

Allowing non-Official Veterinarians (non-OVs) to carry out ID and physical checks on some third country imports that are subject to official controls at Border Control Posts (BCPs) in Great Britain

1. [The Official Controls \(Temporary Measures\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021](#) provides a legal basis for the continuation and re-introduction of temporary easements to certain aspects of the delivery of official controls during the Covid-19 pandemic. Article 3 of the Regulation provides legal powers to introduce easements to allow official controls and other official activities to exceptionally be performed by one or more natural persons specifically authorised by the competent authority on the basis of their qualifications, training and practical experience.
2. Defra / FSA have decided to re-introduce the easement, which allows **competent non-Official Veterinarians (non-OVs)** to carry out **ID and physical checks** on **some third country imports**. This easement was in place last year but had to be withdrawn as the relevant Article 3 in the Commission Implementing Regulation, which provided the legal basis at that time, was omitted. The Article has been re-instated in the Official Controls (Temporary Measures) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.
3. Non-OVs **may carry out** ID and physical checks on **following third country import**:
 - **animal products**, supported by an OV who is onsite or through the use of remote technology such a phone camera.
 - **low-risk animals** such as invertebrates, reptiles and fish, supported by an OV onsite. One OV must be present at the BCP if handling animals due to animal health and welfare aspects.
4. The non-OV would have to be deemed competent by the competent authority / the lead OV based on his / her **qualifications, training and practical experiences**.



5. Checks on all other animals should continue to be carried out by an OV, given their high-risk status and animal health and welfare aspects.
6. The **frequency of checks** should remain at **levels set out in legislation** (Retained Regulation (EU) 2019/2129), i.e. 100% documentary and 100% ID checks and minimum physical check frequencies specified in Annex 1 to that Regulation.
7. **BCPs should contact Defra / FSA** if they wish you implement this measure, providing following information:
 - justification for implementing the measure
 - the commodities, which would be checked by the non-OV
 - the name of the non-OV, who would be authorised to carry out the checks
 - the non-OVs qualifications, training and practical experiences
 - a declaration from the OV, stating his / her trust in the non-OVs qualifications, training and practical experience being suitable to carry out the checks
8. Defra / FSA will decide on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the risk of the commodities in question and the information provided on the non-OVs qualifications, training and practical experiences, as well as any requirements under UK legislation.
9. The easement will be in place until further notice. Any changes to the policy will be announced via an OVS note to BCPs.

Accepting scanned documents for some third country imports that are subject to official controls at Border Control Posts (BCPs) in Great Britain

10. Article 4 of the legislation provides a legal basis to introduce easements which allow documentary checks on third country imports to be performed on electronic copies of official certificates and attestations.
11. Defra and the FSA have agreed an easement, which allows BCP **to accept scanned/e-documents** for following commodities:
- **Products of animal origin** (POAO) including fish and fishery products for human consumption except those derived from porcine animals;
 - **Animal by-products** (ABP) except unprocessed ABPs of porcine origin;
 - **Certain high-risk food and feed not of animal origin** (HRFNAO) (commodities listed in Annex 2 of Retained EU Regulation 2019/1793).
12. The originals should be submitted by the operator as soon as technically possible.
13. This measure **excludes the following commodities** for which original documents are still required:
- Live animals;
 - Germinal products;
 - Porcine meat (including fresh/frozen meat, minced meat and meat preparations);
 - Fresh unprocessed animal by-products derived from porcine animals.
14. **Signed and scanned copies** of Common Health Entry Document (CHEDs) / Export Health Certificates (EHCs) / Official Declarations or other accompanying documents **can be accepted by BCPs** without the original having to accompany the consignment upon entry into GB, provided that one of the following scenarios applies:
- **Scenario 1**: Scanned copies are sent by **email 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; in addition, the operator should also submit the scanned documents via the Import of products, animals, food and feed system (IPAFFS).

- **Scenario 2:** Scanned copies are sent by **email from the operator** to the BCP. In that case, the operator must copy in the third country competent authority (see list below for contact details); in addition, the operator should also submit the scanned documents via IPAFFS.

15. BCP **should only** accept scanned copies for consignments that:

- **do not** originate from countries **under current safeguard measures** for the commodity of concern;
- **do not** originate from **establishments under re-enforced checks** for the commodity of concern (also known as Intensified Official Controls);
- **do not** originate from operators with **past history of concern**, i.e. previous lack of cooperation with official controls or payments. BCPs should also assess any new operators based on intelligence from other BCPs.

16. 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 competent authority in the exporting third country to seek the original documents (please see list of contacts at third country competent authorities below). If after a further ten (10) working days nothing has been received from the competent authority, then the BCP should contact either Defra or the FSA, depending on the commodity.

17. Should a BCP require **additional assurances** in relation to any documents, then the BCP **must contact the competent authority 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 competent authority of the exporting

third country.

18. 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.
19. In the case BCPs receive imports of **products that are not covered by this easement** and require original documentation, e.g. germinal products, porcine meat (including fresh/frozen meat, minced meat and meat preparations) and unprocessed ABPs of porcine origin not accompanied by original certificates, BCPs should **contact Defra / FSA** to request a policy decision on a case by case basis.
20. The situation will be monitored by Defra and FSA in liaison with BCPs. 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.
21. This temporary measure will remain in place until further notice. Any changes to the policy will be announced via an OVS note to BCPs.

Third country competent authority contact details:

<p>Argentina</p>	<p>Gaston Maria Funes gmfunes@magyp.gob.ar please also copy: emorales@agricola-ue.org and brojas@agricola-ue.org mobile 0475983333 Office 026403333</p>	<p>For animal and animal products, the scanned certificates will be sent from: expoue@senasa.gob.ar</p>	
<p>Australia</p>	<p>Joanna Grainger +32 486 137 513 Joanna.Grainger@dfat.gov.au Kieran Macdonell +32 486 137 543 Kieran.Macdonell@dfat.gov.au</p>	<p>Veterinary export certificates will be sent from: foodexportdocumentation@agriculture.gov.au 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"> • 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 • 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 • The scanned copy of the original paper certificate will be transmitted electronically to the relevant BCP from the department mailbox - foodexportdocumentation@agriculture.gov.au • The original 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 General Coordination of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues (CGSF) Department of Technical, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues (DTSF) Secretariat for Trade and International Relations (SCRI) 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 Mission of Brazil to the European Union 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Certificates for products of animal origin: hc.dipoa@agricultura.gov.br; and certifica.cgviagiagro@agricultura.gov.br; 2. Phytosanitary certificates: dsv@agricultura.gov.br; carlos.goulart@agricultura.gov.br; pcbrazil@agricultura.gov.br; and certifica.cgviagiagro@agricultura.gov.br; 3. Certificates of origin and free sale of wines and alcohol beverage products; and phytosanitary certificates for peanuts: dipov@agricultura.gov.br; and certifica.cgviagiagro@agricultura.gov.br; 4. International Zoosanitary Certificates: dsa.gab@agricultura.gov.br; certifica.cgviagiagro@agricultura.gov.br; bruno.cotta@agricultura.gov.br; alberto.gomes@agricultura.gov.br.
Canada	For sending scanned Public Health certificates (food for human consumption; including products of animal origin for human consumption):	For Animal Health certificates (for live animals and germplasm, live aquatic and aquatic germplasm, aquatic and animal products/by-products not for human consumption):	For Phytosanitary certificates (plants and plant products including horticulture, grains, oilseeds, forestry and other regulated articles): cfia.phyto.acia@canada.ca

	cfia.foodexportcertificates-certificatsdexportationdesaliments.acia@canada.ca	cfia.animalexportcertificates-acia.certificatsdexportationsdesanimaux@canada.ca	
Chile		Phytosanitary only: Through the URL: http://multipuerto.sag.gob.cl/visitante/busquedaFito.asp , NPPOs can be verified in order to guarantee the authenticity of certificates	
Costa Rica	Alejandro Patiño Cruz Trade and Customs Attaché Mission of Costa Rica to the European Union /OECD Affairs/ WCO Affairs 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 alejandro.patino@comex.go.cr/www.comex.go.cr		
Cuba	Animals and animal products: director@dsa.minag.gob.cu dircuarentena@dsa.minag.gob.cu cuarentena@dsa.minag.gob.cu Fishery products: jose.fu@minal.gob.cu	Plants and plant products: direccion@sv.minag.gob.cu cuarentena@sv.minag.gob.cu exterior@sv.minag.gob.cu	Plants and plant products for human consumption: mayra.marti@infomed.sld.cu ovps@infomed.sld.cu
Dominican Rep.	Mr. Leonel Mateo Hernández lmateo@dominicanemb		

	assy.be Counsellor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Embassy (Brussels).		
Ecuador	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	AGROCALIDAD has developed a platform to check authenticity of their certificates: https://sistemas.agrocalidad.gob.ec/sizse/publicAgr/publicCertFitSvAgr.asp In case of any doubt, question or necessary verification: relaciones.internacionales@agrocalidad.gob.ec	
Georgia	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	+ in cc: Mission of Georgia to the EU email: tmgaloblishvili@mfa.gov.ge mob. +32 473 33 39 35	
Indonesia	- Live animals - Animal products - Other products of animal health interest IAQA has developed a website to verify documents with QR codes: https://ppkonline.karantina.pertanian.go.id/checkcert/		
Japan	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	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	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

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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.com</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	<p>Mr. Víctor Acevedo Certifications Coordinator in SENACSA Email: vacevedo@senacsa.gov.py Mobile phone: +595982212581</p>	The Central Office of SENACSA will send the scanned copies from the email address: digecipoa@senacsa.gov.py.	
Peru	<p>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</p> <p>amdeustua@embaperu.be +32 2 733 33 19 +32 2 743 07 54 Ce. 0478740614</p>		

Philippines	Jerome Bunyi Agriculture Counsellor- Designate Philippine Agriculture Office to EU in Brussels (PAO EU Brussels) da.eu.brussels@gmail.com	For animals and their products: Mr. Florence D. Silvano, PhD Chief, National Veterinary Quarantine Services Bureau of Animal Industry baiquarantinephvhc@gmail.com	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@ree.gob.sv		
Singapore	Animals and animal products: jolene_chan@nparks.gov.sg elizabeth_ho@nparks.gov.sg june_hoh@nparks.gov.sg	Plant and plant products: gloria_ong@nparks.gov.sg joice_phua@nparks.gov.sg noemi_gesmundo@nparks.gov.sg	
Suriname	Scanned certificates sent from: Fish Inspection Institute (VKI) Phone: 597-480380 Mobile: 597-8737821 Mail: viskeuringsinstituut@gmail.com		
Taiwan	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.		

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 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 Jaruan Jongcherdchotakul</p>
Turkey	<p>Erhan Demir (erhan.demir@tarimorman.gov.tr) Habibe Aslan (habibe.aslan@tarimorman.gov.tr)</p>		
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	Gerda.Vandercammen @usda.gov AguseuBrussels@usda. gov		
Venezuela	ALEXIS GALINDO Gerente de Sanidad Pesquera y Acuícola gsp@insopesca.gob.ve	Scanned certificates are sent from: gsp@insopesca.gob.ve Alternative address: gerencia.sa.insopesca@ gmail.com	

Performance of remote documentary checks

22. Article 4 of the legislation provides a legal basis to allow BCPs to carry out remote documentary **from places other than the BCP**.

23. Defra / FSA have agreed to allow this easement. Documentary checks should still be carried out by an OV and at the **frequency set out in legislation**, i.e. 100% across all commodities.

24. The easement is in place until further notice. Any changes to the policy will be announced via an OVS note to BCPs.