

**Third Country Export Health Certification: Summary of easements during the COVID 19 emergency for information for Exporters**

**The table below summarizes the easements which the UK have officially agreed with trading partners.**

**Updated 26/05/20 Version 8**

**Table 1: Summary of agreed Third Country easements.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (1)Third Country  | (2) Requirement for official pre notification template by DAERA | (3) White paper original wet signed EHC accepted (rather than Crown Gold) | (4) Email notification of Scanned Copy required  | (5) Original to be supplied by Exporter / Importer with the consignment | (6) Date of implementation from: |
| Australia | No | Yes | Yes from ExporterInput to Cargo Online Lodgement System COLS | Yes | 29 April 2020 |
| Gibraltar | No | Yes | Yes from DAERA | No | 29 April 2020 |
| United States of America | No | Yes | No | Yes  | 29 April 2020 |
| People’s Republic of China (PRC) | No (except pork meat) | Yes | Yes from DAERA by upload into PRC e cert system | Yes | 13 May 2020 |
| Myanmar | **No** | **Yes** | **No** | **Yes**  | **27 May 2020** |
| Philippines | **No** | **Yes** | **Yes From APHA / DAERA** | **Yes**  | **29 May 2020**  |

The background to these agreements is provided in Annex 1, for your information and action, as appropriate.

**Annex 1**

**DAERA Advisory Note to Exporters: Easements to Export Health Certification during the COVID 19 emergency:**

**Export Health Certificate Printing on Plain White Paper**

**Background**

1. Export Health Certificates (EHC) for the United Kingdom to Third Countries are usually issued to Exporters using Crown Vellum Watermarked security paper to provide anti-fraud assurance to importing Competent Authorities of the authenticity of UK certification. This remains the default certification standard.
2. Due to the current COVID-19 emergency it has been prudent to explore options to ensure continuance of trade which do not compromise the required international assurances for animal and public health.
3. Defra, the UK Central Competent Authority for Trade, is corresponding with a number of Third Country Competent Authorities to negotiate formal, temporary easements to assist and to facilitate certification for export of animals and products of animal origin. In some instances this involves the issue of a certificate on plain white paper and in other circumstances the importing authority is prepared to accept consignments on the basis of a certificate which has been received by email.
4. Exporters should note that the requirements of individual countries vary. The table of agreed bilateral agreements of easements will be maintained and updated when DAERA receive official confirmation from Defra. It is anticipated that further easements will be agreed as responses are received from Third Countries.
5. The following guidance is to inform exporters of the temporary change in procedures where Defra have currently successfully negotiated easements. These procedures only apply to EHCs where negotiations with Third Country Competent Authorities have been successful and will revert to business as usual requirements when it is possible to do so. As additional agreements are confirmed we will update the table in the Annex below. We will notify you, in advance, as any additional easements come on-stream and when the easements cease to apply.

**Temporary Procedures during COVID-19 Restrictions**

1. There is no change to how exporters apply to DAERA for EHCs. This will continue to be provided through the DECOL server and application process. Exporters can continue to apply for an EHC via [EHC Form Finder](https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates),
2. DAERA will issue the EHC to the Exporter in hard copy either in person at meat establishments and cold stores where staff are on site, or alternatively by post, except where specific alternative arrangements for collection have been agreed.
3. Where bilateral agreements for easements have been negotiated by Defra, DAERA will issue the EHC on plain white paper. For all other Third Countries not listed in the Annex, normal Crown Gold Paper will continue to be used. Exporters will continue to be provided with the original “wet signed and stamped” certificate and it will remain the responsibility of the Exporter to safeguard this official paperwork to supply to the importer if required. Replacement certificates will only be provided if the original certificate is returned.
4. Pre-notification of the Third Country will be done in accordance with the importing country specification. As appropriate, DAERA will issue official pre-notification of the export consignment, using a template bespoke to the Third Country (*column 2 above*), or alternatively, and as applicable, DAERA or the exporter will email a copy of the EHC to the competent authority of the importing country. This email may also serve as a pre-notification of the export, where required and permitted, as part of the easements agreed (*column 4 above).*
5. For the specific countries referred to in the table above, DAERA will respond to any correspondence from Importing Competent Authorities if queries are received as to the authenticity of a white paper EHC.
6. Any queries relating to these temporary procedures should be sent to: vs.implementation@daera-ni.gov.uk