



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Export Health Certification (EHC) changes from 15 January 2022

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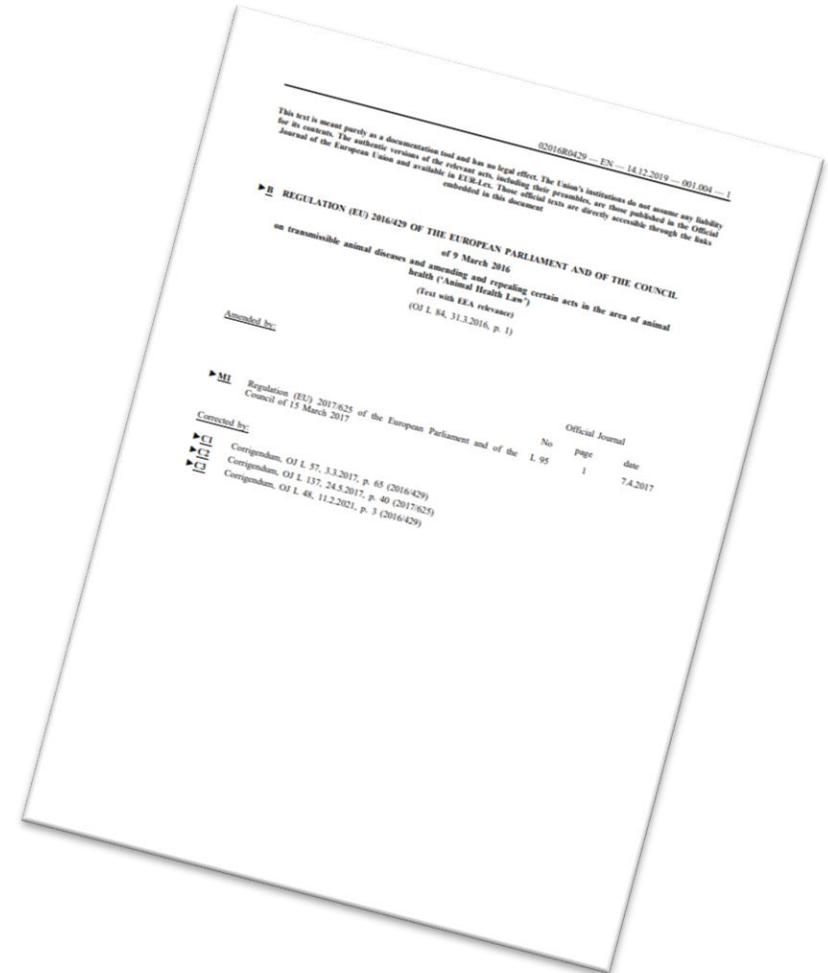
Hannah Thompson, Seafish

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# Background

- EU adopted new 'Animal Health Law' in March 2016.
- Due to an extension by the EU, the new health certification rules for fish, crustaceans and molluscs are due to apply from 15 January 2022.





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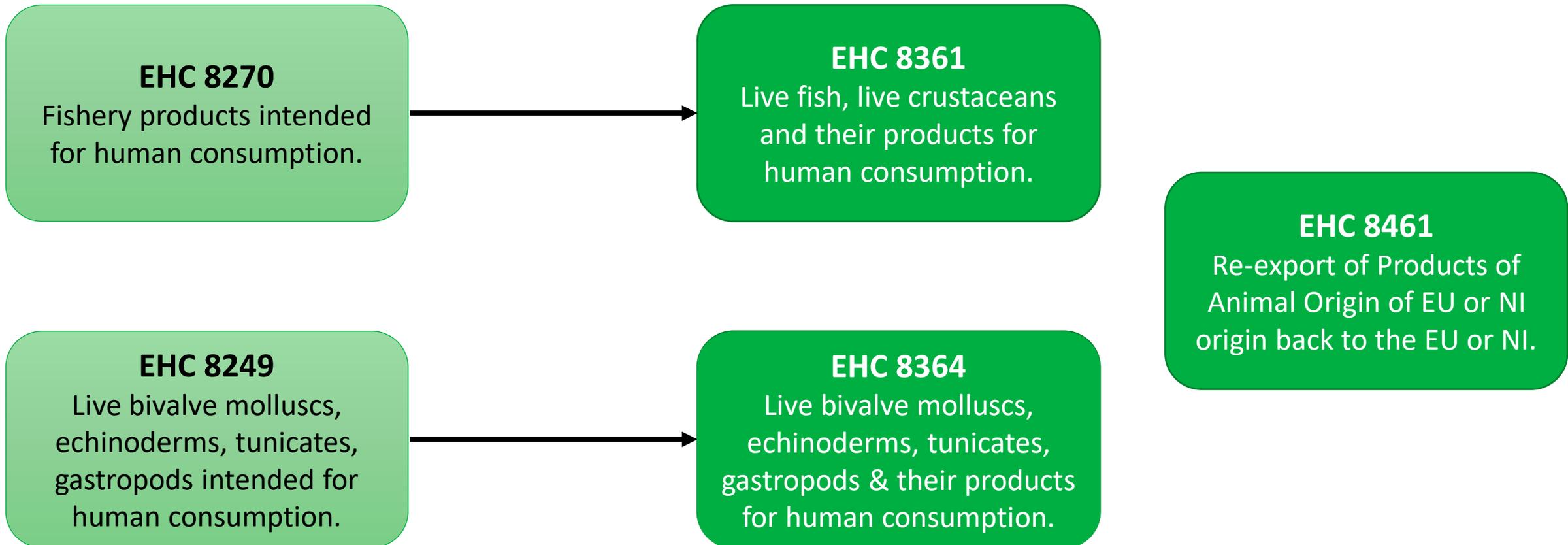
# What has changed?



# New Export Health Certificates

Current EHCs set out in Implementing Regulation 2019/628

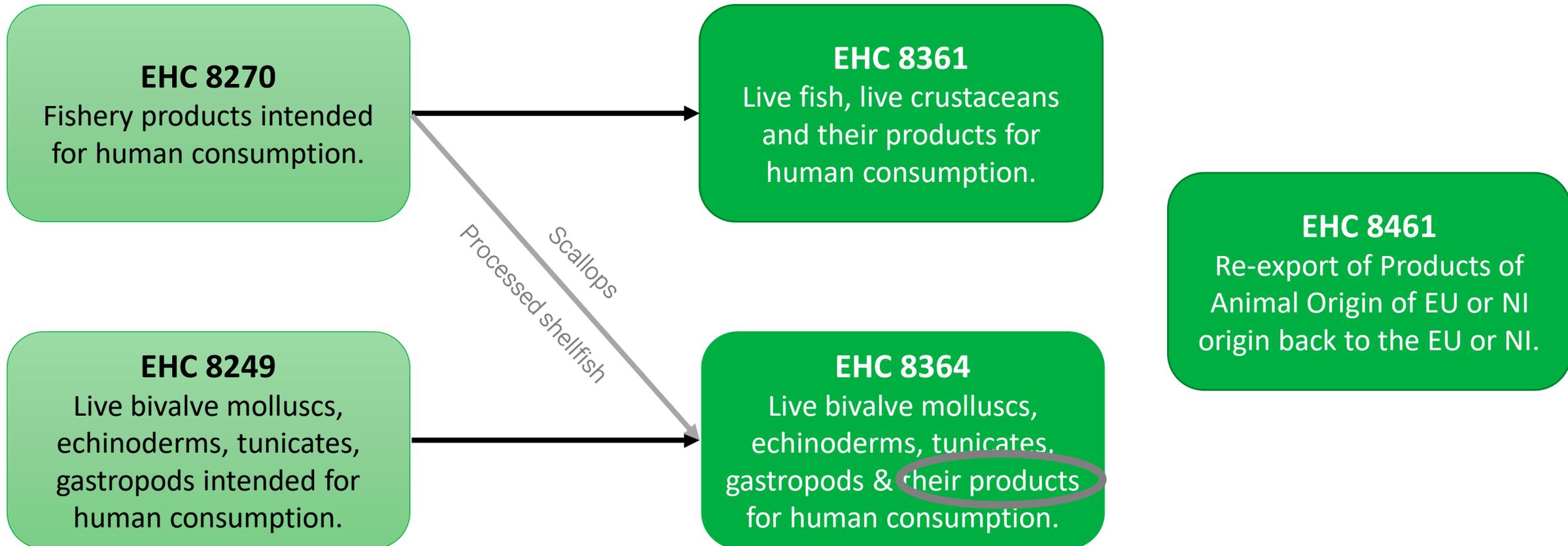
**New EHCs set out in Implementing Regulation 2020/2235**



# New Export Health Certificates

Current EHCs set out in Implementing Regulation 2019/628

**New EHCs set out in Implementing Regulation 2020/2235**





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# How are the new EHCs different?



# 1. Part II.2 now requires an Official Veterinarian signature

- This applies when the **fishery product (EHC 8361)** is:
  - **Listed in EU legislation, *and,***
  - **Of aquaculture origin or hand gathered from the wild, *and,***
  - **If the species is intended for further processing in the EU.**
- An OV instead of a Local Authority Officer must now sign certificates when the Animal Health Requirements are not deleted.

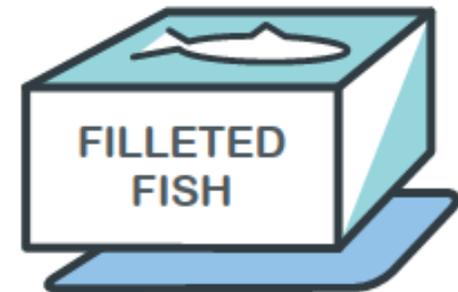
# 1. Part II.2 now requires an Official Veterinarian signature

- This applies when the **Live Bivalve Mollusc (EHC 8364)** is:
  - **Listed in EU legislation, *and,***
  - **Of aquaculture origin or hand gathered from the wild. *Or***
  - **Products (of the above) intended for further processing.**
- An OV instead of a Local Authority Officer must now sign certificates when the Animal Health Requirements are not deleted.

# 1. Part II.2 now requires an Official Veterinarian signature

## Further processing:

- Confirmation from the EU that further processing means:
  - *Any type of measure or technique that **affects anatomical wholeness** (e.g. bleeding, evisceration, heading, slicing, filleting), which produces waste or by-products which could cause risk of disease spread.*
  - *This does not include wrapping or packaging.*



# 1. Part II.2 now requires an Official Veterinarian signature

## Listed species:

- Identified in column 3 of the Annex to EU Regulation 2018/1882.
- Includes named species of Salmon (e.g. Atlantic) and Trout (e.g. Rainbow), all decapod crustaceans and European Flat Oysters.

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Name of listed disease	Category of listed disease	Species and group of species
Infection with <i>Mikrocytos mackini</i>	A+D+E	Pacific oyster ( <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> ), eastern oyster ( <i>Crassostrea virginica</i> ), Olympia flat oyster ( <i>Ostrea conchaphila</i> ), European flat oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )
Infection with <i>Perkinsus marinus</i>	A+D+E	Pacific oyster ( <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> ), eastern oyster ( <i>Crassostrea virginica</i> )
Infection with <i>Bonamia exitiosa</i>	C+D+E	Australian mud oyster ( <i>Ostrea angasi</i> ), Chilean flat oyster ( <i>Ostrea chilensis</i> ), European flat oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )

# 1. Part II.2 now requires an Official Veterinarian signature

## Vector species:

- Species listed in column 4 of the Annex to EU Regulation 2018/1882 may act as a vector species if they **live in proximity to a listed species**.
- It is assumed that vector Live Bivalve Mollusc species have come into contact with listed decapod crustacean species whilst in the sea.
  - Unless exempt they will require OV certification.

# 1. Part II.2 now requires an Official Veterinarian signature

## **Are there any exemptions:**

- Non-listed fish and shellfish species.
- Any wild fish or bivalve molluscs landed by a fishing vessel.
- Any fish and shellfish products (dead/processed) ready for direct human consumption, or for wrapping and packaging (not for further processing).
- Gastropod, tunicate and echinoderm species, exported dead or alive.

## 2. Clinical inspection

- **Where Part II.2 applies, veterinary clinical inspection is required 72 hours before loading** for the export of live or un-eviscerated fish species.
- An attestation has been published to support OV's, where the OV is not able to carry out the inspection.
- The certificate does not specify what is required in the clinical inspection. This will be based on clinical judgement.
- Where Part II.2 applies, clinical inspections are also required for **LBM and crustacean species** packaged and labelled for human consumption, if they are:
  - **Able to survive** as living animals if returned to the aquatic environment.
  - **Not packaged** for retail sale without further processing in the EU.
  - **Not intended** for further processing without temporary storage at the place of processing in the EU.

## 2. Veterinary oversight

- Where Part II.2 applies, there is a requirement for **veterinary oversight of aquaculture establishments** to certify the animal health status of the site.
  - **Previous surveillance** by Fish Health Inspectors (FHIs) and **records of veterinary visits** can be used as supporting evidence.
- The OV can use the above evidence to certify this, or use an attestation from another vet (draft attestation is provided in the published guidance). This attestation is time limited, based upon the health status of the aquaculture site.

### 3. Labelling requirement

- Where Part II.2 applies, there are new labelling requirements for live bivalve mollusc exports.
- The label of each container should include an **estimated number** of the animals.
  - The estimated number of animals should be calculated based on the total weight of animals in the container and the average weight per animal.

## 4. Questions BCPs and NFGs

- We would strongly recommend that you contact your EU BCP where you have questions or wish to confirm the certification requirements of your export.
- Defra will be shortly updating the Notes for Guidance associated with these certificates.



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# Thank you.

