



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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CPH Changes in England (including the removal of CTS Links)

Dear Sir/Madam

As outlined in a letter sent in May 2016 changes are taking place to the way livestock holdings are defined and temporary land use is registered in England. These changes are part of the recommendations made by the Farming Regulation Task Force to reduce regulatory burdens on farmers but also to improve the quality of data held by government and so improve livestock traceability.

We are writing to you because our records show that you currently hold one or more CTS Links and will therefore be affected by at least one of the changes.

What you need to do

Please read the information sent with this letter. This details how these changes may affect you. Guidance on how to register temporary use of land and an application form have also been included should they be required.

BCMS will be in contact with you within the next few weeks to find out which of the options for removing CTS links is appropriate for you and they will update CTS accordingly once the agreed changes are made. You do not need to take any further action before we contact you.

If you have already contacted us and we've made the changes you do not need to do anything further.

If you have any questions about this letter

Please contact us by phone or email using the details given above.



Detail of the changes and action you may need to take

What are the changes?

1. The maximum radius for livestock holdings is now 10 miles for all species (it was previously 5 miles for sheep and goat holdings). Keepers with more than one CPH within a 10 mile radius may apply to merge them into one if it suits their business to do so.
2. A new process for the registration of temporary land use has been introduced.
3. Cattle Tracing System (CTS) links are being removed.
4. Sole Occupancy Authorities (SOAs) are being removed.
5. All existing temporary CPH numbers (tCPHs) are being removed.
6. In January 2018 the exemption which currently permits moves of breeding sheep and goats between different holdings within the same business to be recorded and reported at a batch rather than an individual animal level is being removed. (Note the exemption will remain for batch-tagged slaughter animals).
7. In January 2018 the exemption which currently permits sheep or goats to be moved to adjacent land on a different holding on foot without being reported is being removed. (Note the exemption for moves between your holding and Common land that has been registered as linked to your holding will remain).

More details on each of the changes can be found below.

1. Ten mile distance rule for all species

A 10 mile maximum distance rule now applies to holdings for all livestock species. This replaces the 5 mile rule that applied to holdings for sheep and goats. If you currently hold more than one permanent CPH to cover land within a 10 mile radius you may apply to merge that land into one if it suits your business to do so.

Please note:

- Livestock moves between pieces of land covered by the same CPH number do not need recording or reporting and will not trigger standstill.
- Moves reported to a holding will trigger standstill on all of the land it covers including any land temporarily associated with it.
- All land covered by a single CPH, whether permanently or temporarily, will be treated as part of that CPH from a disease testing and restriction perspective.
- Only English CPHs (i.e. ones with an English County number) may be merged as part of this exercise.
- If you merge permanent CPHs you will no longer be able to use ID tags for the holdings that are closed as a result of the merger.

- You must update your holding registers once the CPHs have been merged. You may wish to start a new/replacement holding register for the CPH that you retain. New holding registers can be issued on request if you are a sheep, goat or cattle keeper.

How to make changes to your permanent CPHs

BCMS will be in contact with you within the next few weeks. You do not need to take any action before then.

If you do not want to merge land into one holding you need take no action but please note that livestock and livestock activities on different CPHs must be kept separate and livestock movements between them must be recorded and reported.

2. New process for registering temporary¹ land use

If you use land in England on a temporary basis for keeping livestock, i.e. in addition to land included in your permanent CPH(s), you have the following options:

- a. If your livestock will be mixing² with livestock kept by the person you are renting³ the land from (i.e. the ‘Land Holder’) you must use their CPH when reporting moves to/from that land.**

Please note that standstill is triggered on the whole holding when any animals are reported onto that CPH. The CPH holder must keep their holding register updated.

- b. If you have sole occupancy of that land (i.e. your livestock will not be mixing on that land with livestock kept by someone else) you may apply for a Temporary Land Association (TLA) or Temporary CPH (tCPH) number.**

Temporary Land Association or Temporary CPH?

It is important that you understand the difference between TLAs and tCPHs before applying for either.

TLAs allow you to add land (within 10 miles) to your permanent CPH on a temporary basis. For the duration of a TLA you will not have to report or record moves between that land and

¹ For the purpose of livestock movement reporting and reporting ‘temporary’ refers to land used for one year or less

² Livestock would be considered to be mixing if they were in the same field or building.

³ The terms ‘renting’ and ‘rent’ are used in this document to refer to any arrangement between yourself and someone else for you to use land they have control of.

the rest of your CPH, nor will those moves trigger a standstill. Moves to that land from other CPHs will however trigger a standstill on the whole of your merged CPH.

TCPHs are treated as separate holdings. This means that moves between land with a tCPH and any other CPHs you use must be recorded and reported and they will trigger a standstill. But it also means that moves onto that land will not trigger a standstill on your other CPH(s), nor will moves onto your other CPH(s) trigger a standstill on your tCPH.

It is expected that TLAs will be a better option than tCPHs for the majority of keepers who have the choice. However, please note that for TLAs to be an option:

- the land must be within 10 miles of the centre point of your CPH
- also, if your CPH is registered for keeping bovine animals, the land must be in the same bovine TB risk area as that of your CPH

How to apply to register temporary land use

Please see enclosed guidance on how to register temporary use of land. That guidance explains more fully the rules that apply to TLAs or tCPHs, including those that relate to bovine TB.

An application form to register temporary use of land has also been included. You must submit an application form in advance of the date you wish the registration to start and details of the individual fields to be included must be provided.

If you use land in Wales or Scotland you must contact Welsh or Scottish Government as appropriate.

3. Removal of Cattle Tracing System (CTS) Links

No new CTS Links will be created. All existing CTS Links will be removed.

You do not need to take any action now, BCMS will contact you within the next few weeks.

Your CTS link will not be removed before they have been in contact. If you want to continue using the linked land they will discuss with you which of the following options you intend to take up:

a. Start to report all cattle moves between the CPHs that you had linked on CTS.

Please note that standstill is triggered on the whole holding when any animals are reported onto that CPH. The CPH holder must keep their holding register updated.

b. If you use the linked land on a permanent basis (more than one year) and have sole occupancy of it (i.e. your livestock will not be mixing with livestock kept by someone else) you may apply to add it to your permanent CPH if it is within 10 miles, if further than 10 miles a new permanent CPH may be allocated.

Please see section 1.

- c. **If you use the linked land on a temporary basis and have sole occupancy of it (i.e. your livestock will not be mixing with livestock kept by someone else) you may apply for a Temporary Land Association (TLA) or Temporary CPH (tCPH) number.**

Please see enclosed guidance on how to register the temporary use of land which explains the difference between TLAs and tCPHs.

4. Removal of existing Temporary CPH numbers

If you have an existing Temporary CPH in the format XX/XXX/6500 - 7999 (i.e. one allocated before August 2016) we will begin work to close it **30 days** from the date on this letter. You have the following options:

- a. **If you no longer use the land** covered by your existing Temporary CPH you do not need to take any action.
- b. **If you still use the land covered by your existing Temporary CPH but now have it on a permanent basis** (i.e. for more than one year) you may apply to add it to your permanent CPH if it is within 10 miles, if further than 10 miles a new permanent CPH may be allocated to replace your Temporary CPH.

Please see section 1.

- c. **If you still use the land covered by your existing Temporary CPH on a temporary basis** you have the options set out in section 2.

5. Removal of Sole Occupancy Authorities⁴

If you have a SOA we will begin work to withdraw it **30 days** from the date on this letter.

Once a SOA has been withdrawn normal livestock standstill rules will apply (and TB pre-movement testing where applicable) to moves between those holdings if they remain under different CPHs numbers.

However, you may be able to merge into a single CPH all the land currently covered by your SOA if that land is within a 10 mile radius, either by:

⁴ Sole Occupancy Authorities (SOAs) permitted livestock keepers to group different holdings which fall under their sole management and control. Livestock standstill rules do not apply for movements between holdings within a SOA. The requirement to report and record movements between the different holdings within a SOA does apply. Pre-movement TB testing is not required for moves between holdings within the SOA when all the holdings in the SOA are within a 10 mile radius of the main holding within the SOA and in the same area of TB risk.

- a. **applying to temporarily associate that land with your permanent CPH** (via a TLA, see section 2); or by
- b. **applying to add that land**, if you hold that land for more than one year, to your permanent CPH (see section 1).

6. Removal of the batch reporting exemption

The batch reporting exemption (which permits moves of breeding sheep or goats between different holdings within the same business if the keepership does not change to be reported at a batch rather than an individual level) will be removed on 1st January 2018.

Once this exemption has been removed movements of sheep or goats that were previously reported at a batch level must be reported at an individual level (except for movements of batch-tagged slaughter animals).

Impacts of this change will be mitigated if keepers are able to merge land either permanently (see section 1) or temporarily, via a TLA (see section 2).

7. Removal of the adjacent moves reporting exemption

There is currently an exemption from having to report moves of sheep and goats to/from land bordering your holding with a different CPH number, where you send or receive animals from frequently, on foot and without contact with other livestock. This exemption will be removed on 1st January 2018.

Once this exemption has been removed all moves of sheep and goats between different CPHs must be reported whether or not the land is contiguous unless the move is to or from:

- a vet (for emergency treatment)
- common land bordering your holding that you've registered as linked to your holding

Impacts of this change will be mitigated if you are able to merge land either permanently (see section 1) or temporarily, via a TLA (see section 2).