



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 04/23

Publication of Remote Certification Guidance

Date issued: 16 February 2023

Purpose

To notify Official Veterinarians of the publication of general guidance on the use of remote certification for exports.

Summary

The standard procedure for export certification is for the Official Veterinarian to attend in-person to conduct a physical inspection of the consignment prior to certification.

In limited or exceptional circumstances remote certification (where the certifier is not present to physically inspect the consignment in-person prior to certification) may be suitable.

Remote certification must only be performed in scenarios where high certification standards can be maintained.

The guidance document builds on the existing [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons \(RCVS\) guidance](#) and provides a decision tree outlining the framework for the use of remote certification.

Live terrestrial animals, germinal products and fresh meat are not suitable for remote certification.

The guidance also includes guidance for Official Veterinarians on remote supervision of official seals for EU exports.

This guidance applies specifically to remote certification of export certificates by Official Veterinarians. It does not apply to other activities which veterinarians may consider performing remotely.

Action

OVs should familiarise themselves with this [guidance](#) and use this to inform decision making on whether to certify export certificates remotely (remote certification) or to attend premises in person.

Further Information

- APHA's Centre for International Trade – Carlisle, email: exports@apha.gov.uk
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