



IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2020/28

30 December 2020

COVID IMPORTS EASEMENTS UPDATE

Purpose

1. To advise you that the Covid imports easements statement below have been updated.
2. 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 for advice.
3. Please note that remaining easement enabling electronic document certification remains in place until 1 April 2021. See table below reflecting the easements that have been continued, re-instated and revoked.

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| 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 1 April 2021 |
| D. To allow competent non-OVs (not formally trained) to assist with physical checks on third country imports (live animals and POAO) | Revoked on 9 December 2020 |
| E. To allow officials to carry out remote document checks using available technology | Continue until further notification from Defra. |

4. Defra Imports team will be reviewing the Covid imports easements for beyond 1 April 2021.

Background

5. [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

6. 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