

# **APHA Briefing Note 06/25**

# GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON PRODUCING A CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMITY FOR FBOs SEEKING APPROVAL TO EXPORT TO MOROCCO

Date issued: 05 February 2025

## **Purpose**

- To inform FCCOs about a new registration process for a Food Business Operator (FBO) approval for export of milk and dairy products and fish and seafood products to Morocco and ask that they share this information with appropriate local authority colleagues.
- Specific guidance relating to UK dairy exporters' registration on the Morocco National Office of Food Safety's (ONSSA) online ATLAS database has been added to the Notes for Guidance for <u>3665NFG.pdf</u> - <u>Export dairy products from heat</u> <u>treated milk to Morocco: certificate 3665</u>, (which can only be signed by an APHA authorised Certifying OV).

### **Background**

- 3. Morocco's National Office of Food Safety (ONSSA) has recently introduced a formal online approval process for exporters wishing to export certain products to Morocco.
  - This online portal is called ATLAS.
- 4. Establishment registration on ATLAS is required for the following products prior to export:
  - Milk and dairy products
  - Fish and seafood

- 5. The Moroccan registration procedure requires that the UK FBO be approved and have an approval number allocated by their local authority ("the competent authority") to produce food products for human consumption/export.
- One of the 2 main documents required to be uploaded to complete the process is
   Annex II Certificate of Conformity by the Competent Authority (see
   ANNEXE\_II\_ATTESTATION\_CONFORMITE\_AC\_EN (1).docx).

#### Action

- 7. If requested by a business seeking approval to export such products to Morocco, the local authority should note that:
  - For the purpose of completing the required Certificate of Conformity, the local authority is the appropriate competent authority.
  - Local authority officials completing such Certificates of Conformity are advised that, once they are satisfied that \*\*the required conditions have been met, they paste the standard Annex II text provided by ONSSA onto the LA's letterhead, and sign & stamp it.

#### **NOTE:**

\*\*Assessing compliance with the required conditions, which also include a reference to Moroccan legislation, is covered in 3665NFG.

An FBO going through the registration process would have set up an account that allows navigation to the point in the process where the Annex II requirement is and then provide access to the local authority official completing the form.

### **Further Information**

All queries regarding the information above should be directed to <a href="mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk">exports@apha.gov.uk</a> in the first instance.