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Do you export breeding livestock to the EU? Have you thought about the impact Brexit will have on the process? It pays to be prepared!

Now that we have officially left the EU, **exporting livestock will require a full Export Health certificate (EHC) to be completed for every animal(s) entering the EU or Northern Ireland.**

If you plan to apply for EHCs yourself here are some key things you can do to ensure you are prepared-

1. Register as an exporter with EHC-Online and complete a digital application (your vet will help you set this up if needed).
2. Apply for the EHC in plenty of time. It can be a bit of a minefield, if you are struggling with which certificate to apply for check with the vet you will be using to complete the EHC for you. Each EHC has a reference number and is for a specific product/animal to a specific country for a specified purpose, so it is vital that you apply for the correct one.
3. Each EHC is issued with a set of 'notes for guidance' for your vet to check before completion. Your vet needs this as soon as possible because it includes details of any pre-export test requirements and advise on isolation, health statuses and disease clearances required. Requirements vary from country to country and even from region to region within a country.

If you are using an exporting company to complete all the applications and arrange transport etc then they should take care of the above but you will need to ask them for the certificate reference number that they are applying for in advance. This will allow your vet to check notes for guidance for the export requirements and arrange testing in plenty of time.

For live animal exports the animal(s) must be examined and certified WITHIN 24 hours of loading. Once all checks are completed and paperwork signed the original EHC then travels with the animal(s) to the destination country along with journey logs, owner declarations, haulier declarations etc.

It may seem daunting at first but if you give yourself and your vet plenty of time to prepare for the export itself most issues can be overcome!