



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 31/26

Export Certification of Products of Animal Origin to the Ivory Coast - New Requirements from 1 November 2026

Date issued: 15 October 2026

Purpose

1. To update Official Veterinarians (OV) on their responsibilities when certifying Export Health Certificates (EHC) for meat and meat products intended for export to the Ivory Coast due to the implementation of new certification requirements from the 1 November 2026.

Background

2. APHA and Defra have been made aware that the Ivory Coast authorities have requested amendments be made to [7177EHC](#) for the export of meat/meat products to Cote D'Ivoire, stating that any certificate submitted or approved (and supplied to the Ivory Coast) that lacks a production date and/or expiry date for a consignment cannot be considered a valid sanitary certification document.
3. As such, Service d'Inspection et de Contrôle Sanitaire Vétérinaire en Frontières (SICSAV), acting on behalf of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH) have communicated that from the 1 November 2026, every health certificate or equivalent document accompanying a consignment of meat or meat products must indicate both the production date and expiry date of the consignment.
4. Consequently, the EHC and associated Notes for Guidance (NFG) have been updated to allow these dates to be added, ensuring that the Ivory Coast authorities' requirements can be met from the implementation date.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Action

5. From the 1 November 2026, any certifying OV's must include both the production date and expiration date of the consignments in the EHC. These additional details must be added to parts (f) and (g) in "Part 1 Identification of Consignment".

Instructions on how to add these dates can be found in the accompanying NFG in the new section "2. Completion of Part 1".

6. OV's must ensure that the dates correspond with any packaging labels and accompanying commercial documents. If a production date is not available, an OV may alternatively use the slaughter, processing or packaging date. Should one of these alternative dates be used, the OV must specify which date is used as explained in the NFG.

7. Failure to comply with importing country requirements and certification procedures may lead to detention and rejection of the consignment/s.

Further Information

- Any queries relating to this briefing note should be sent to CITC by telephone: 03000 200 301 or by using the APHA [online contact form](#).

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