DAERA authorised Food Competent Certification Officers

Information Bulletin: FCCO 02/25 **Issued: 21 May 2025**

Audience: Food Competent Certification Officers (FCCO) in Local Authorities in Northern Ireland.

Subject: Replacement of DECOL system with new DECS (DAERA Export Certification System)

Purpose

- To advise DAERA authorised Food Competent Certification Officers (FCCO) in Local Authorities in Northern Ireland who process export health certificates (EHCs) via DECOL, that the system will soon be replaced by a new system, DECS (DAERA Export Certification System)

Background

- At present, DAERA authorised Food Competent Certification Officers (FCCO) process applications for Export Health Certificates (EHCs), primarily for exports to Third Countries, via the DECOL online system.
- From early June 2025 the DECOL system will be replaced by a new system called DECS (DAERA Export Certification System).

Additional Information

- User access roles for the DECS system will be migrated across from the DECOL system. User roles will be broadly equivalent to those currently available on DECOL for each user.
- Links to the new DECS system, plus associated guidance documents/staff instructions will be provided prior to the launch of the new system.
- Access to the new DECS system will remain based on the use of a Government Gateway account as per the current DECOL system. Current Government Gateway accounts held by FCCO users will be valid for the new DECS system.
- The export application process journey will remain similar to the process currently used in DECOL although user screens will have a different appearance, and some elements of functionality have been reconfigured
- DECS has been developed utilising improvements in government IT systems, resulting in the system being more user friendly and intuitive than the current DECOL version.
- The new system will be hosted on the tried and tested DAERA CHIP platform.
- The new exporter interface in DECS will feature functionality that will reduce common user errors made during application submissions e.g. uploading of incorrect versions of EHC templates, thus reducing the administrative burden on DAERA staff and DAERA authorised officers.

- Export applications will continue to be made on the DECOL system up until the launch of DECS and these applications will be processed to completion as normal via the DECOL system
- From the launch date of DECS all new export applications will automatically be directed into the new system
- In due course the current SHA Online system will also be migrated to the DAERA CHIP platform also. The current SHA Online system will continue to be operational until further notice.
- The new DECS system is currently being tested and evaluated by selected user groups including DAERA Certifying Officers , Customer Service Branch staff, FCCO staff and AVP practices.
- DAERA Trade Programme will be issuing invites, via email, to current DECOL users to attend online training sessions that will be held in the week preceding the launch of the DECS system.

Trade Programme
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