



DAERA authorised Private Veterinary Practitioner: Crown Gold Removal – New Countries Added

Bulletin: aPVP 05/21

Issued: 11th June 2021

Audience: authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs)

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

Purpose

1. To inform aPVPs of new digital security measures being introduced for Export Health Certificates (EHC) 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

Background

3. EHCs issued from the United Kingdom to third countries are normally issued using Crown Vellum 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 third 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 as a trial, during which time DAERA will be requesting feedback on the new procedures from Importing Competent Authorities and Certifying Officers.

7. When EHCs for the countries listed in the table are issued to the Certifying Officer, a 12-digit code is generated and is visible on the first page of the certificate.
8. 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
9. Appendix 1 provides an example of an EHC including the dithered watermark.
10. On receipt, the Importing Competent Authority can enter the 12-digit code (from the certified EHC), into a new online verification service to confirm the validity of the certificate (valid or invalid) as part of the security features.
11. The EHC must be printed **on plain white paper**. The 12-digit code and watermarks will be visible on it.

Where Certifying Officers receive EHCs electronically and the EHCs are three or four pages in length, the EHC can be printed as an A3 booklet if A3 printing facilities are available. If A3 booklet printing facilities are not available, the EHC can be printed on A4 white paper which can be double or single sided. If the EHCs consists of multiple pieces of paper, Certifying Officers must endorse the pages by fan stamping.

12. Use of [Adobe Reader](#) is recommended for printing an EHC with the dithered watermark security features.
13. After carrying out inspection/examination of the export consignment and certification procedures to complete the plain white paper EHC, the Certifying Officer must retain a copy for their own records for two years.
14. DAERA will respond to any correspondence from the Importing Competent Authority if any queries are received regarding the authenticity of a white paper



EHC. DAERA may contact Certifying Officers to complete authenticity checks should the need arise.

15. 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)

Benefits of New Anti-Fraud Security Measures

16. This move towards a more streamlined digital delivery of EHCs will improve security, efficiency and reduce administration and postal costs.

Further Information

- Any queries relating to new Anti-Fraud Security measures should be sent to: DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk

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Appendix 1

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

