



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2021/02

10 March 2021

### TEMPORARY CONTINGENCY MEASURES RELATED TO OFFICIAL CONTROLS WHICH CAN BE DRAWN ON AT BORDER CONTROL POSTS (BCPs) DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

#### Purpose

To inform you that the temporary contingency measure to allow non-Official Veterinarians (non-OVs) to carry out physical and ID checks on some third country imports has been reinstated. BCPs should report to Defra / FSA before applying the easement. The easement applies until further notice.

The other two temporary easements – accepting electronic documents for some third country imports and remote documentary checks – remain in place until further notice and may be drawn on.

#### Background

Last year, a number of temporary easements were introduced to accommodate for disruptions to the UK's official control system resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak. The legal powers to introduce these easements were previously provided for in Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/466 (as amended), which expired on 1 February 2021.

On 31 January 2021, [The Official Controls \(Temporary Measures\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021](#) entered into force, providing a legal basis to continue with and re-introduce some of the easements that were introduced as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The annexes below list all special measures that can be adopted during the Covid-19 outbreak until further notice with further details in the attached pdf document.

- Annex I – Allowing non-OVs to carry out ID and physical checks (re-instated policy)
- Annex II – Allowing scanned documents (no change in policy)

- Annex III – Remote documentary checks (no change in policy)

### **Action for OVSs**

To note the contents of this OVS note.

### **Contact point for enquiries**

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*Imports and EU Trade Team*