



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2023/19

6 November 2023

AGREED PROCEDURE FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF USA ORIGIN HEALTH CERTIFICATES.

Purpose

1. To advise Officials at BCPs of the agreement reached with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the procedure for certifying GB health certificates for imports of animals and animal products.

Background

2. DEFRA has agreed with the USDA that only each sheet in a health certificate (not individual pages) of the new GB health certificates are required to be signed. We view the legal context of the certificate as a 'single indivisible certificate'.
3. For a loose-leaf certificate, each sheet should bear the certificate's unique reference number and be stamped signed and dated by the certifying officer. The pages must also be sequentially numbered as part of a finite sequence for example page 1 of 2, page 2 of 2. An alternative approach to this would be to use a permanent fixture such as a staple to bind the sheets together followed by a fan stamp across all the sheets creating a security feature across the pages.

Action for OVSS

4. To note the above information

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Trade Team