

Veterinary Attestations- what pig keepers need to know

From 13th December 2023, all animals sent for slaughter that may end up in product exported to the EU must come from a farm that has regular vet visits. If you are an assured producer of pigs (either QMS or Red Tractor), participation in these schemes will cover you for this requirement - your assurance number will be communicated to your abattoir or market on your eAML2 licence, and they will see this as proof of having regular visits.

If you send any of your pigs to slaughter (or via market to slaughter) that are not covered by Red Tractor assurance and product may end up exported to the EU, the movement licence will need to be accompanied by a Veterinary Attestation number (VAN). The VAN will be issued by your private vet as the result of a farm visit. The visit need not be solely for the purposes of obtaining a VAN and can be for any species on farm. If you have recently had a farm visit, your vet may be able to issue you with a VAN retrospectively.

eAML2 and Pig Hub will be updated before the 13 December deadline to fulfil this requirement but if you are likely to need a VAN on or immediately after, you may need to speak to your vet to see if a visit is necessary. The VAN rules apply to other species too.

The letter issued by Defra outlining the detail can be read here: [link](#)

Defra have also issued some Q&As in relation to attestations that can be read: [here](#)

The British Pig Association have also published an update to inform non-assured producers [here](#).