



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 17/26

Advice on how to certify goods labelled “Not for EU”

Date issued: 06 May 2026

Purpose

1. To advise that products labelled “Not for EU” must not be certified using “EU and Northern Ireland” Export Health Certificates (EHCs)
2. To set out the expected action for Certifying Officers (CO) when presented with “Not for EU” labelled products.

Background

3. Certain products moving from Great Britain to retail premises in Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) require labelling with the words “Not for EU”.
4. These products are exempt from some of the “European Union and Northern Ireland” EHC requirements and should move to Northern Ireland using a General Certificate issued directly by the Competent Authority (Defra/APHA) rather than by an export OV. Products which are marked “Not for EU” cannot be exported to any EU Member State.
5. [Further information on the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme is available here.](#)

Action

6. When presented with products labelled “Not for EU”, COs must not certify such products using European Union and Northern Ireland” EHCs.
7. CO’s are requested to record the decision on EHC Online as appropriate (Reject or Cancel), and provide a clear reason. CO’s should then signpost the trader to the correct route for eligible GB to NI movements, the products should be sent using a general certificate. For exports to the EU, the products must be appropriately labelled for EU entry and meet the EHC and NFG requirements.

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.

8. For products that are intended for retail movement to Northern Ireland via the NIRMS, advise the trader that eligible products must be labelled with the words “Not for EU”.
9. If the products are intended for export to the EU, or for movements to Northern Ireland outside of the NIRMS, advise the trader that the products must be appropriately labelled for the EU market. Retail presentations labelled “Not for EU” are not suitable for EU export certification in this context.

Further Information

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