



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 23/26

Publication of New Animal Health Certificate Templates

Date issued: 19 August 2026

Purpose

1. To update Official Veterinarians (OVs) who hold Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) (OCQ(V)) – CA (Companion Animals) or SX (Small Animal Exports) on the publication of the new Animal Health Certificate templates for pet owners travelling to the European Union (EU) with pet dogs, cats and ferrets.

Background

2. Further to [APHA BN 14/26](#) and the specific changes to the EU Pet Travel rules, the new Animal Health Certificate (AHC) templates will be published in the OV Instructions: Small Animal Exports pages on the Improve International website on 2 September 2026.
3. Existing AHC templates can continue to be certified up to 30 September 2026 and those already issued to clients will continue to be valid for use for the remainder of their validity.
4. The new AHC templates **must** be used from 1 October 2026, but can be used as soon as they are published
5. 8233NFG will also be updated and published on the OV Instructions: Small Animal Exports pages.

Further Information

- If you have any enquiries regarding this publication fill in the [pet travel contact form](#)
- [OV Instructions: Small animal exports](#) page on the Improve International website
- CITC Telephone: 0300 200 301

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.