



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 43/25

Use of multiple seals for consignments of pigmeat being exported to the People's Republic of China

Date issued: 7 November 2025

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarian (OVs) that the Notes for Guidance (NFG) for 7006GB Export Health Certificate (EHC) has been revised to stipulate that multiple seals are not permitted on containers carrying pigmeat to the People's Republic of China. A single container must only have **one seal** and one seal number.

Background

2. The need for this stipulation was raised when an attempt to upload a certificate to the **General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) pre-notification system** was prevented due to it having two seal numbers. The consignment was then held at the Chinese point of entry until the UK Competent Authority explained why the consignment had two seal numbers and submitted the EHC information in an alternative format. Chinese officials later confirmed that only one seal is permitted.
3. **Article 9** of the Protocol between The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and GACC for pork to be exported from the UK to China states that:

After it has been loaded with the products, the container should be sealed under the supervision of the United Kingdom Veterinary Officer. The seal number should be indicated in the health certificate.

Action

4. OV's must be aware that multiple seals per container carrying pigmeat to the People's Republic of China are not permitted by GACC. OV's must ensure that a single container has only one seal number. The packaging of the products cannot be unwrapped or changed during transportation.
5. The following NFGs have been amended to include the above advice on multiple seals under Article 9:
 - 7006 Part 1 – General Principles and 7006 Part 5 – Exporting Cold Stores
 - <https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates/export-pig-meat-to-china-certificate-7006>

Further Information

All queries regarding the information above should be directed to exports@apha.gov.uk in the first instance.