



DAERA Stakeholder / Industry Communications: Crown Gold Removal – New Countries Added

Bulletin 04/21

Issued: 8th July 2021

Audience: Third Country Exporters in Northern Ireland and Industry bodies

Subject: Improved Digital Security Measures for Export Health Certificates Printed on Crown Vellum (Gold)

Purpose

1. To inform Exporters located in Northern Ireland of new digital security measures being introduced for Export Health Certificates (EHCs) to replace existing Crown Vellum (Gold) watermarked security paper.
2. Please note **additional countries** have been added, please see table below:

Country	With effect from
Australia	27.05.2021
Hong Kong	27.05.2021
United Arab Emirates	14.06.2021
Japan	12.07.2021

Background

3. EHCs from the United Kingdom to third countries are normally issued using Crown Vellum (Gold) watermarked security paper to provide anti-fraud assurance to importing Competent Authorities of the authenticity of UK certification.
4. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, DEFRA agreed, with a number of third country Competent Authorities, the production of EHCs on plain white paper as a temporary measure to assist in issuing EHCs.
5. DEFRA and DAERA have also been working on a solution to remove Crown Vellum watermarked security paper across all countries and replace with plain white paper with improved digital security measures. The new security features include a **12 digit unique code** applied to page 1 of the EHC and a **'dithered watermark'** applied to all pages, visible when the EHC is printed on white paper.

6. These features will apply to EHCs issued through DECOL for the third countries listed in the table above.

Initial use of the new technical solution will take place during a trial, during which time DAERA will be requesting feedback on the new procedures from importing Competent Authorities and Certifying Officers. Any additional feedback from Exporters is also welcome.

7. There is no change to how exporters apply for EHCs. Exporters can continue to apply for an EHC by completing an application on DECOL.
8. When the EHC is issued to the exporter, the new security features will be present. A 12-digit code will be visible on the first page of the certificate.
9. The dithered watermark consists of the certificate serial number applied as a diagonal watermark and a crown applied in the centre of each page. These features will be added to all pages of the export health certificate.
10. Appendix 1 provides an example of an EHC including the dithered watermark.
11. The Importing Competent Authority can enter the 12-digit code (from the certified EHC), into a new verification service on GOV.UK, to confirm the validity of the certificate (valid or invalid) as part of the security features.
12. DAERA will respond to any correspondence from the Importing Competent Authority if any queries are received as to the authenticity of a white paper EHC.

It is recommended that you advise your Importers in third countries to expect this 'new look' for all EHCs issued from the start dates listed in the table.

13. **All other** EHCs will continue to be:
 - Issued using white paper as a temporary measure during coronavirus restrictions (where agreements are in place).
 - Issued using Crown Vellum (Gold) watermarked security paper
 - Issued on white paper where Crown Vellum watermarked Paper is not required e.g. EHCs for the European Union (EU)

Contact

If you have any queries please contact DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk

Trade Programme





Appendix 1

An example of an EHC including the new dithered watermark (for illustration purposes only):

