



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 45/21

Improved Digital Security Measures for Export Health Certificates Printed on Crown Vellum Watermarked Paper

Date issued: 14 October 2021 updated **28 July 2022**

Purpose

1. To inform Certifying Officers (Official Veterinarians (OVs) and Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCO)) located in Great Britain of the implementation of the new digital security measures introduced for Export Health Certificates (EHC) to replace existing Crown Vellum Watermarked security paper. **Updates from the previous version are highlighted in yellow.**

Background

2. [APHA Briefing Note 15/21](#) provided details of a planned Private Beta to test new digital security measures with certain Third Country Importing Competent Authorities with a view to replacing Crown Vellum Watermarked security paper which provides anti-fraud assurances of the authenticity of UK certification.
3. A successful period of Private Beta to test the new digital security measures has now been completed, with Defra and APHA having received positive feedback from the Competent Authorities in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in addition to positive feedback from Certifying Officers in Great Britain.
4. Implementation of the use of the digital security measures as the business-as-usual process for issuing EHCs will now progress on a phased approach.
5. This feature will continue to be applied to EHCs issued through the EHC Online service, for Third Country Competent Authorities that have been approached to adopt this.

6. The list of Third Countries this applies to can be found in Appendix 1, which will be updated as implementation roll out moves forward.
7. As part of the implementation plans, APHA will make additional EHCs available in the EHC Online service for each Third Country as they agree to use of the new digital security measures.
8. All other EHCs will continue to be:
 - Issued using white paper as a temporary measure during coronavirus restrictions. More information can be found in [APHA Briefing Note 16/20](#)
 - Issued using Crown Vellum Watermarked security paper
 - Issued on white paper where Crown Vellum Watermarked Paper is not required e.g. EHCs for the European Union (EU) and Northern Ireland that can be printed on plain white paper as a business as usual procedure.
9. [APHA Briefing Note 16/20](#) provided details of temporary measures introduced to print EHCs on plain white paper during the Coronavirus pandemic. When a Third Country agrees to implement the use of the new digital security measures, EHCs will no longer be printed on plain white paper and the new digital security features will supersede these arrangements.
10. Guidance on printing procedures for the new digital security measures are available in the [EHC Online Guidance for Certifiers](#) under the heading 'Types of certificates on your dashboard'.
11. APHA will respond to any correspondence from the Importing Competent Authority, if any queries are received as to the authenticity of a white paper EHC. APHA may contact Certifying Officers to complete authenticity checks should the need arise.

Obtaining Disease Clearance for Certain EHCs from the APHA Vet Gateway

12. [APHA Briefing Note 38/20](#) provided details to Certifying Officers that the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) would not provide disease clearances for all EHCs for the EU and Northern Ireland issued through the EHC Online service where the Certifying Officer could obtain the information from the APHA Vet Gateway.
13. Certifying Officers should use the ET152 and ET171 disease occurrence lists available on the [APHA Vet Gateway Certification Procedures](#) page to obtain their own straight forward disease clearances.
14. The Notes for Guidance for each EHC will advise the Certifying Officer whether they should obtain their own disease clearance or whether CITC will continue to issue a

618NDC document providing clearance where the disease status can only be ascertained from an APHA database.

15. Certifying Officers should obtain their disease clearance in advance of certifying each export consignment, as close to the time of certification as possible.
16. Post certification when Certifying Officers are completing their decision in the EHC Online service to confirm they have approved the EHC, an additional data entry field will need to be completed to enter the date the disease clearance check was undertaken. The additional data entry field will only be activated for EHCs that require the Certifying Officer to obtain disease clearance from the APHA Vet Gateway. These EHCs can only be approved and closed on EHC Online when the date the disease clearance was completed has been entered.

Further Information

- Certification guidance can be found in the Exports guidance on [APHA Vet Gateway](#)
- Any queries relating to new Anti-Fraud Security measures should be sent to: exports@apha.gov.uk. Include the words 'Crown Dithered Watermarked EHC' in the subject line of any email queries.

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Appendix 1

The list of Third Countries that have agreed to implement the new EHC anti-fraud security measures as a business-as usual procedure are:

- Albania week commencing 16 May 2022
- Algeria week commencing 20 June 2022
- Andean Community week commencing 18 April 2022
- Angola week commencing 16 May 2022
- Anguilla week commencing 20 June 2022
- Antigua week commencing 20 June 2022
- Argentina week commencing 18 April 2022
- Armenia week commencing 14 February 2022
- Ascension Island week commencing 18 July 2022
- Australia week commencing 18 October 2021
- Azerbaijan week commencing 20 June 2022
- Bahamas week commencing 14 March 2022
- Bahrain week commencing 20 June 2022
- Barbados week commencing 14 February 2022
- Bangladesh week commencing 20 June 2022
- Benin week commencing 16 May 2022
- Bermuda week commencing 18 April 2022
- Bhutan week commencing 14 March 2022
- Bosnia and Herzegovina week commencing 14 March 2022
- Botswana week commencing 14 March 2022
- Brazil week commencing 18 April 2022
- British Virgin Isles week commencing 20 June 2022

- Brunei week commencing 18 April 2022
- Cambodia week commencing 14 February 2022
- Cameroon week commencing 20 June 2022
- Canada week commencing 24 January 2022
- Cape Verde week commencing 20 June 2022
- Cayman Islands week commencing 14 February 2022
- Chile week commencing 18 April 2022
- Colombia week commencing 14 March 2022
- Comoros week commencing 20 June 2022
- Costa Rica week commencing 14 March 2022
- Cote d'Ivoire week commencing 20 June 2022
- Democratic Republic of Congo week commencing 18 July 2022
- Dominica week commencing 14 February 2022
- Dominican Republic week commencing 14 March 2022
- Ecuador week commencing 14 March 2022
- Egypt week commencing 16 May 2022
- El Salvador week commencing 14 March 2022
- Equatorial Guinea week commencing 18 April 2022
- Ethiopia week commencing 18 April 2022
- Faroe Islands week commencing 20 June 2022
- Falkland Islands week commencing 14 February 2022
- French Polynesia week commencing 14 February 2022
- Gabon week commencing 16 May 2022
- Gambia week commencing 14 March 2022
- Georgia week commencing 20 June 2022

- Ghana week commencing 18 April 2022
- Gibraltar week commencing 10 January 2022
- Grenada week commencing 20 June 2022
- Guam week commencing 20 June 2022
- Guatemala week commencing 14 March 2022
- Guinea week commencing 14 March 2022
- Guyana week commencing 14 March 2022
- Haiti week commencing 18 April 2022
- Hawaii week commencing 14 March 2022
- Honduras week commencing 14 March 2022
- Hong Kong week commencing 18 October 2021
- Iceland week commencing 20 June 2022
- India week commencing 18 April 2022
- Indonesia week commencing 16 May 2022
- Iran week commencing 20 June 2022
- Iraq week commencing 14 February 2022
- Israel week commencing 18 April 2022
- Jamaica week commencing 18 April 2022
- Japan week commencing 18 October 2021
- Jordan week commencing 20 June 2022
- Kazakhstan week commencing 14 March 2022
- Kenya week commencing 16 May 2022
- Kosovo week commencing 14 February 2022
- Kuwait week commencing 18 April 20
- Lebanon week commencing 16 May 2022

- Liberia week commencing 16 May 2022
- Libya week commencing 20 June 2022
- Macao week commencing 20 June 2022
- Madagascar week commencing 14 March 2022
- Malawi week commencing 14 March 2022
- Malaysia week commencing 14 February 2022
- Maldives week commencing 20 June 2022
- Mauritius week commencing 14 March 2022
- Mexico week commencing 16 May 2022
- Moldova week commencing 14 March 2022
- Montenegro week commencing 14 March 2022
- Morocco week commencing 16 May 2022
- Mozambique week commencing 20 June 2022
- Namibia week commencing 14 March 2022
- Nepal week commencing 14 March 2022
- New Zealand week commencing 24 January 2022
- Nicaragua week commencing 20 June 2022
- Nigeria week commencing 16 May 2022
- North Macedonia week commencing 24 January 2022
- Norway week commencing 20 June 2022
- Oman week commencing 18 April 2022
- Pakistan week commencing 16 May 2022
- Panama week commencing 20 June 2022
- Paraguay week commencing 14 March 2022
- People's Republic of China week commencing 1 August 2022

- Peru week commencing 14 March 2022
- Philippines week commencing 10 January 2022 Qatar week commencing 18 April 2022
- Republic of Congo week commencing 18 July 2022
- Republic of Korea week commencing 18 April 2022
- Saudi Arabia week commencing 18 April 2022
- Senegal week commencing 20 June 2022
- Serbia week commencing 14 March 2022
- Seychelles week commencing 14 March 2022
- Sierra Leone week commencing 16 May 2022
- Singapore week commencing 18 April 2022
- Sri Lanka week commencing 20 June 2022
- St Helena week commencing 18 July 2022
- St Kitts week commencing 14 February 2022
- St Lucia week commencing 20 June 2022
- St Vincent week commencing 16 May 2022
- South Africa week commencing 18 April 2022
- Sudan week commencing 14 March 2022
- Taiwan week commencing 18 April 2022
- Tanzania week commencing 14 March 2022
- Thailand week commencing 18 April 2022
- Togo week commencing 16 May 2022
- Trinidad and Tobago week commencing 16 May 2022
- Tunisia week commencing 14 March 2022
- Turkey week commencing 10 January 2022

- Turks and Caicos Islands week commencing 20 June 2022
- Turkmenistan week commencing 14 March 2022
- Uganda week commencing 14 March 2022
- Ukraine week commencing 24 January 2022
- Uruguay week commencing 14 March 2022
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) week commencing 18 October 2021
- United States of America (USA) week commencing 24 January 2022
- Uzbekistan week commencing 20 June 2022
- Venezuela week commencing 20 June 2022
- Vietnam week commencing 18 April 2022
- Zambia week commencing 14 March 2022
- Zimbabwe week commencing 14 March 2022