



# LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS - CPH RATIONALISATION

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## Defra Press April Notice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-animal-movement-rules-to-cut-red-tape-and-boost-resilience>

## Gov.UK info

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-movements-simpler-rules-from-2016-to-2017>

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### **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

#### **Q1. What is the aim of this project?**

To reduce the burden of movement reporting for many livestock keepers.

To simplify complex and often misunderstood rules on recording and reporting livestock movements.

To improve data quality and livestock traceability with consequent benefits for disease controls.

Once the changes are bedded-in to analyse what movements are taking place compared to previously to inform a review of the standstill regime in 2018.

#### **Q2. What is the geographic scope of this project?**

England

#### **Q3. How will it reduce the burdens on keepers?**

Under new rules livestock keepers will be able to apply to register all land they use within 10 miles, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, under the same/single CPH number and then not report moves between that land.

For keepers currently reporting moves between different CPH numbers that they hold within 10 miles this will significantly reduce the reporting burden.

#### **Q4. Will this project increase the burdens on some keepers?**

Yes, however the livestock sector (including the c.125,000 livestock keepers in England) will all benefit from the better disease control capabilities which will result from these changes.

Approximately 30,000 of these keepers will be directly affected by one or more of: the change to the 10 mile rule; *or* the removal of: CTS links, *or* SOAs, *or* existing tCPHs.

- Of these, up to 12,000 may benefit from the ability to register land they currently use (on a permanent or temporary basis) within a 10 mile radius within a single CPH. They'll no longer have to report moves (or observe standstills) when moving livestock between land in that single CPH previously covered by different CPH numbers.
- The remaining 18,000 directly affected livestock keepers will be variously affected as
  - Approximately 6,500 cattle keepers have CTS links and all (approx. 10,000) will close
    - About 85% of CTS links are however between holdings <10 miles apart and maybe eligible for replacement with TLAs - with the benefit of moves between previously linked land not triggering standstills as well as not requiring reporting.
  - Livestock keepers unable to replace a CTS link with a TLA will have to start reporting moves if they continue to use that land.

- Approximately (18,500) livestock keepers will lose their SOAs.  
It is estimated that the majority are no longer in use. Livestock keepers using land within a 10 mile radius will be able to apply for TLAs in order to mitigate the effects of removal of the SOA standstill exemption. Movement of livestock between different holdings (CPHs) will trigger standstill following withdrawal of SOAs.
- A keeper merging their holdings will go through an application process.
- A keeper putting in place a TLA will go through an application process and an annual renewal process if they continue to use that land on a temporary basis.

**Q5. Will it apply to all livestock holdings?**

No. Changes will not have to be made where a keeper does not want to merge holdings, or does not have a CTS link, SOA, or temporary CPH.

**Q6. How will (may) some livestock holdings change?**

Some holdings will be able to be merged into one (or be associated with the keeper's holding). The extent of some holdings will therefore increase as a result of these changes, thus reducing movement reporting and standstill burdens. (See below for the 10 mile rule).

**Q7. Is it voluntary?**

Merging permanent holdings and using the new process to register new temporary land use will be the keeper's choice. But - keepers must still adhere to the recording and reporting rules when they will apply – e.g. for moves between different holdings.

Withdrawal of CTS Links, SOAs and existing tCPHs will be mandatory.

**Q8. Will HMG's disease control capability be enhanced?**

Yes. We will have better livestock location data to benefit our for disease controls.

**Q9. Will the changes affect a keeper's flock/herd marks and tags they can use?**

Possibly yes.

Flock/herd marks are 6 digit numbers unique to a keeper's holding. They're also part of the ID number printed on ear tags. (They're not allocated to temporary CPHs).

If a keeper has more than one permanent holding with flock marks and if they may end up merging some of those different holdings they'll be unable to use tags issued for the merged CPHs. Only tags for the remaining CPH number can be used. Consequently, when ordering ear tags from their supplier this year they may wish to moderate the number of ear tags ordered to minimise the chance of ending up with tags they can't then use.

**CPHs & HOLDINGS**

**Q10. What is a holding / CPH?**

A County Parish Holding (CPH) number, or 'holding number', is a unique geographical reference to a particular farm or group of land parcels. The CPH is made up of 3 sets of numbers. The first 2 digits denote the county, the next 3 digits the parish, and the third group of four digits the farm (holding).

The format is 22 / 333 / 4444.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-a-cph-number-from-the-rural-payments-agency#what-is-a-cph-number>

**Q11. What types of CPH are there now and will this change?**

There are currently *permanent* and *temporary* CPH numbers, and that will not change.

Temporary CPH numbers (tCPHs) are used for land that is used on a temporary basis (e.g. seasonal grazing) where the 'tenant' is not able to use the permanent CPH (where there is one) that covers the land.

APHA will continue to issue all temporary CPH numbers.

The format of the CPH number will not change.

The CPH number range for temporary numbers will change from xx/xxx/6500 or 7000 to xx/xxx/5300.

*(See further questions below on 'permanent' and 'temporary' land).*

**MERGING CPHS - THE 'NEW' 10-MILE 'RULE'**

**Q12. What is the 10-mile 'rule'?**

It is a DEFRA business rule which defines the maximum extent of a single holding as denoted by a CPH number.

Ten miles is the radius measured from the 'place of business' point of the CPH (usually the animal gathering point or correspondence address).

**Q13. Why is the distance (rule) changing – what are the benefits?**

Currently there are different distance rules i.e. a 10 mile rule for cattle and pig holdings and a 5 mile rule for sheep and goat holdings. This is confusing, and the Farming Regulation Task Force recommended that this be harmonised to a 10 mile rule.

The new 10 mile rule also allows for land used on a temporary basis to be included ('associated' – see questions on 'TLA's below).

The benefit from merging existing holdings is that livestock moves between pieces of land covered by the same CPH number (i.e. within the same holding) do not have to be recorded or reported and such moves do not trigger standstills.

Moves reported on to a holding from another holding *will* (as now) 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.

As well as reducing some keepers recording/reporting burdens, making movement reporting less burdensome should help improve compliance which will improve our animal location data which will benefit our disease control capability.

Progressively from Summer 2016, keepers who may be able to benefit from this change will receive a letter from RPA/APHA explaining what they need to do if they want to merge land within the 10 mile rule – see sections below.

## **PERMANENT LAND**

### **Q14. How is 'permanently owned' land defined?**

Land at a keeper's uninterrupted disposal for more than 1 year.

(A single, or a number of consecutive short term letting arrangements (less than 12 months) do not constitute 'permanent').

### **Q15. How will a keeper's existing CPHs be affected?**

That is up to the keeper – if they have more than one permanent CPH covering land within a 10 mile radius they may choose to merge that land into one CPH. They do not then have to report moves or observe standstills when moving livestock between lands covered by the same CPH number.

They will only require one herd or flock register for that holding.

### **Q16. How will a keeper merge their CPHs?**

They don't need to do anything until they receive a letter from Defra with guidance on how to apply to merge their land.

They will then be able to contact APHA via the Defra Rural Services Helpline (there will be a specific call option for CPH changes) who will take them through the changes if they have any questions.

They will be asked to provide the information on:

- the CPH numbers they wish to merge
- the type of livestock kept
- location at which livestock being kept
- length & type of tenure (owned/leased & less/more than 364 days)
- type of business

## **TEMPORARY LAND – (tCPHS)**

### **Q17. What is a 'temporary' CPH and what is happening to them?**

A temporary CPH (tCPH) is one allocated for land intended to be used for 12 months or less because an additional CPH number (separate from the owners permanent CPH) has had to be used for livestock movement recording and reporting purposes.

To-date tCPHS have been allocated by both APHA and RPA, primarily in the following number formats: XX/XXX/**65XX** and XX/XXX/**7XXX**.

There are many 1,000s that have not been used to record and report movements in recent years. We will be closing these and replacing those still needed with new numbers.

All tCPHS in these number ranges will be closed by (Summer / Autumn 2017).

**Q18. What does a keeper have to do if they use land on a temporary (rather than permanent) basis?**

If they use land on a temporary basis (i.e. for 12 months or less) for keeping livestock they can, as now, use the permanent CPH number of whoever owns the land for movement recording and reporting purposes.

However, if the owner won't allow the use of that CPH number (or if the land is not covered by an existing CPH number) the keeper will be able to apply to APHA for either

- a temporary CPH (tCPH) for it or
- a Temporary Land Association (TLA) - if it is within a 10 miles radius of their own CPH).

If the land the keeper is using on a temporary basis is already covered by a temporary CPH a CTS link or a SOA, or if they have more than one permanent CPH within a 10 mile radius they don't need to do anything yet until they receive a **letter** from Defra.

This letter will contain full guidance on the options open to them for registering their temporary land (including the options to use the existing pCPH or, if necessary how to apply for either a tCPH number for it or a TLA).

An application form will be enclosed with the letter.

They will be able to contact APHA via the Defra Rural Services Helpline (there will be a specific call option for CPH changes) for guidance on completing the application form.

**Q19. If the keeper has an *existing* temporary CPH (tCPH) what will happen to it?**

Going forward APHA will allocate all tCPHs, including those for cattle holdings, and tCPHs will only last for a maximum of one year (though keepers will have the option to renew them).

Keepers with existing tCPHs will be written to and will be able to apply for new temporary CPHs.

Keepers must then provide details of all the land to be included in the tCPH and a new set of allocation criteria/rules will apply – for example keepers will be required to provide a declaration to the effect that only their animals reside on the land that they will be using on a temporary basis.

After APHA/RPA have written to all keepers using current tCPHs all existing temporary CPHs (tCPHs) will over time be closed (or replaced as necessary). This work will be completed by (Summer / Autumn 2017).

If the keepers written to will still use the land covered by their existing tCPH(s) they can in due course do one of the following:

- Start reporting moves to the permanent CPH that already covers the land (if there is one and the holder of that CPH allows it's use); *or*
- If they now have permanent use of that land – and - it falls within 10 miles of a permanent CPH they have, they can apply to add that land to their permanent CPH; *or*
- If they now hold that land on a permanent basis and need an additional permanent CPH to cover it (e.g. if the land is not within 10 miles of a permanent CPH that they already have) they may apply to RPA for an additional permanent CPH; *or*
- If they still use the land on a temporary basis they may apply to APHA to register it under either a *new* tCPH *or* a Temporary Land Association (TLA) – see below

If they no longer use the tCPH and have no animals currently reported as being on that holding they need take no action.



## **TEMPORARY LAND ASSOCIATIONS – ‘TLAs’**

### **Q20. What is a Temporary Land Association (TLA)?**

Keepers using land on a temporary basis (i.e. for 12 months or less) within 10 miles of their permanent CPH will have the option to ‘associate’ that land to it via a Temporary Land Association (TLA) – this could be instead of using a tCPH which would require the reporting and recording of movements.

(So the keeper must have their own permanent CPH to serve as a ‘parent CPH’ to the TLA)

TLAs will last up to a year (with an option to renew).

During this time they will be treated as part of the parent/permanent CPH for all livestock recording and reporting purposes (i.e. moves will not need to be recorded/reported between all land within a keeper’s 10 mile pCPH – including any land associated with it via a TLA)

- Movements to that land from other land covered by a keeper’s permanent CPH would not need to be recorded or reported and would not trigger standstill.
- Movements to that land from a different CPH would need to be recorded and reported against their permanent CPH.
- Moves reported to a CPH 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.

## **ENDING CATTLE TRACING SYSTEM (CTS) LINKS**

### **Q21. What are CTS links?**

CTS (Cattle Tracing System) Links are an administrative arrangement whereby cattle keepers can associate different holdings together with a link that is known to BCMS.

If holdings are linked in such a way, the movement of cattle between the linked holdings doesn’t need to be reported to BCMS. (These movements still though need to be recorded by the keeper in their on-farm records).

### **Q22. Why are they being ended?**

There is no legislative provision for them and as movements between links are not reported we do not hold accurate animal location data following such moves which is a disease risk.

Many CTS links span distances > 10 miles and the new arrangements will therefore make it a requirement that all livestock movements over distances greater than 10 miles are recorded and reported.

The Farming Regulation Task Force recommended that they be ended.

### **Q23. When are they being ended?**

Keepers with CTS link(s) need take no action now, BCMS will write to them.

These letters will go out progressively from the end of July 2016 until Summer/Autumn 2017. They will contain detailed guidance explaining what they need to do.

(As well as covering the removal of their CTS links the letter will also explain their options in respect of using the 10 mile rule to merge holdings, registering land they may be using on a temporary basis, removal of SOAs and changes to sheep movement reporting from 2018)

BCMS will then contact them within a few weeks of sending the letter.

(They will be able to contact BCMS directly if they have any queries in the meantime on the contents of their letter).

If the cattle keeper wishes to continue to use the linked land BCMS will discuss with them which of the following options below they intend to take up:

- a. Start to report all cattle moves between the CPHs that they had linked on CTS (note that the holder of a permanent CPH becomes legally responsible for livestock reported as on that CPH);
- b. Apply to temporarily associate the linked land with your permanent CPH - if it is within 10 miles (via a TLA, see above);
- c. Apply to add the land to their CPH if they hold it on a permanent basis and it falls within 10 miles;
- d. Apply for a tCPH to cover the linked land

### **ENDING 'SOAs'**

#### **Q24. What are SOAs?**

Sole Occupancy Authorities. These are agreements set up with APHA that have allowed a keeper to move animals *between* their different holdings *within* their agreed SOA without triggering a standstill on them (they still have to record/report those moves).

#### **Q25. Why are the remaining SOAs being got rid of?**

There is confusion amongst keepers over the correct use of SOAs and use of them increases disease risk. For example, some keepers have mistakenly assumed that moves between holdings within a SOA don't have to be recorded and reported.

They are a risk to traceability and disease control.

The Farming Regulation Task Force recommended that they be ended.

#### **Q26. When are they being got rid of?**

Progressively from late July 2016 until Summer/Autumn 2017.

(No new SOAs have been issued in England since July 2012)

Keepers with SOAs will receive a letter from RPA/APHA explaining what they need to do.

(As well as covering the removal of their SOAs the letter will also explain their options in respect of removing any CTS links they may have, using the 10 mile rule to merge holdings, registering land they may be using on a temporary basis, and changes to sheep movement reporting from 2018)

## **RECORDING AND REPORTING MOVEMENTS**

### **Q27. Will the processes for recording/reporting moves change?**

There will be no change to the processes for recording or reporting livestock movements.

What will change is which moves requiring recording and reporting once any relevant changes have been made within a keeper's business.

### **Q28. What will happen to flock / herd registers?**

Where a keeper has merged holdings together they may wish to start a new holding register for the merged holding.

They must still keep their historic records for the relevant statutory period.

APHA will be able to supply replacement registers if needed to the keepers they contact.

## **BTB CONTROLS**

### **Q29. Will I be allowed a Temporary Land Association (TLA) in a different TB risk area to that of my main holding?**

No. Applications for TLAs which fall outside the TB risk area of the main holding will not be allowed. This rule is based on the same principles that we applied to Cattle Tracing System (CTS) links that were abolished when the TB risk areas were first introduced.

### **Q30. My holding will straddle two different TB risk areas. What TB regime will I come under?**

Existing CPHs can already straddle boundaries between TB risk areas.

In such cases APHA applies the more stringent TB surveillance and control regime on the whole holding.

### **Q31. Will I be allowed a Temporary CPH (tCPH) in a different TB risk area to that of my main holding?**

Yes, a Temporary CPH (tCPH) can be authorised where the rented land is in a different risk area to that of your permanent CPH.

### **Q32. If I have a TLA and suffer a TB breakdown, how will the restrictions on my herd be managed?**

We will treat a breakdown in the same way whether or not you have a TLA(s). All cattle on the same CPH, whether on land covered by a TLA or on your permanent land, will be restricted. They are considered as one group.

### **Q33. If I suffer a TB breakdown on my permanent CPH or tCPH, how will movement restrictions be managed on my other holdings?**

There will be no fundamental changes in the way TB breakdowns involving tCPHs are managed by APHA, i.e. APHA will not assume by default that bovine animals kept on tCPHs are separate epidemiological groups from the animals on your permanent CPH.

### **Q34. Do I need to TB test my cattle when moving between my main holding and my tCPH?**

Current TB pre-movement and post-movement testing rules will apply to movements of cattle between tCPHs and pCPHs.

## **TIMING**

### **Q35. How will the changes be rolled out - will you be contacting keepers directly?**

Defra wrote to livestock keepers (c.125,000) in May 2016 to give them an high level overview of the changes being introduced.

In addition (as explained above) throughout a transition period (July 2016 – Summer/Autumn 2017) Defra will write directly, with detailed guidance, to (c.30,000) keepers whose current business practices mean they may be affected by one or more of the planned changes.

*Keepers do not need to take action until they receive this letter.*

Keepers with CTS links will have the opportunity to set up replacement arrangements before their CTS link(s) expire.

Otherwise, these letters will be sent in no specific order.

Affected keepers will have any relevant changes to their farm business made in one go.

### **Q36. Why are you doing this on a business-by-business basis?**

Taking this 'whole-case' approach minimises the number of times that a keeper will be contacted, and enables them to take all the changes that affect their business into account when choosing new options.

## **HOLDINGS OUTSIDE OF ENGLAND**

### **Q37. Is anything similar happening elsewhere in the UK?**

Yes, in Wales.

The Welsh Government held a [consultation](#) on the delivery of similar changes there.

An announcement on their delivery plans is awaited .

### **Q38. How are holdings near a border affected?**

#### **For TLAs**

APHA will allocate TLAs in England against English permanent CPHs (i.e. those with English county numbers).

Only land in England may be temporarily associated (via a TLA) to an English CPH (unless the land straddles the Welsh border in which case it may be associated with an English CPH at the discretion of Defra and Welsh Government).

Land in England cannot be temporarily associated (via a TLA) to a Scottish pCPH.  
Land in Scotland cannot be temporarily associated (via a TLA) to an English pCPH.

#### **For tCPHs**

APHA will allocate tCPHs for land in England only (unless the land straddles the Welsh border in which case it may be included in an English tCPH at the discretion of Defra and Welsh Government).

All tCPHs allocated by APHA will have English county numbers.

Keepers must hold an English or Welsh permanent CPH (i.e. one with an English or Welsh County number) to serve as 'Parent CPH' for the tCPH.

A Scottish pCPH may not have an English tCPH linked to it.

**Q39. Will the 10 mile rule affect cross border farms?**

This has not yet been decided.

Defra, the Welsh Government, and our delivery agencies are presently investigating whether there are any potential regulatory, IT or inspection issues in doing that and if not, what the different options are for operating a 10 mile rule for farm businesses that cross the England / Wales Border.

We will look to identify a pragmatic solution and will report back to industry stakeholders on that once our deliberations are concluded and we are clear on the way ahead.

A 10 mile rule will not operate across the England /Scotland border.

**CHANGES TO SHEEP MOVEMENT RECORDING FROM 2018**

**Q40. What and when are the specific changes for sheep and goat keepers?**

The within business batch reporting exemption will end.

This permits sheep and goat moves between *different* holdings within the same business - if the keepership does not change - to be reported at a batch rather than an individual level.

It will end on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

Once this exemption has been removed all sheep movements between different CPHs must be reported at an individual animal level rather than a batch level (except for movements of batch-tagged slaughter animals).

When this exemption was implemented in 2010 following a public consultation Defra made clear that it was a temporary exemption pending the future delivery of changes to how holdings could be registered.

The adjacent moves reporting exemption will end

This permits frequent sheep or goat movements to contiguous land on a different holding to not be reported.

It will end on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

Once this exemption has ended all livestock movements between different CPHs must be reported and recorded whether or not the land is contiguous.

Sheep keepers will not however be affected by these changes where they are able to register these different CPHs within the 10 mile rule.

**COSTS?**

**Q41. Will keepers have to pay for the changes?**

No. In some instances there will be an application process (e.g. to merge existing holdings together, or to put in place a Temporary Land Association) but there is no charge.

## **FARMING REGULATION TASK FORCE**

### **Q42. What was their role in this project?**

They were an independent industry led group set up by the last Government to look at ways to reduce the regulatory burdens.

They concluded that some of the current arrangements for regulating livestock movements could be simplified, making them easier to understand and improving compliance.

Amongst their related recommendations they recommended a harmonised 10 mile boundary for livestock holdings along with the ending of CTS links and SOAs.

Their report is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-farming-regulation-task-force-report> (Chapter 8)

The Government's announcement that it would be implementing these recommendations in 2016 is published at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cuts-to-red-tape-to-save-farmers-and-taxpayers-70-million> (7/1/2014)

## **DELIVERY AGENCIES**

### **Q43. What is APHA's role in this project**

APHA are working with RPA to deliver these changes.

From Go-live all temporary land use for livestock keeping purposes in England must be registered with APHA.

APHA will also undertake work to withdraw all SOAs.

### **Q44. What is RPA's role in this project**

RPA, including BCMS, will be working through all of the CTS links to close them down, moving the animals on the Cattle Tracing System so they are correctly recorded on the right holding.

RPA will also undertake any work to amalgamate holdings that are within 10 miles of each other (where keepers choose to take up that option).

## **THE STANDSTILL REGIME**

### **Q45. What is this?**

It is a domestic disease dampening measure designed to slow down the rate of spread of undetected disease and thus reduce the size (and hence the cost) of disease outbreaks.

Livestock movements on to a holding trigger a 'standstill' whereby any livestock already on it (including the animals moved on) may not move off for at least 6 days (20 days for pigs on a holding on to which pigs are moved).

Movements of animals and standstills are monitored through the Animal Movements Licensing System (AMLS) database which is managed by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS). (There are a limited number of specific exemptions).

### **Q46. Will I still have to observe standstills?**

Yes for movements between *different* holdings i.e. with different CPH (including tCPH) numbers where there is livestock already on the holding when animals move on.

**Q47. When will standstill regime be reviewed and why?**

In 2018.

This will allow for the changes to the CPH landscape to have bedded in so that Defra can see what affect that has had on standstills being triggered. (It is likely that the merging of holdings will result in fewer standstills).

The Farming Regulation Task Force recognised that changes to the standstill regime could not be made until after the changes to the CPH landscape had been delivered.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Q48. What information is available now and where?**

Information is published on Gov.UK.

Links to that information can be found by searching under ‘farming’.

**Defra Press Notice**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-animal-movement-rules-to-cut-red-tape-and-boost-resilience>

**Gov.UK info**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-movements-simpler-rules-from-2016-to-2017>

This information will added to over the coming weeks.

**Q49. Is Defra writing to keepers about the ?**

Defra wrote to all keepers on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 with an overview of the changes.

*In addition*

As mentioned above, throughout the 12 month transitional period (July 2016 – Summer/Autumn 2017) Defra will contact directly keepers whose current business practices mean they will be affected by one or more of the changes.

*Keepers do not need to take action until they receive this letter.*

**Q50. What contact numbers can enquirers use?**

Defra helpline - general enquiries related to animal ID and movements

☎ 03459 33 55 77



The Rural Services helpline - enquiries from directly affected keepers

☎ **03000 200 301**

Available from late July 2016 – once Defra begins contacting directly affected keepers during the 12 month transitional period.

**Q51. Will information be available at livestock events?**

We have produced a leaflet which will be available at the Defra stand at Agricultural shows.

Leaflet	 CPH change leaflet	Sent to industry stakeholders, livestock markets, and to tag suppliers for inclusion with customers tag orders.
Poster	 CPH change poster	Sent to industry stakeholders and livestock markets.