



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 05/22

# Certification for Exports of fish & fishery products to India

**Date issued: 25 October 2022**

### Purpose

To inform all UK FCCOs that:

1. From 1 November 2022, India is no longer willing to accept Local Authority certificates for exports of fish & fishery products from the UK.
2. Defra is currently developing a new central competent authority EHC for fish & fishery products to India.
3. With effect from 1 November 2022, India may not allow entry of fish consignments accompanied by certificates that have not been issued by the central competent authority (Defra/APHA/DAERA).
4. Non-APHA-issued certificates should, therefore, stop being issued for fish & fishery products to India with immediate effect.

### Background

The UK does not currently have a central competent authority certificate for fish & fishery products to India.

We are, however, aware that a significant volume of trade is ongoing with exports being accompanied by certificates issued by local authorities.

Defra has been informed of a recently issued export-related notification, India's **Order F. No. 1829/Health Certificate/FSSAI/Imports** (notified to the World Trade Organization on August 18, 2022, as G/TBT/N/IND/233), which requires that from 1 November 2022, fish and fish products, imported into India must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.

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.

The overall objective of the measure under this notification appears to be to ensure the safety and quality of food products imported into India.

We are currently engaging with the British Embassy in India to seek constructive engagement with India's FSSAI on this issue, with a view to minimising disruption to trade.

## Recommendations

The proposed implementation date of 1 November 2022 means that any consignments of fish & fishery products due to arrive in India on or after 1 November 2022 on certification that is not issued by APHA/Defra would risk being refused entry.

This could mean significant losses for any exporter affected.

Defra recommends an immediate stop to the issuing of non-APHA certificates, for fish and fishery products to India.

Also, please assure stakeholders that Defra is looking at negotiating a central competent authority EHC as soon as possible, which they will be able to apply for from APHA in the normal manner.

We will communicate to industry when the new certificate is in place.

**We would be grateful if, as a matter of urgency, FCCOs could communicate this message to any colleagues who are not FCCOs but might be certifying such certificates.**

## Further Information

Any queries relating to this briefing note should be sent to: [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk)