



IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2020/26

10 December 2020

COVID IMPORTS EASEMENTS UPDATE

Purpose

1. To advise you that the Covid imports easements statement below have been updated.
2. With immediate effect easements in relation to remote checks and competent non-OVS staff assisting with physical checks are revoked (referred to in Annex II in OVS Note 2020/22) from 9th December 2020.
3. BCPs who are not able to meet normal requirements laid down in Regulation 2017/625 should contact ImportsTradeinAnimalsandProducts@defra.gov.uk and Imported.Food@food.gov.uk.
4. Please note that remaining easement enabling electronic document certification remains in place until 31 December 2020. See table below reflecting the easements that have been continued and revoked.

A. To permit documentary checks to be based on copies/e-documents instead of the original signed documentation for certain commodities imported from third countries	Continue until 31 December 2020
D. To allow competent non-OVs to assist with physical checks on third country imports (live animals and POAO)	Revoked 9 th December 2020
E. To allow officials to carry out remote checks using available technology	Revoked 9 th December 2020

5. Defra Imports team will be reviewing the Covid imports easements and will shortly provide an update on the continuation of these beyond the Transitional Period.

Background

6. [OVS notes issued on 3rd August 2020](#) informed you about the special measures adopted during the Covid-19 outbreak has been extended.

Action for OVSs

7. To note the contents of this OVS note.

Contact point for enquiries

Email: Defra: ImportsTradeinAnimalsandProducts@defra.gov.uk

FSA: Imported.Food@food.gov.uk

Imports and EU Trade Team