



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 01/26

Actions required for Export Health Certificates with individual serial number beginning with 25 (25/2/XXXXXX)

Date issued: 9 January 2026

Purpose

1. To inform Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians (OVs) and Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs)) located in England, Scotland, and Wales that Export Health Certificates (EHCs) with a serial number beginning with 25 (25/2/xxxxxx) must not be certified after 31 January 2026.
2. Where an EHC is still required, a new certificate prefixed with 26 must be used.

Background

3. EHCs are generated with a unique serial number (e.g., 26/2/xxxxxx) beginning with the year of issue.
4. EHCs can be issued weeks before the export date.
5. Every year EHCs issued in advance with the unique serial number commencing with the number from the previous year are cancelled by APHA.
6. EHCs with a serial number beginning with 25 must not be certified after 31 January 2026.

Actions

Certificates Unused

7. Where an EHC is still required, exporters will need to submit a new EHC application for an EHC with 26 serial number.

8. Certifiers must cancel the 25 unused EHC

- For EHCs generated on EHC Online, the certifier must do this by selecting 'cancel' at the 'Decision and Confirmation' stage
- For EHCs generated out with EHC Online, exporters or certifiers must confirm to Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) the serial numbers of those EHCs being cancelled, email certifiedcopies@apha.gov.uk

Certificates Certified

9. Where an EHC has been generated on EHC Online, certifiers must ensure that the certifier decision is updated and completed as soon as possible after certification and no later than seven days after certification in accordance with the Certifiers Post-Certifying Procedures guidance. For all certified '25' serially numbered EHCs, certifiers must ensure the decision has been recorded on EHC Online. If this has not previously been completed, certifiers must update as soon as possible.
10. Where an EHC is generated manually, out with EHC Online, certifiers must ensure the appropriate action is taken following certification, e.g., return of a certified copy.

Further Information

- Any queries relating to this briefing note should be sent to: exports@apha.gov.uk
- Certifiers Post-Certifying Procedures (page 87 of the Exports Instructions & Notifications content on the Improve International website): [Official Veterinarian Training](#)
- Certifiers should also refer to [APHA BN 50/25](#) issued on 30 December 2025 regarding Guidance for Certifiers of Export Health Certificates
- CITC Telephone: 0300 0300 201

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