

CROWN GOLD PAPER REMOVAL - PARTICIPATING THIRD COUNTRIES AND OTHER GUIDANCE

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

Table A – Last Updated: 14 December 2023

Country	With Effect from
Australia	27.05.2021
Hong Kong	27.05.2021
United Arab Emirates	14.06.2021
Japan	12.07.2021
Gibraltar	10.01.2021
Philippines	10.01.2021
Turkey	10.01.2021
United States of America	24.01.2022
Canada	24.01.2022
New Zealand	24.01.2022
North Macedonia	24.01.2022
Ukraine	24.01.2022
Armenia	14.02.2022
Barbados	14.02.2022
Cambodia	14.02.2022
Cayman Islands	14.02.2022
Dominica	14.02.2022
Falkland Islands	14.02.2022
French Polynesia	14.02.2022
Iraq	14.02.2022
Kosovo	14.02.2022
Malaysia	14.02.2022
St Kitt's	14.02.2022
Bahamas	14.03.2022
Bhutan	14.03.2022
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14.03.2022
Botswana	14.03.2022
Colombia	14.03.2022
Costa Rica	14.03.2022



Dominican Republic	14.03.2022
Ecuador	14.03.2022
El Salvador	14.03.2022
Gambia	14.03.2022
Guatemala	14.03.2022
Guinea	14.03.2022
Guyana	14.03.2022
Hawaii	14.03.2022
Honduras	14.03.2022
Kazakhstan	14.03.2022
Madagascar	14.03.2022
Malawi	14.03.2022
Mauritius	14.03.2022
Moldova	14.03.2022
Montenegro	14.03.2022
Namibia	14.03.2022
Nepal	14.03.2022
Paraguay	14.03.2022
Peru	14.03.2022
Serbia	14.03.2022
Seychelles	14.03.2022
Sudan	14.03.2022
Tanzania	14.03.2022
Tunisia	14.03.2022
Uganda	14.03.2022
Uruguay	14.03.2022
Zambia	14.03.2022
Zimbabwe	14.03.2022
Argentina	20.04.2022
Bermuda	20.04.2022
Bolivia	20.04.2022
Brazil	20.04.2022
Brunei	20.04.2022
Chile	20.04.2022
Equatorial Guinea	20.04.2022
Ethiopia	20.04.2022
Ghana	20.04.2022

Haiti	20.04.2022
India	20.04.2022
Israel	20.04.2022
Jamaica	20.04.2022
Kuwait	20.04.2022
Oman	20.04.2022
Qatar	20.04.2022
Saudi Arabia	20.04.2022
Singapore	20.04.2022
South Africa	20.04.2022
South Korea	20.04.2022
Taiwan	20.04.2022
Thailand	20.04.2022
Vietnam	20.04.2022
Albania	16.05.2022
Angola	16.05.2022
Benin	16.05.2022
Egypt	16.05.2022
Gabon	16.05.2022
Indonesia	16.05.2022
Kenya	16.05.2022
Lebanon	16.05.2022
Liberia	16.05.2022
Mexico	16.05.2022
Morocco	16.05.2022
Nigeria	16.05.2022
Pakistan	16.05.2022
St Vincent	16.05.2022
Sierra Leone	16.05.2022
Togo	16.05.2022
Trinidad and Tobago	16.05.2022
Algeria	20.06.2022
Anguilla	20.06.2022
Antigua	20.06.2022
Azerbaijan	20.06.2022
Bahrain	20.06.2022
Bangladesh	20.06.2022



British Virgin Islands	20.06.2022
Cameroon	20.06.2022
Cape Verde	20.06.2022
Comoros	20.06.2022
Cote D'Ivoire	20.06.2022
Faroe Islands	20.06.2022
Georgia	20.06.2022
Grenada	20.06.2022
Guam	20.06.2022
Iceland (EFTA)	20.06.2022
Iran	20.06.2022
Jordan	20.06.2022
Libya	20.06.2022
Macao	20.06.2022
Maldives	20.06.2022
Mozambique	20.06.2022
Nicaragua	20.06.2022
Norway (EFTA)	20.06.2022
Panama	20.06.2022
Senegal	20.06.2022
Sri Lanka	20.06.2022
St Lucia	20.06.2022
Turks and Caicos Islands	20.06.2022
Uzbekistan	20.06.2022
Venezuela	20.06.2022
Ascension Island	18.07.2022
St Helena Island	18.07.2022
Republic of Congo	18.07.2022
Democratic Republic of Congo	18.07.2022
China	01.08.2022
New Caledonia	05.07.2023
northern Cyprus	14.12.2023

Annex 1- Background

1. EHCs from the United Kingdom to third countries are normally issued using Crown Vellum (Gold) watermarked security paper to provide anti-fraud assurance to importing Competent Authorities of the authenticity of UK certification.
2. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, DEFRA agreed, with several third country Competent Authorities, the production of EHCs on plain white paper as a temporary measure to assist in issuing EHCs.
3. DEFRA and DAERA have also been working on a longer-term solution to remove Crown Vellum watermarked security paper across all countries and replace with plain white paper with improved digital security measures. The new digital anti-fraud security features include a 12-digit unique code applied to page 1 of the EHC and a 'dithered watermark', applied to all pages, visible when the EHC is printed on white paper.
4. There is no change to how exporters apply for EHCs. Exporters will continue to apply for an EHC by completing an application on DECOL.
5. When the EHC is issued to the exporter, the new security features will be present. A 12-digit code will be visible on the first page of the certificate.
6. The dithered watermark consists of the certificate serial number applied as a diagonal watermark and a crown applied in the centre of each page. These features will be added to all pages of the export health certificate.
7. [Annex 1](#) provides an example of an EHC including the dithered watermark.
8. The Importing Competent Authority can enter the 12-digit code and unique certificate serial number, from the certified EHC, into a new 'verification service' (please see links below). This service is designed to verify the certificate (noting it as valid or invalid) as part of the new security features. It is recommended that exporters inform / remind their importers about the availability of this feature.

DAERA (NI) issued EHCs - Check Service:

<https://selfservice.daera-ni.gov.uk/Daera/Forms/#/ValidateCertificate>

DEFRA (GB) issued EHCs - Check Service:

<https://check.apply-export-health-certificate.service.gov.uk/>

9. DAERA will respond to any correspondence from the Importing Competent Authority if any queries are received as to the authenticity of a white paper EHC.
10. It is recommended that exporters advise their importers in third countries to expect this 'new look' for all EHCs issued from the start dates listed in the table.
11. Implementation of the use of the digital security measures as the business-as-usual process for issuing EHCs is progressing on a phased approach with the countries in [Table A](#).
12. As part of the implementation plans, DAERA will make the necessary changes to the EHCs in DECOL for each Third Country as it agrees to use of the new digital security measures.
13. For certifying officers printing a hard copy of a dithered watermark EHC, please ensure that ink levels in your printer are at adequate levels to produce a hard copy where the dithered watermark (diagonally inserted EHC serial number) is sufficiently visible (see [Annex 3](#) for comparison)
14. For certifying officers scanning a hard copy of a dithered watermark EHC for retention and/or return to DAERA, please ensure that the resolution and/or other settings on your scanner are set sufficiently to capture a legible copy, ensuring that the text is not obscured or disrupted by the underlying dithered watermark (diagonally inserted EHC serial number). See [Annex 4](#) for comparison.
15. All other EHCs will continue to be issued by one of the methods below, as applicable:
 - Issued using white paper as a temporary measure during coronavirus restrictions (where agreements are in place);
 - Issued using Crown Vellum (Gold) watermarked security paper;
 - Issued on white paper, where Crown Vellum watermarked Paper is not required e.g., EHCs for the European Union (EU).

The Third Country EHC Easement Summary table ([available at the DAERA Website](#)) 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 be printed on plain white paper with the new digital security features applied – this will supersede the 'white paper only' easement.

DAERA Trade Programme

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

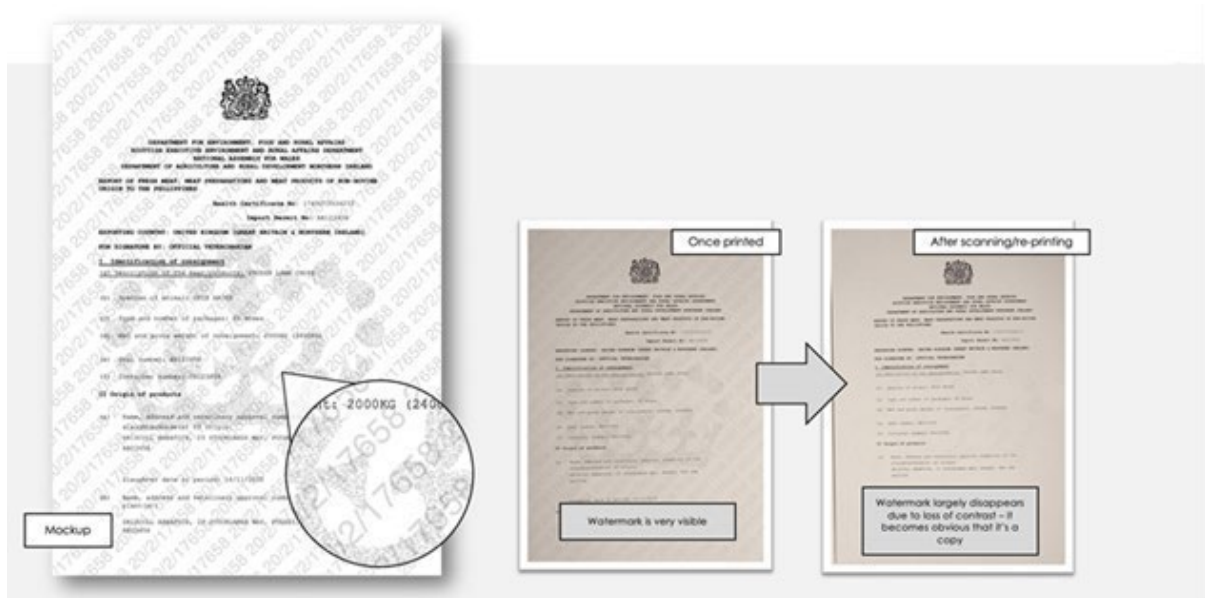
Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED

Email: DAERATradeExports@daera-ni.gov.uk



Annex 2

Example of an EHC including the new dithered watermark (for illustration purposes only):



Annex 3 - Guidance on Printing EHCS with a Dithered Watermark

EHC printed on machine with inadequate ink level:

3199-2100-0752

ROYAL COAT OF ARMS

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
WELSH GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NORTHERN IRELAND

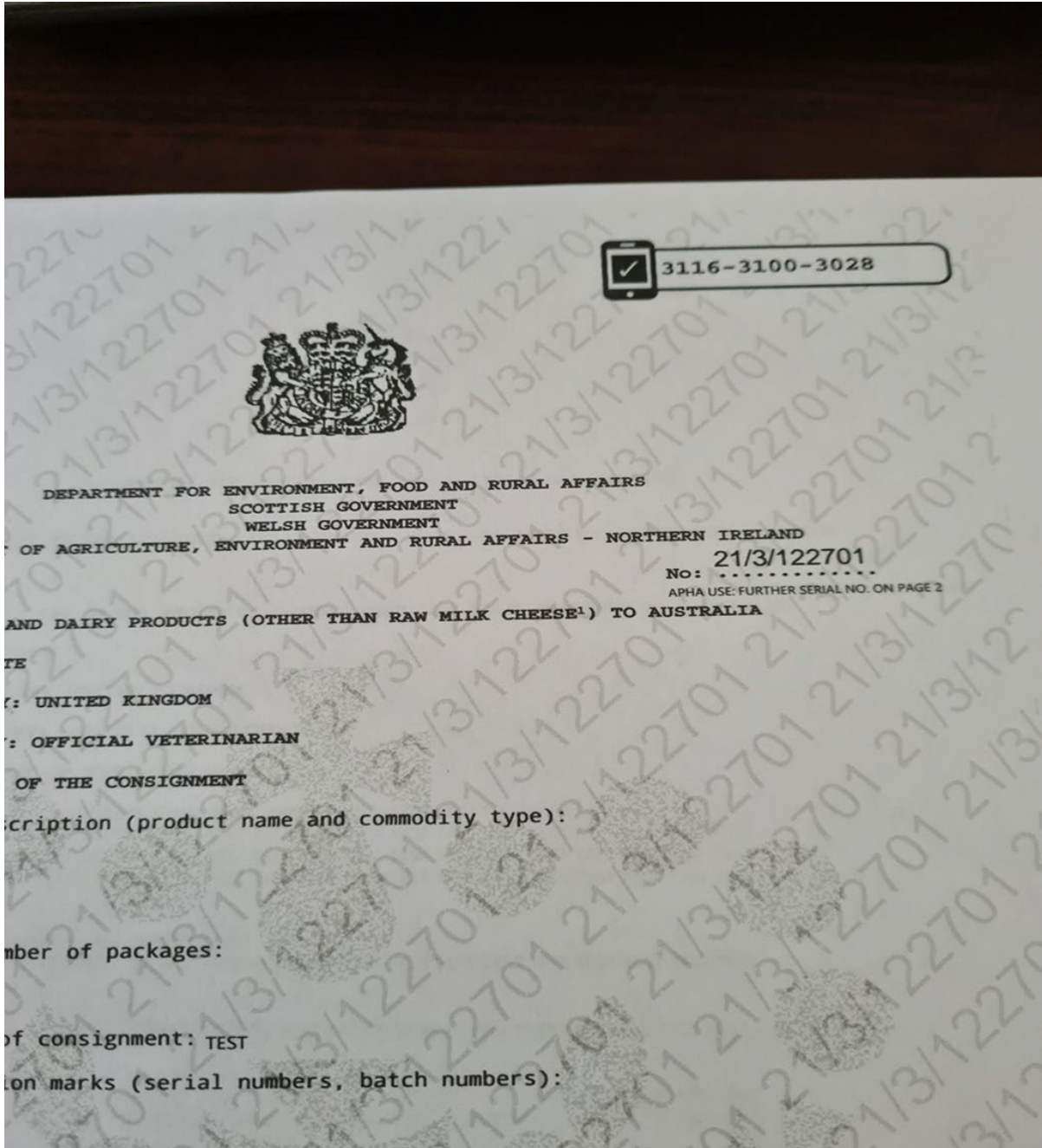
21/3/14472
No.

ORIGIN CERTIFICATE FOR DOMESTIC DOGS, CATS AND FERRETS
TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ'NE
KÖPEK, KEDİ VE GELİNCİKLERİN ORJİN VE VETERİNER SAĞLIK SERTİFİKASI

Origin Certificate No:	Country of Destination/Gideceği Ülke TURKEY/TÜRKİYE
Country of Origin: UNITED KINGDOM	
Authority: DEFRA	
Sender/ Gönderenin adı ve adresi:	
Mode of transport: TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST (Kamyon, tren, gemi veya uçak)	
Mode or flight number /Vasıtanın Kayıt no, gemi adı veya uçuş numarası TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST	
Receiver in full /Alıcının tam adı ve adresi:	

Dithered watermark (diagonally inserted EHC serial number) is not sufficiently visible – **this hard copy is unacceptable.**

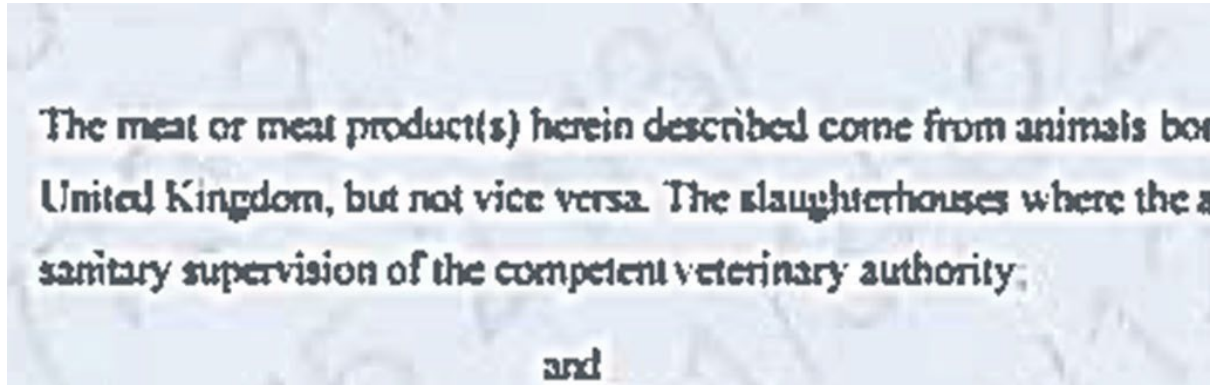
EHC printed on machine with adequate ink level:



Dithered watermark (diagonally inserted EHC serial number) is sufficiently visible – **this hard copy is acceptable.**

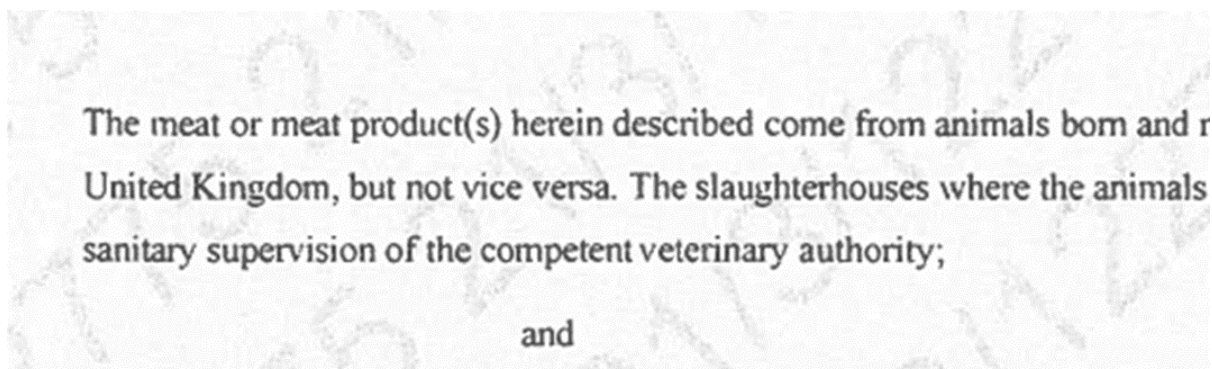
Annex 4 - Guidance on Scanning EHCS with a Dithered Watermark

EHC scanned at lower resolution:



Text is not adequately legible - **this scan quality is unacceptable.**

EHC scanned at higher resolution:



The text is adequately legible – **this scan quality is acceptable.**

NOTE: for DAERA staff, it is recommended that document is scanned at 600dpi resolution on DAERA machines.