

Easements to Third Country Export Health Certification during the COVID 19 emergency

Export Health Certificate Printing on Plain White Paper

From: DAERA Trade Programme

To: Authorised Veterinary Inspectors

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Purpose

1. To make Authorised Veterinary Inspectors (AVIs) aware of updates to the changes required to the process of issuing Export Health Certificates (EHCs) to **Australia, Gibraltar, the United States of America (USA), People's Republic of China, Myanmar, the Philippines, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates (UAE), North Macedonia and Canada** during the COVID 19 emergency, for implementation.
2. This is further to, and in addition to, the recent correspondence **issued on 17 June 2020**.
3. Further background information about third country easements can be found in Annex 1

Table 1, updated 20/08/20: Summary of agreed Third Country easements.

(1) Third Country	(2) Requirement for official pre notification template by DAERA	(3) White paper original wet signed EHC accepted (rather than Crown Gold)	(4) Email notification of Scanned Copy required	(5) Original to be supplied by Exporter / Importer	(6) Easements take effect from:
Australia	No	Yes	Yes from Exporter Input to Cargo Online Lodgment System COLS	YES	29 April 2020
Gibraltar	No	Yes	Yes from DAERA	No	29 April 2020
United States of America	No	Yes	No	With the consignment	29 April 2020
People's Republic of China (PRC)	No (except pork meat)	Yes	Yes from DAERA by upload into PRC e cert system, including copies of cancelled certificates where a replacement	YES	13 May 2020

			certificate has been issued* <i>please see note below</i>		
(1)Third Country	(2) Requirement for official pre notification template by DAERA	(3) White paper original wet signed EHC accepted (rather than Crown Gold)	(4) Email notification of Scanned Copy required	(5) Original to be supplied by Exporter / Importer	(6) Easements take effect from:
Myanmar	No	Yes	No	Yes with consignment	27 May 2020
Philippines	No	Yes	Yes From APHA / DAERA	Yes with consignment	29 May 2020
Hong Kong	No	Yes	No	Yes with consignment	17 June 2020
UAE	No	Yes	Yes From APHA / DAERA	Yes with consignment	24 June 2020
North Macedonia	No	Yes	No	Yes with consignment	29 June 2020
Canada	No	Yes	APHA/DAERA for live/genetics. Others lodged by importer	Yes with consignment	26 August 2020

* Replacement Certificates

When a replacement certificate is issued for any commodity exported to China, it is now a requirement for a copy of the original, cancelled EHC to be provided to the Chinese authorities, via their e certification system. This will be completed by DAERA Trade Programme when uploading the replacement certificate.

Prior to issue of a replacement certificate, you must

- Obtain the original, where it has been issued to the exporter, or retrieve from your own records
- Mark the front page of the original certificate with CANCELLED in bold text
- Scan the cancelled original certificate, naming it to include the Certificate XX/3/YYYYYY serial number and CANCELLED
- Issue the replacement certificate, (which is already endorsed as a replacement certificate in red text on the front page), and scan to pdf.
- Send a copy of both the cancelled, original certificate and the new replacement certificate to DAERA Direct Regional Offices.
- Where a replacement certificate is requested and the original certificate has been lost/ not returned to you, (applies to all EHCs issued, not just to China EHCs) you must contact vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk for advice on how to proceed before a replacement certificate can be issued.

Further details on scanning EHCs can be found at paragraph 12 below.

Temporary Procedures during COVID-19 Restrictions: Action for AVIs

4. There is no change to how exporters or their agents apply to DAERA for EHCs. This will continue to be provided through the DECOL server and application process. Exporters and AVIs can continue to access EHCs and Notes For Guidance via [EHC Form Finder](#)
5. Where bilateral agreements for easements have been negotiated, permitting use of white paper, **DAERA will issue the EHC, for completion to the AVI, by email, along with electronic transmission of other related documentation, such as veterinary support certificates.** Please advise vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk of any alternative email address to which you would require this

correspondence to be issued. If specific circumstances prevent electronic transmission, please contact us at [DAERA Direct Regional Offices](#) to make alternative arrangements.

6. For all other Third Countries not listed in Table 1, normal Crown Gold Paper will continue to be issued, by post, to your practice address. Again, if specific circumstances prevent this, please contact your local office [DAERA Direct Regional Offices](#) to make special arrangements for collection, as DAERA offices are currently closed to the public.
7. Please continue to provide exporters with the original “wet signed and stamped” certificate. It will then remain the responsibility of the Exporter to safeguard this official paperwork and to supply to the importer, if required.
8. Pre-notification of the Third Country will be completed in accordance with the importing country specification. Where appropriate, (*Table 1, column 2*), DAERA will provide a pre-notification template for your completion and this should be returned to DAERA with the scanned copy of the issued EHC, on the day of issue, or within 1 working day where this is not possible.
9. Alternatively, as specified in *Table 1, column 4*, DAERA or the exporter or the importer will email a scanned copy of the EHC to the competent authority of the importing country To facilitate this you must email a copy of the signed and issued EHC to DAERA on the day of issue of the EHC.
10. For the specific countries referred to in the attached table, DAERA will respond to any correspondence from Importing Competent Authorities if queries are received as to the authenticity of a white paper EHC.
12. **Once you have received the EHC electronically you must:**
 - **Complete the appropriate consignment checks**
 - **Print the EHC onto white paper, as indicated in Table 1 Column (3)**
 - **Complete, sign and stamp the EHC, as normal, please see Annex 2 for details of fan stamping of multiple pages.**

- **Scan the signed and stamped EHC and send a copy of the pdf by email to your local office @ DAERA Direct Regional Offices on the day of issue, or within 1 working day. This is essential to allow DAERA to notify the TC of the consignment in transit, to avoid any unnecessary delays with the importation procedures, and is critical in the case of live animal exports.**
- **The EHC document only, and, if specified, any associated schedules or annexes, should be scanned and returned. Other supporting documentation should be scanned / retained separately and does not need to be returned to DAERA.**
- **Pages should be scanned in the correct order, unless when scanning EHCs printed on A3 paper in booklet format, the scanning process will automatically re order pages.**
- **When you return the scanned EHC to DAERA please use the following wording in the subject line of your email:**
- **Subject: White Paper – (insert name of Third Country) – (insert the EHC serial number).**
- **The scan must be in colour, care taken to ensure that all pages are included, and all details are legible.**
- **Issue the hard copy, (and electronic scanned copy as required) to the exporter**
- **Retain a copy for your records, along with all other supporting documentation.**

Further Information

Any queries relating to these temporary procedures should be sent to: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk

Trade Programme

International Trade Facilitation Division

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

Annex 1

Background to Third Country Easements

1. Export Health Certificates (EHC) for the United Kingdom to Third Countries (TCs) are usually issued to AVIs for completion on Crown Vellum Watermarked security paper to provide anti-fraud assurance to importing Competent Authorities of the authenticity of UK certification. This remains the default certification standard.
2. Due to the current COVID-19 emergency, Defra, the UK Central Competent Authority for international trade, is corresponding with a number of TC Competent Authorities to negotiate formal, temporary easements to assist and facilitate certification for export of animals and products of animal origin. In some instances this may involve the issue of a certificate on plain white paper and/or, where the importing authority is prepared to accept, a scanned certificate sent by email.
3. The third countries where new temporary arrangements have been agreed are listed in Table 1 . It is anticipated that further arrangements will be agreed as responses are received from TCs. You should note that the requirements of individual countries vary. The details are contained in the table of bilateral agreements of easements. (Table 1). This will be maintained and updated when DAERA receive official confirmation from Defra of new countries with whom easements have been agreed.
4. The updated list can be found at [DAERA Trade web page](#). We will notify you, in advance, as any additional easements come on-stream and when the easements cease to apply.

Annex 2

Printing and Fan Stamping the Export Health Certificate

Plain white paper certificates can be printed on A4 paper. If printing on A4 paper where the EHC consists of several pages, please ensure the pages are fan stamped, along with any additional documents associated with the certificate e.g. schedules or supplementary certificates. These must be stapled and 'fan stamped' together to make a tamper proof composite document.

The pages of the certificate and associated documents must be 'fanned' to overlap each page by approximately 2cm at the foot and the overlying edges stamped several times with the AVI stamp in a colour other than black to authenticate each page.

Alternatively, the bottom right hand corners of the pages can be folded over progressively to create overlapping edges which are then stamped. The top left hand corner of the documents must be folded down, then stapled and the AVI stamp applied over the join.

See below for an illustration of fan stamping of multiple pages.



- Fan the pages to overlap each other by approximately 2cm at the foot or bottom right hand corner.
- Apply the stamp so that ink and part of the stamp are printed and visible on each page and the print is still legible.
- If a single stamp is sufficient to create a part print on each page then additional stamping is not needed and should be avoided. The complete shape and form of the stamp must be able to be recreated by a recipient fanning the pages to test the integrity of the document.

