the TPA need to enter via a Border Inspection Post?

Yes. The requirement would apply to all equines entering the EU, including movements to Ireland and France previously made under the TPA. This is because this is a current EU requirement for all equines entering the EU from a third country.

11) Will I need to go through a BIP to come back in to the UK?

Equines originating in the EU travelling directly to the UK (or returning to the UK directly from the EU) will not need to enter the UK via a border inspection post.

12) How will I know which Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) will accept equines? Will a BIP be built at Calais?

The EU lists all BIPs and the products they are approved to handle on [its website](#). This list may be updated prior to 29 March, so you should check regularly for new information

13) Will I need to pay any additional tariffs? What about VAT?

You should consult the [HMRC partnership pack](#) for information on how a no deal exit will affect any charges associated with export and associated processes.

14) What about customs procedures in the EU?

You will need to follow all relevant EU customs procedures in the event of no deal. The [HMRC partnership pack](#) provides links to the relevant EU information on these systems.

15) What other HMRC/customs processes do I need to be aware of?

Before exporting, businesses must:

- register for an [Economic Operator Register and Identification \(EORI\) number](#)
- be aware of potential [EU trade tariff changes](#)
- find out the [commodity code for your goods](#)
- choose the correct [customs procedure code \(CPC\)](#) for your goods
- check the wider [HMRC guidance for exporters](#)

16) How do I get an Export Health Certificate?

The EHC will replace the Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) for exports to EU countries.

Before an EHC can be issued, equines will need to have been tested and found free of certain disease (see above).

For full details on Export Health Certificates and how to get one [visit gov.uk](#).

17) What documentation do I need for onward travel in the EU?

For each journey the Export Health Certificate should clearly show the equine's country of destination if this is different to the country of entry.

18) What is an Official Veterinarian and why my I use their services?

Official Veterinarian (OV) is the term used to describe veterinarians who perform work on behalf of the governments. In Great Britain they are also private practice vets. In Northern Ireland, an Authorised Veterinary Inspector (AVI) is a private practice vet that performs work on behalf of government. EU law requires that they sign export health certificates to authorise that the relevant animal health requirements have been met ahead of export. OVs/AVIs are authorised by the Government for the specific work they undertake on its behalf.

If you need to find an OV/AVI you can:

- Check the [list of professionals who can certify export health certificates](#)
- ask at your local vet
- email csconehealthovteam@apha.gov.uk (if you're in Northern Ireland contact [DAERA](#))

19) Will I need a Government issued equine ID document and, if so, how do I get this Government ID document?

Providing the EU recognise the UK's studbooks, registered equines will not need a Government issued ID document to travel to the EU. A registered equine is one in a studbook or pedigree register or registered with an international body for sporting competition purposes. All other equines will require a Government issued ID each time they move from the UK to the EU.

You will apply for your Government issued ID from APHA, or DAERA if you are in Northern Ireland, at the same time as your export health certificate. Details of this process are available on [Gov.uk](#).

20) Will the Government ID document replace existing equine passports?

No. All equines in the UK will still be required to have the equine passport, as now for domestic identification purposes.

Only some equines will also need a Government ID document in order to travel to the EU. Those equines requiring Government issued ID will be required to travel to the EU with both this document and their equine passport.

21) If the EU does not recognise the UK's studbooks, will all equines need a Government ID document?

If the UK's studbooks are not recognised by the EU then all equines, aside from those registered with an international body for sporting or competition purposes, will require a Government issued ID document to travel from the UK to the EU.

22) I'm authorised to transport livestock – what do I need to do to continue to transport equines to the EU after 29 March?

When the UK leaves the EU, the EU will no longer recognise specific transport authorisations issued in the UK that are required for transporting live animals.

Transporters wishing to move live animals from the UK to the EU would need to appoint a representative within an EU country and apply to their relevant Government department to obtain a valid;

- Transporter Authorisation
- Certificate of Competence
- Vehicle Approval Certificate

In addition, where necessary, journey logs would need to be obtained from the EU country that is the initial point of entry into the EU for export.

Exporters will need to present their documentation at a Border Inspection Post in the EU.

23) What other arrangements do we need to have in place for staff to accompany horses to the EU or in transit?

The [HMRC partnership pack](#) gives information on the changes to travel for individuals in the event of no deal.

24) Will my current UK issued transport documentation still be valid for transport within the UK?

Yes. UK issued transport documentation will still be valid for transport within the UK.

25) So do I need two sets of documentation?

Yes – UK issued documentation will be valid for transport within the UK only. For exporting live animals to the EU, you will need to obtain additional documentation which is valid for transport within the EU.

26) Should I travel through the major ports with my horses in a 'No Deal' scenario? What provisions will be in place to ensure horses aren't stuck in queues

Defra are working on contingency plans to minimize disruption to animal transit in the event that we leave the EU without a deal. They are working with APHA and DAERA to ensure transporters have robust contingency plans in place ahead of travel. These should include avoiding high risk routes and identifying contingency premises for resting the animals in the event that delays are encountered. However, anyone transporting animals must ensure that they are transported in conditions suitable for the species concerned. Regulations include

a duty of care obligation for the person acting as transporter, which states: “No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them”.

27) What changes will there be for importing equines to the UK from the EU?

In the event of a ‘no deal’, the Intra Trade Animal Health Certificate (ITAHC) used to import live animals directly from the EU will be replaced with the UK Health Certificate.

The importer will be responsible for ensuring APHA receives a complete and valid UK Health Certificate for these consignments. In order to do so, importers must notify APHA of the arrival of a consignment who will provide the importer with a Unique Notification Number (UNN). The UNN should be given to the EU Official Veterinarian who enters the UNN on the UK Health Certificate. The UK Health Certificate should be sent to APHA and a paper copy should travel with the consignment. There will continue to be no border checks for live animals imported directly from the EU. If you are in Northern Ireland, contact DAERA.

For horses which currently enter the UK from France using a DOCOM, or travel from Ireland without any animal health documentation, there will be no immediate change to the current entry documentation in the event of a no deal. Importers using DOCOMs will also need to pre-notify APHA (or DAERA) of the arrival of a consignment.

Importers will also need to comply with UK customs procedures. In some cases importers may want to register for [simplified import procedures](#). Information from HMRC on customs procedures in the event of a no deal exit from the EU are available [here](#).

Owners regularly moving the same equine between the UK and EU may wish to consider applying for an ATA Carnet to further streamline customs procedures. More information is available [here](#).

28) What will happen to the Tripartite Agreement (TPA) when the UK leaves the EU?

The UK will no longer be a party to the Tripartite Agreement (TPA) when we leave the EU. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal then all equines being moved to the EU will need to meet the same requirements in order to travel.

29) How will the UK be able to negotiate a replacement for the TPA once we leave the EU?

Government are working closely with the equine industry to develop a longer term replacement for the TPA and will continue to work with the European Commission to negotiate future arrangements for equine movement.