

British Horse Council December Meeting: EU Animal Health Law Speaking Note

Friday 11 December 2020, 12:05pm (5 minute slot)

General overview / readiness for 21 April

1. The Animal Health Regulation is a simplified set of rules which aim to develop a system for EU animal health legislation that is more risk based and flexible. This was broadly welcomed by the UK as a positive modernisation of rules applying to the agri-food chain across the EU.
2. The Regulation was agreed in 2016-2017 but applies in the EU from 21 April 2021 which is after the end of the transition period.
3. As such, it will not apply in Great Britain and there is no legal obligation under the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 to implement the legislation. It will apply in Northern Ireland, for the period that the Northern Ireland Protocol is in effect.
4. Whilst we will not be implementing the AHR, there are some technical and legislative changes that we will need to make in order to enable ongoing trade with the EU as a Third Country after it has implemented the AHR on 21 April 2021.
5. This includes the requirement (in Annex I of the Entry into the Union Act) to make necessary legislative amendments to the list of reportable and notifiable diseases (e.g. adding surra).
6. Work is underway in Defra to plan who to implement these changes ahead of the 21 April. This is in consultation with our Devolved Administration colleagues.
7. There will also be changes to Export Health Certificates which will apply after 21 April. The full suite of DRAFT EHCs has now been published by the Commission and work is underway to consult with industry and official veterinarians and draw up notes for guidance around the new certificates. Thank you for all your comments.
8. **Preparation is underway to provide information to exporters outlining things that have changed. Specific changes include:**
 - a. Provisions for Temporary Admission are no longer available, affecting breeding horses.
 - b. Changes to AH requirements for equines e.g. removal of testing requirements for EVA
9. We will continue to keep you updated as this work progresses in the new year. These are distinct from the EHCs that may be required after the end of the Transition Period on 31 December 2020.
10. During 2021, Defra intends to carry out an overarching review of the existing English animal health rules.