

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 02/2022

To: All Food Business Operators at DAFM-approved meat establishments and cold stores

Subject: EU Health Certificate for the Export of Pork/Beef/Mutton (Meat/Offal/Meat Products) from eligible EU Member States to Hong Kong – migration of certification arrangements to the TRACES system.

(This Trader Notice should be read in conjunction with [Trader Notice MH 18/2017](#))

Background

The production of EU Health Certificates (and Export Declarations) for the Export of Pork/Beef/Mutton (Meat/Offal/Meat Products) from eligible EU Member States (MS) to Hong Kong has changed to an online format, the previous format of paper-based certification is now defunct.

From **1 January 2022**, products covered by this EU certificate, for export from eligible EU MS to Hong Kong, must be certified using the new format of the certificate as generated on the TRACES system.

Generating Export Health Certificate on TRACES

To generate the Hong Kong EU Health Certificate or Export Declaration, the exporting food business operator (FBO) responsible for the consignment must be registered as an *operator* on TRACES.

Instructions for registering on TRACES and the general manual for creating export health certificates on TRACES can be downloaded under the title ‘TRACES User Guide - Generating Export Health Certificates’ at the following link:

gov.ie - [Register with TRACES \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

Registered operators can log into TRACES here:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/login>

The name of the certificate and export declaration appears in TRACES as “(HK) Health Certificate for the export of Pork/Beef/Mutton (Meat/Offal/Meat Products) from eligible EU Member States to Hong Kong (V2.)” and “(HK) Export Declaration for the export of Pork/Beef/Mutton (Meat/Offal/Meat Products) from eligible EU Member States to Hong Kong (V2.)”.

The conditions for FBOs to use in determining whether the Health Certificate or Export Declaration are needed are laid out in [Trader Notice MH 18/2017](#).

Once the operator has initiated the correct certificate for the consignment, they will complete Part I of the certificate describing the consignment.

NOTE: All boxes/fields marked with a red asterisk * are mandatory.

Once all the mandatory fields have been completed, they can select “Submit for certification” and the certifying DAFM Veterinary Inspector (VI) will process Part II of the certificate before it is printed on blank paper for their signature and stamp.

Changes to the Certificate Format

The scope, health attestations and certification criteria for this certificate are unchanged and remain as detailed in [Trader Notice MH 18/2017](#). The text of the new format of the Health Certificates will be published concurrently with this Trader Notice on the DAFM website.

As a result of the switch from a pre-printed paper format to an online system, FBOs will find differences in the form and detail of the information they are required to input into Part I of the Hong Kong certificate in the new format compared to the previous version. FBOs should consult with local DAFM personnel to ensure that forms are correctly completed.

For further information on registering and using TRACES as well as training requests and specific queries relating to the system, please email TRACES@agriculture.gov.ie

Consignments in Transit

For any consignments that were certified under the defunct format after 1 January 2022, it will be necessary to generate online replacement certificates.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances, **signatory VIs will be able to process and sign a replacement certificate** on the TRACES system before the original certificate is returned to them **subject to a guarantee from the FBO** that the original will be returned or acceptable proof of its destruction is received by the VI.

Meat Market Access Section
Meat and Milk Policy Division

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