



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2020/22

3 August 2020

### TEMPORARY CONTINGENCY OFFICIAL CONTROL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AT BORDER CONTROL POSTS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

#### Purpose

To inform you that the contingency measures being applied during the Covid-19 outbreak has been extended.

#### Background

A number of OVS notes have been issued about special measures that can be adopted during the Covid-19 outbreak:

- [Annex I - scanned documents \(no change in policy\)](#)
- [Annex 1 \(A\) – list of contacts in third countries \(no change\)](#)
- [Annex II - Remote checks \(no change in policy\)](#)

#### Action for OVSs

To note the contents of this OVS note.

#### Contact point for enquiries

Email: Defra: [ImportsTradeinAnimalsandProducts@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ImportsTradeinAnimalsandProducts@defra.gov.uk)

FSA: [Imported.Food@food.gov.uk](mailto:Imported.Food@food.gov.uk)

*Imports and EU Trade Team*

## Scanned documents

1. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and to minimise the disruption to the flow of food and feed imported into the EU and UK, the Commission has implemented Regulation (EU) 2020/466 as last amended which allows for temporary easements to certain aspects of the delivery of official controls. Article 4 of the Regulation 2020/466 allows for official controls to be performed on electronic copies of official certificates and attestations that are presented to the competent authority (CA).
2. Border Control Posts (BCPs) designated for products of animal origin including fish and fishery products for human consumption (POAO), animal by-products (ABP) and high-risk food and feed not of animal origin (HRFNAO) **may accept scanned or electronic documents directly from the central competent authority (CCA) of the exporting third country** or subject to certain requirements, **from operators** as a temporary contingency measure during the COVID-19 outbreak.
3. Defra and the FSA have **agreed to accept scanned/e-documents for:**
  - POAOs (other than those derived from porcine animals);
  - ABPs (other than unprocessed ABPs of porcine origin);
  - Certain HRFNAO (commodities listed in Annex 2 of [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1793](#))
4. This measure **excludes the following commodities** for which original documents are still required:
  - Germinal products;
  - Porcine meat (including fresh/frozen meat, minced meat and meat preparations);
  - Fresh unprocessed animal by-products derived from porcine animals<sup>1</sup>
5. Scanned signed TRACES CHED/CVEDs or other accompanying documents can be accepted by BCPs from importers (or their agents) for the duration of the lockdown related to COVID-19 in the UK.

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<sup>1</sup> This policy also excludes live animals (other than live fish).

6. Regarding documents that are required from the exporting third country, electronic copies of Export Health Certificates and further documents may be accepted, provided that one of the following three scenarios applies:

**Scenario 1: Scanned copies are sent by email directly from the third country competent authorities to the BCP.** Copies may be provided by the operator to the BCP if it is clear in the chain of correspondence that they can verify the copy of the certificate was sent from the competent authority originally; **OR**

**Scenario 2: For third countries using the TRACES platform, certificates and other relevant information can be completed and attached in the TRACES system, OR**

**Scenario 3: If none of the above scenarios apply, then scanned copies should be sent from the operator to the BCP.** The operator must copy in the third country competent authority (see [Annex I \(A\)](#) for contact details). If a BCP receives scanned documents from an operator originating in a country that is not listed in Annex I (A), it is advised that the BCP contacts Defra or FSA for further advice.

In addition, the BCP should carry out a risk assessment based on the following criteria, all of which need to be met, in order to accept the copies of documents from the operator:

- Consignments may not originate from countries under current safeguard measures for the commodity of concern;
- Consignments may not originate from an establishment under re-enforced checks for the commodity of concern (also known as Intensified Official Controls);
- Operators for which the BCP have concerns about their past reliability and risk profile (e.g. previous lack of cooperation with official controls or payments). BCPs should also assess any new operators based on intelligence from other BCPs.

7. BCPs should request a declaration from the operator to agree to submit original documents as soon as possible. Ten (10) working days should be the guide timescale. If no documents are received within this time period, the BCP should contact the CCA in the exporting third country to seek the original documents. If after a further 10 working days nothing has been received from the CCA, then the BCP should contact either Defra or the FSA, depending on the commodity.
8. Should a BCP require additional assurances in relation to any documents, then the BCP must contact the CCA of the exporting third country. If the BCP receives no reply within five (5) working days, the BCP may consider any supporting information provided electronically by the operator to the BCP and must also copy in the named responsible person at the CCA of the exporting third country.
9. BCPs should track operator compliance by recording the number of consignments that are received with copy documents supplied by the importer. This will ensure that all outstanding original documents can be followed up in due course.
10. In the case of germinal products, porcine meat (including fresh/frozen meat, minced meat and meat preparations) and unprocessed ABPs of porcine origin not accompanied by original certificates, the BCP should contact Defra to request a policy decision on a case by case basis.
11. The situation will be monitored on a weekly basis by Defra and FSA in liaison with BCPs. Questions around individual cases will be dealt with by Defra and FSA imports teams. Further high-risk imports may be added to the list and thereby excluded from this policy, meaning that original documents will be required. Any changes to the international disease risk as a result of this policy will be escalated to the Coronavirus Special Animal Policy Group (APG) and the FSA's Immediate Response Group (IRG) for an immediate review of the wider policy.
12. This temporary measure will remain in place **until 1 October 2020**, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/1087, when it will be further reviewed. Any changes to the policy will be announced via an OVS note to BCPs.

**Defra will update the list regularly**

Argentina	<p>Gaston Maria Funes gmfunes@magyp.gob.ar please also copy: emorales@agricola-ue.org and brojas@agricola-ue.org</p> <p>mobile 0475983333 Office 026403333</p>	<p>For animal and animal products, the scanned certificates will be sent from:</p> <p>expoue@senasa.gob.ar</p>	
Australia	<p>Joanna Grainger +32 486 137 513 Joanna.Grainger@dfat.gov.au</p> <p>Kieran Macdonell +32 486 137 543 Kieran.Macdonell@dfat.gov.au</p>	<p>Veterinary export certificates will be sent from: foodexportdocumentation@agriculture.gov.au</p> <p>Any facilitation letters will be sent from either foodexportdocumentation@agriculture.gov.au or exportstandards@agriculture.gov.au</p>	<p>For sanitary (health) certificates for meat, animal by-products and food exports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Export health certificates will be generated and printed for the authorised officer to sign and initial and the embossed official stamp will be applied before scanning of the paper certificate</li> <li>• The scanned copy of the original paper certificate will have a blue official stamp added. Each of these official stamps has an identification number to allow for certificate traceability, however this number does not match that of the embossed official stamp</li> <li>• The scanned copy of the original paper certificate will be transmitted electronically to the relevant BCP from the department mailbox - foodexportdocumentation@agriculture.gov.au</li> <li>• The original</li> </ul>

			paper certificate will be sent to the EU BCP as soon as is technically feasible
Belarus	Third Secretary Ms Alesya Birillo be.trade@mfa.gov.by		
Brazil	<p>Contact person (Brasília):</p> <p>Mr. Oscar Afonso da Silva Júnior</p> <p>Coordinator</p> <p>General Coordination of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues (CGSF)</p> <p>Department of Technical, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues (DTSF)</p> <p>Secretariat for Trade and International Relations (SCRI)</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA)</p> <p>E-mails: oscar.junior@agricultura.gov.br / temassanitarios.dpb@agricultura.gov.br</p> <p>Phone.: +5561 3218-3580</p> <p>Mobile (WhatsApp): +5561 981263804</p>	<p>Alternate contact person (Brussels):</p> <p>Mr. Guilherme Antonio da Costa Júnior</p> <p>Agricultural Attaché</p> <p>Mission of Brazil to the European Union</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA)</p> <p>E-mails: guilherme.costa@agricultura.gov.br / ggguilherme@hotmail.com</p> <p>Phone: +32(0)26450107</p> <p>Mobile: +32(0)493153230</p> <p>WhatsApp: +5561 81344714</p>	<p>In addition, for transmission of scanned certificates or for answering any question:</p> <p>1. Health Certificates for products of animal origin: hc.dipoa@agricultura.gov.br; and certifica.cgvigiaagro@agricultura.gov.br;</p> <p>2. Phytosanitary certificates: dsv@agricultura.gov.br; carlos.goulart@agricultura.gov.br; pcbrasil@agricultura.gov.br; and certifica.cgvigiaagro@agricultura.gov.br;</p> <p>3. Certificates of origin and free sale of wines and alcohol beverage products; and phytosanitary certificates for peanuts: dipov@agricultura.gov.br; and certifica.cgvigiaagro@agricultura.gov.br;</p> <p>4. International Zoosanitary Certificates: dsa.gab@agricultura.gov.br; certifica.cgvigiaagro@agricultura.gov.br; bruno.cotta@agricultura.gov.br; alberto.gomes@agricultura.gov.br.</p>

Canada	<p>For sending scanned Public Health certificates (food for human consumption; including products of animal origin for human consumption):</p> <p>cfia.foodexportcertificates-certificatsdexportationdesaliments.acia@canada.ca</p>	<p>For Animal Health certificates (for live animals and germplasm, live aquatic and aquatic germplasm, aquatic and animal products/by-products not for human consumption):</p> <p>cfia.animalexportcertificates-acia.certificatsdexportationsdesanimaux@canada.ca</p>	<p>For Phytosanitary certificates (plants and plant products including horticulture, grains, oilseeds, forestry and other regulated articles):</p> <p>cfia.phyto.acia@canada.ca</p>
Chile		<p>Phytosanitary only:</p> <p>Through the URL: <a href="http://multipuerto.sag.gob.cl/visitante/busquedaFito.asp">http://multipuerto.sag.gob.cl/visitante/busquedaFito.asp</a>, NPPOs can be verified in order to guarantee the authenticity of certificates</p>	
Costa Rica	<p>Alejandro Patiño Cruz</p> <p>Trade and Customs Attaché</p> <p>Mission of Costa Rica to the European Union /OECD Affairs/ WCO Affairs</p> <p>Avenue Louise 489, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgique Tel: +32 476 910 724 /During COVID-19 Emergency in case you need to reach me by phone, please contact me at: +506 783 682 68</p> <p>alejandro.patino@comex.go.cr/www.comex.go.cr</p>		
Cuba	Animals and animal	Plants and plant	Plants and plant

	<p>products:  director@dsa.minag.gob.cu  dircuarentena@dsa.minag.gob.cu  cuarentena@dsa.minag.gob.cu  Fishery products:  jose.fu@minal.gob.cu</p>	<p>products:  direccion@sv.minag.gob.cu  cuarentena@sv.minag.gob.cu  exterior@sv.minag.gob.cu</p>	<p>products for human consumption:  mayra.marti@infomed.sld.cu  ovps@infomed.sld.cu</p>
Dominican Rep.	<p>Mr. Leonel Mateo Hernández</p> <p>lmateo@dominicanembassy.be  Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Embassy (Brussels).</p>		
Ecuador	<p>Isabel Albornoz  Subjefe de Mision Embajada del Ecuador ante el Reino de Belgica  Mision del Ecuador ante la Union Europea  Av. Louise 363, piso 9, 1050 Ixelles  Telf.: (32) 2 648 4495  www.cancilleria.gob.ec  ialbornoz@cancilleria.gob.ec</p>	<p>AGROCALIDAD has developed a platform to check authenticity of their certificates:</p> <p><a href="https://sistemas.agrocalidad.gob.ec/sizse/publicAgr/publicCertFitSvAgr.asp">https://sistemas.agrocalidad.gob.ec/sizse/publicAgr/publicCertFitSvAgr.asp</a></p> <p>In case of any doubt, question or necessary verification:  relaciones.internacionales@agrocalidad.gob.ec</p>	
Georgia	<p>Mr. Zurab Zurashvili,  Head of the International Relations Department of the LEPL National Food Agency email:  zurab.zurashvili@nfa.gov.ge  mob.:+995 5 77 730003</p>	<p>+ in cc: Mission of Georgia to the EU</p> <p>email:  tmgaloblishvili@mfa.gov.ge</p> <p>mob. +32 473 33 39 35</p>	
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Live animals</li> <li>- Animal products</li> <li>- Other products of animal health interest</li> </ul>		



	<p>IAQA has developed a website to verify documents with QR codes:</p> <p><a href="https://ppkonline.karantina.pertanian.go.id/checkcert/">https://ppkonline.karantina.pertanian.go.id/checkcert/</a></p>		
Japan	<p>Animals and Livestock Products Masatsugu Okita (Mr) Email:animal_health88@maff.go.jp Tel:+81-3-3502-8295 Director, International Animal Health Affairs Office Animal Health Division Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan</p>	<p>Fish and Fisheries Products Inomata Hideo (Mr) Director, Fishery Products Trade Office, Fisheries Agency of Japan export-certificate@maff.go.jp +81-3-3501-1961 Alternative addresses: hironori_masuyama570@maff.go.jp hiroki_fujita120@maff.go.jp shige_tachibanada870@maff.go.jp hidehito_hatashim290@maff.go.jp yusyutusodan@maff.go.jp suisan-anzen@mhlw.go.jp</p>	<p>Plants and Plant Products Hirofumi Uchida (Mr.) E-mail: ippc_contact@maff.go.jp Tel: +81-3-3502-5978 IPPC Official Contact Point Director, International Affairs Office Plant Protection Division Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan</p>
Korea	<p>Animals and animal products: MAFRA, Quarantine Policy Division, Jae Chang Wook +82-51-600-0413 coolpax@korea.kr Fishery products: NFPQMS, Quarantine and Inspection Division, Lee Ho Geun</p>	<p>Plant and plant products: APQA, Export Management Division, Uijin HONG +82-54-912-0633 hej1277@korea.kr</p>	<p>Imported Food Policy Division, Ministry of Food and Drug safety, Yun Young Soo +82-43-719-2161 soo1303@korea.kr</p>

	<p>+82-51-400-5731</p> <p>hogeun259@korea.kr</p>		
Madagascar	<p>Mr Dieudonné Smalah Manantoha, Conseiller Douanier de l'Ambassade de Madagascar</p> <p>Dieudonne.smalah.man antoha@ambassadema dagascar.be</p> <p>GSM : + 32 470 17 64 32</p>		
North Macedonia	<p>Mbaresa Istrefi Shakjiri Counselor Mission of North Macedonia to the EU +32491367777 Rue de la Loi 38, 1040 Etterbeek Brussels, Belgium</p> <p>Mbaresa.Saqiri@mfa.go v.mk</p>		
Papua New Guinea	<p>1. Lucas Manduru (Mr) First Secretary Embassy of Papua New Guinea to the Kingdom of Belgium, and the European Union Email: kundu.brussels@skynet. be or lucas.manduru@gmail.c om</p> <p>2. Bagara Peter (Ms) Second Secretary Embassy of Papua New Guinea to the Kingdom of Belgium, and the European Union Email: kundu.brussels@skynet. be or bagsy.peter@gmail.com</p>		

Paraguay	Mr. Víctor Acevedo Certifications Coordinator in SENACSA Email: vacevedo@senacsa.gov .py  Mobile phone: +595982212581	The Central Office of SENACSA will send the scanned copies from the email address: digecipoa@senacsa.gov .py.	
Peru	Ana Maria Deustua March 29 Economic Attaché Embassy of Peru to the Kingdom of Belgium and to the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg Mission of Peru to the European Union Avenue de Tervuren 212 - 1150 Brussels amdeustua@embaperu. be +32 2 733 33 19 +32 2 743 07 54 Ce. 0478740614		
Philippines	Jerome Bunyi Agriculture Counsellor- Designate Philippine Agriculture Office to EU in Brussels (PAO EU Brussels) da.eu.brussels@gmail.c om	For animals and their products: Mr. Florence D. Silvano, PhD Chief, National Veterinary Quarantine Services Bureau of Animal Industry baiquarantinephvhc@g mail.co	For fisheries and their products: Marygrace C. Quintero Chief, Fisheries Certification Section Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources fiqd.certification@gmail. com  For plant products: Plant Quarantine Service Bureau of Plant Industry psqbpi@yahoo.com
Salvador	Counsellor Pablo Campos Servellón Email: pmcampos@reee.gob.sv		
Singapore	Animals and animal products:	Plant and plant products:	

	<p>jolene_chan@nparks.gov.sg  elizabeth_ho@nparks.gov.sg  june_hoh@nparks.gov.sg</p>	<p>gloria_ong@nparks.gov.sg  joice_phua@nparks.gov.sg  noemi_gesmundo@nparks.gov.sg</p>	
Suriname	<p>Scanned certificates sent from:  Fish Inspection Institute (VKI)  Phone: 597-480380  Mobile: 597-8737821  Mail: viskeuringsinstituut@gmail.com</p>		
Taiwan	<p>Ms. Jennifer P.C. HSIEH  Economic Secretary of Economic Division  Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium  pchsieh@moea.gov.tw  office phone: +32 (0)2 287 28 42.</p>		
Thailand	<p>For issuing scanned copies of certificates for fishery products for human consumption:  Dept of fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives  Name: Ms Supinda Chongsuebsuk Head of fishery products certification group  Email: Thailand_fishery@dof.mail.go.th  Telephone: +6625620600-15 ext 1340</p>	<p>For issuing scanned copies of certificates for plant, plant products, food and feed of non animal origin:   Mr. Weerayuth Boonrod, Department of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives)   thaipc@doa.in.th   thaipc.doa@gmail.com</p>	<p>-Frozen poultry meat, and Poultry meat preparation  TRACES  inspection_blsc@dld.go.th  Dr. Kansiri Jirojkulkij  -Meat products  TRACES  inspection_blsc@dld.go.th  Dr. Kansiri Jirojkulkij  -Pet food  inspection_blsc@dld.go.th  Dr. Kansiri Jirojkulkij  -Live animals  qsap_bkk@dld.go.th  qssp_bkk@dld.go.th  qscm_cmi@dld.go.th  qshk_hkt@dld.go.th  qssm_urt@dld.go.th  -Inedible products  qsap_bkk@dld.go.th  qssp_bkk@dld.go.th</p>

			<p>qscb_cbr@dld.go.th  qsli_lic@dld.go.th  qscm_cmi@dld.go.th  qshk_hkt@dld.go.th  qssm_urt@dld.go.th  -feed materials (PAP,  fish meal, fish and bone  meal, palatability  enhancer, artemia)  afvc_inter@dld.go.th  Dr Wachiraporn  Sanaom  E25  Dr Jaruwan  Jongcherdchotakul</p>
Turkey	<p>Erhan Demir  (erhan.demir@tarimorm  an.gov.tr)  Habibe Aslan  (habibe.aslan@tarimorm  an.gov.tr)</p>		
United States	<p>Gerda Vandercammen  U.S. Mission to the EU  Foreign Agricultural  Service  Tel: +32 (0) 468 43 70  06 (during COVID  telework period)  Gerda.Vandercammen  @usda.gov  AguseuBrussels@usda.  gov</p>		
Venezuela	<p>ALEXIS GALINDO   Gerente de Sanidad  Pesquera y Acuícola   gsp@insopesca.gob.ve</p>	<p>Scanned certificates are  sent from:   gsp@insopesca.gob.ve   Alternative address:   gerencia.sa.insopesca@  gmail.com</p>	

**Performance of documentary, ID and physical checks – remote checks**

1. BCPs may perform remote documentary and identity checks. Such checks may be carried out using available technology (e.g. video links via Facetime/Skype/CCTV etc). Identity checks can also be done remotely in real time using cameras or smartphones. Please note, the frequency of documentary and identity checks cannot be reduced and must continue to be 100% across all commodities.
2. Physical presence at BCPs can be reduced to the minimum by having one OVS present at the BCP to coordinate remote work.
3. According to Article 49(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, OVSs may perform physical checks remotely (via camera/smartphone) on animal products with assistance from non-OVS staff. As a temporary measure, non-OVS staff may perform these duties based on their knowledge and experience rather than formal training. The lead OVS must assess them as having suitable practical experience and knowledge and must deem them competent. Such staff must be required to follow the instructions of the OVS for the performance of official controls and other official activities.
  - If the non-OVS staff is deemed competent by the lead OVS, they may perform physical checks independently of the OVS's direct supervision for POAOs other than fresh meat and edible meat offal, germinal products and animal by-products.
  - If the non-OVS staff is deemed competent by the lead OVS, they may assist with physical checks with OVS supervision for fresh meat and edible meat offal.
4. BCPs must keep Defra informed of the intended measures they will apply.