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# Q&A - LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

## CPH RATIONALISATION

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*This high level Q&A is for the early awareness phase of the CPH Simplification project. It does not attempt to cover all aspects or explain all rules/processes.*

### **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>

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## **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

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

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

To reduce the burden of movement reporting for many keepers.

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

Once the changes are bedded-in an analysis of what movements are taking place then compared to previously will inform the planned 2018 review of the standstill regime.

### **Q2. Where will it apply?**

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 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 improved livestock location data with consequent benefits 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 – will this change?**

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

Temporary CPH numbers 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 CPH number range for temporary numbers will change from xx/xxx/6500 or 7000 to xx/xxx/5300. The format of the CPH number will not change.

**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?**

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)..

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.

**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 CPHs be affected?**

That is up to the keeper – if they have more than one 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 APHA/RPA with guidance on how to apply to merge their land.

## RENTED LAND

### **Q17. 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 for keeping livestock they can use the CPH number of whoever owns the land, but if they won't allow that (or if the land is not covered by a CPH number) the keeper will now be able to apply to APHA for either a temporary CPH or a Temporary Land Association.

If the land the keeper is using on a temporary basis is already covered by a temporary CPH or 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** until they receive a letter from APHA/RPA with further guidance on the options open to them.

### **Q18. What is a 'temporary' CPH?**

A temporary CPH (tCPH) is one allocated for land intended to be used for less than one year and where an additional CPH number is required for livestock movement 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.

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

Keepers will be able to apply for new temporary CPHs.

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

Keepers must 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 temporary land.

### **Q19. If the keeper already has a temporary CPH (tCPH) what will happen to it?**

All existing temporary CPHs (tCPHs) will be closed by (Summer / Autumn 2017).

If they still use the land covered by their tCPH(s) keepers 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 the RPA 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.

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

Keepers temporarily using land within 10 miles of their permanent CPH will have the option to 'associate' that land to it via a Temporary Land Association (TLA) (instead of using a tCPH which would require the reporting and recording of movements).

TLAs will last up to a year (with an option to renew), during which time they will be treated as part of the permanent CPH for all livestock recording and reporting purposes. (i.e. moves will not need to be recorded/reported between all land within a keepers 10 mile permanent CPH – including any land associated with it via a TLA)

## **ENDING CTS LINKS**

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

CTS (Cattle Tracing System) Links are an administrative arrangement whereby cattle keepers can associate a number of 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 need to be recorded by the keeper in their on-farm records.

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

There is no provision for them in EU legislation 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 also recommended that they be ended.

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

Progressively from Summer 2016, affected keepers will receive a letter from RPA/APHA explaining what they need to do.

## **ENDING 'SOAs'**

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

Sole Occupancy Authorities. These allow 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 keeper's 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 Summer 2016. Keepers with existing SOAs may receive a letter from RPA/APHA explaining what they need to do.

## **RECORDING AND REPORTING MOVEMENTS**

### **Q27. Will those processes change for livestock keepers?**

There will be no change to the processes for recording or reporting livestock movements. What will change is which moves requiring recording and reporting.

Where a keeper has merged holdings together they may wish to start a new holding register for the newly merged holding. (They will still need to keep their historic records for a mandatory period – typically the last 3 years).

### **Q28. 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).

*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.

## **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 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.



## **TIMING**

### **Q31. How will the changes be rolled out? Will you contact keepers directly?**

Yes. We will be writing to all livestock keepers (c.125,000) in May 2016 to give them an overview of the changes being introduced.

In addition, throughout the 12 month transitional period (July 2016 - June 2017) we will send a more detailed explanation 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 from RPA/APHA.

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

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

All affected livestock keepers will have all relevant changes made to their business at the same time.

### **Q32. Why are you taking that approach?**

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

As mentioned all directly affected keepers (c.30,000) will receive further information from RPA/APHA at some point during the transitional period (July 2016 – summer/autumn 2017)..

## **COSTS ISSUES TO KEEPERS**

### **Q33. Will I have to pay?**

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**

### **Q34. 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**

### **Q35. What is APHAs 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.

### **Q36. What is RPAs 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**

### **Q37. 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.

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 any pigs (on a holding on to which pigs are moved)).

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

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

### **Q38. 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.

### **Q39. 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 we can see what affect that has had on standstills being triggered. (It is likely that the merging of holdings will result in far 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.

## **HOLDINGS OUTSIDE OF ENGLAND**

### **Q40. Is anything similar happening elsewhere in the UK?**

The Welsh Government held a [consultation](#) on the delivery of similar changes there. An announcement on their delivery plans is expected following their recent elections.

#### **Q41. How are cross border holdings affected?**

##### For TLAs

APHA will only allocate TLAs 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.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION & PUBLICITY**

#### **Q42. 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/months.

#### **Q43. 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.



CPH - Keepers letter

##### *In addition*

Throughout the 12 month transitional period (July 2016 – Summer/Autumn 2017) we will contact directly (c.30,000) 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 are contacted.

**Q44. What contact number should enquirers use?**



If keepers have questions now they should use the central Defra helpline which is:

☎ 03459 33 55 77

*(The Rural Services helpline will also handle enquires once Defra starts to contact directly affected keepers during the 12 month transitional period).*

**Q45. 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.