



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 50/24

Update on Exports of Live Brown Crabs to China

Date issued: 27 December 2024

Purpose

1. To inform Local Authorities and FCCOs on updated Chinese measures to strengthen testing of live brown crabs exported from the United Kingdom to China, and the implications this has on trade.
2. Specific changes relating to live brown crab exports have been made to the Notes for Guidance for [Export live aquatic animals, excluding bivalve molluscs to China: certificate 7432](#).

Background

3. Earlier this year, China detected the presence of the heavy metal cadmium exceeding their minimum acceptable level as set out in their National Standard, from live brown crabs exported from the United Kingdom to China. In response, the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) has informed Defra that China will take measures to strengthen testing of live brown crabs from the United Kingdom to China.
4. Moreover, they require the UK authorities to take measures to restrict exports accordingly.

Action

5. In order to provide assurances to GACC regarding their concerns about the exceedances in cadmium levels, Defra is suspending exports of live brown crab to China from the potentially highest risk fishing area, identified by China, within FAO27 – ICES rectangle 28E6 in ICES area VIIIE.

6. This is a necessary but temporary measure which should avoid further live brown crab export bans. Exports of live brown crab from all other fishery areas within FAO 27 are not affected.

Further Information

All queries regarding the information above should be directed to exports@apha.gov.uk in the first instance.