

Northern Ports Liaison Network Meeting

Date: 14 February 2019

Minutes of the Meeting



1. Introductions
 - a. Attendees - See contact list attached
2. Appointment of the Chair etc.
 - a. SZ appointed as Chair
 - b. LE appointed as secretary
3. Re-launch of NPLaN and APHA update
 - a. Gary Gould provided an overview of the history and role of APHA.
 - b. They currently represent Port Health Authorities and are recognised by Government, Defra, FSA and PHE
 - c. They provide a handbook full of useful information on all aspects of Port Health including an A to Z of Ports in the British Isles.
 - d. A monthly newsletter is available that details training opportunities and webinars. Users are also welcome to contribute content.
 - e. The website www.porthealthassociation.co.uk is available with training opportunities, contacts, and a members area for agenda's, meetings and minutes etc.
 - f. APHA working with Gvt in relation to BREXIT issues and also attends the cross-border working group.
 - g. Terms of reference for NPLaN were discussed and a copy is attached.
 - h. It was agreed to circulate the terms of reference to the group - see attached.
 - i. The group agreed to have a training element in the morning session and an update session in the afternoon for future meetings.
4. The role of the Port Medical Officer
 - a. Simon Howard provided presentation on the role of the port medical officer and the slides are attached.
5. Vector Control
 - a. Sue Ziolkowski provided a presentation on vectors likely to be found on vessels including a couple of recent cockroach infestations - the slides are attached.
6. Brexit
 - a. Imports - in the event of a no deal scenario, all food from the EU will have free transit into the UK, including POAO (Products of Animal Origin).
 - b. Imported fish - Catch Certificates
 - i. Imports of marine caught fishery products are controlled through a system of checks aimed at making sure that any fish being imported was caught legally, by fishing vessels that are properly managed by the country to which they are registered. In order to prove that an imported consignment is compliant with

these rules, it must be accompanied by a catch certificate issued by the government who manages the fishing vessel.

The Sea Fishing (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) Order 2009 (No. 3391) makes the checking of catch certificates the responsibility of the Port Health Authority.

Sea Fisheries officers of the Marine and Management Organisation (MMO) also have powers under the Order and Port Health work closely with them and Defra (the overall policy holder) to ensure that controls are properly applied.

Currently, any fish products received into the EU have their catch certificates checked in that country. No further checks carried out due to current trade agreements.

- ii. Currently any fishery products from third country must enter through BIP. Any low risk fishery products, for example, from the Faroe Islands, can enter through a non-BIP but would need the catch certificate endorsing.

There are concerns about endorsement of catch certificates on EU imports as expected quantities are unknown. Marine Maritime Organisation advise potential increase from 40,000 to 130,000 certificates will need to be processed.

c. PNOAO Imports - e.g EC/669/2009

- i. No change in how we deal with these, however there is a possibility that high-risk foods are diverted from busier ports.
- ii. Concerns over the impact on Public Analysts as they send some products back to EU for specialist processes, e.g. homogenisation. Possible time constraints.

d. Exports - POAO

- i. Export Health Certificates (EHC) will be required to export POAO from UK to EU, and must enter the EU through a BIP. EHC's are issued inland at the Authority where the POAO are processed and signed by an Official Veterinarian. Fishery products can be signed by a competent person from Local Authority.
- ii. POAO checks may be delegated to competent person and may be carried out by Port Health or Local Authority, however, must be confident in what they're signing for and have been suitably trained.

e. Organics

- i. Removal of TRACES and return to paper based system.
- ii. Awaiting further clarification on whether EU organic goods will need certification by UK, or whether EU certification is acceptable. Organics will not be held at ports but may not have Organic status certified.

f. Other Port Health Functions

- i. Ship Inspections - no change as this falls under the International Health Regulations
- ii. Water Sampling - no change as this is a chargeable service.

g. Other issues

- i. RASFF - concerns around illegal imports and food crime in the event of a no deal. It was highlighted that we know very little about what comes into the UK from the EU at present due to current free trade arrangements. Both customs and PHA's have the powers to detain and inspect any suspect containers; these could be identified either from local/regional/national intelligence, or by unknown /new importers.
 - ii. RASFF Notifications - the [consumers portal](#) will remain available for free access. The [RASFF Portal](#) will still be available for searching specific foods. The Log In part of the portal will cease to be available, however, all notifications are identical, it is the level of information available that will be restricted. All UK notifications will continue to be available through FSA Communications.
- h. Further information
- i. [Exporting animals, animal products, fish and fishery products to the EU after EU Exit](#)
 - ii. [Import of products, animals, food and feed system \(IPAFFS\): TRACES Replacement](#)
 - iii. [Importing animals, animal products and high-risk food and feed not of animal origin after EU Exit](#)
 - iv. [Finding a professional to certify export health certificates](#)
 - v. [Export health certificates](#) - find a form

7. Date and time of next meeting to be confirmed.