



**Animal &
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Agency**

Animal and Plant Health
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**INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH DIVISION – POLICY LIAISON TEAM CARLISLE
CUSTOMER INFORMATION NOTE (CIN)**

NUMBER: APE/17/04

To: Interested organisations

Date: 13/11/2017

EXPORT OF PORK, BEEF AND MUTTON (MEAT/OFFAL) TO HONG KONG

Background

1. The European Commission has agreed a new Export Health Certificate (EHC) with the Veterinary Authorities in Hong Kong for the export of meat/offal of pork, beef, and mutton as a harmonised certificate for eligible Member States of the European Union.
2. The **existing** TRACES EHC for meat raised or slaughtered in other **eligible Member States, but packed and exported** in UK remains current until 1 December 2017, **this will then be replaced by a TRACES Export Health Declaration**. Where these conditions apply, the importer in Hong Kong is required to apply in writing for permission to import to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in Hong Kong.
3. The **new** TRACES EHC must be used where the meat is derived from animals either born and reared, **in an eligible EU Member State, or the United Kingdom**, but slaughtered & packed in the **United Kingdom**.
4. Both *Certificate* and *Declaration* are available immediately, but old versions of the below listed certificates will remain available and acceptable for a transitional period until 30 November 2017. This date refers to **date of certification (i.e. OV signature)**, as confirmed by the Hong Kong Competent Authority (FEHD):
 - 1957EHC – Fresh Meat/Meat Preparations from Bi-ungulate Animals (excluding bovines)
 - 5604EHC – Meat Products of Bi-ungulate Animals (excluding beef products)
 - 6669EHC – Chilled/Frozen Meat and Meat Products of Bovine Origin.

Obtaining a TRACES User Account

5. Applications for the new EHC must be made on the EU TRAdE Control and Expert System (TRACES).
6. To obtain a TRACES user account exporters in GB must access the TRACES system, and register as an **ECONOMIC OPERATOR**, then email the following information to the products team at CITC as below:

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

- the name of any user requiring TRACES access
 - organisation address
 - email address(es) which the user account(s) have been created under.
7. These details must be emailed to: product.exports@apha.gsi.gov.uk
 8. A confirmation email will be returned by CITC when the account has been validated and ready for use.

Application Procedure

9. Exporters in Great Britain (GB) wishing to apply for the new EHC must create the EHC on TRACES and send a notification email to the Processing Team at the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle (CITC) containing the:
 - certificate reference number of the EHC created (this will be in the format: EXPORT.GB.YYYY.NNNNNNN)
 - name of the nominated OV/OV Practice who will be certifying the EHC
 - email address of the nominated OV/OV Practice where your EHC will be sent to
 - date of export
 - destination country.
10. For each EHC created these details must be emailed to:
processingteam@apha.gsi.gov.uk
11. EHCs created on TRACES are not required to be printed on crown vellum watermarked paper which will allow CITC to process your application and email this EHC directly to your nominated OV.
12. Correctly completed applications will be processed within 24 hours of receipt, Monday to Friday.
13. It is not possible to create block EHC applications on TRACES. Each EHC for an individual consignment must be created as a standalone application.

Creation of Additional Establishment Addresses in TRACES

14. CITC will create any additional address in GB that will need to be included in the TRACES EHC to assist exporters and destination addresses in Hong Kong. These could include addresses for slaughterhouses, processing premises or cold stores. To enable the creation of establishment addresses exporters must email the following details to the Product Export Team at CITC:
 - organisation address

- approval number of the premises.

15. These details must be emailed to: product.exports@apha.gsi.gov.uk

16. A confirmation email will be returned by CITC when the address has been created.

TRACES Guidance

17. Guidance for exporters creating EHCs on TRACES is available on the APHA Vet Gateway at the following link:

<http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/documents/traces/guid-traces-ehc.pdf>

18. Although this guidance has been drafted specifically for beef exports to Canada using TRACES, the principles for the EHC data input are the same for the EHC to Hong Kong.

19. The TRACES User Guide can be accessed here:

<https://circabc.europa.eu/webdav/CircaBC/SANTE/Traces%20Toolkit/Information/index.html>

Validity Period of EHC on TRACES

20. The validity period of an EHC on TRACES is 10 days. The 10 days commences from the date of declaration. The date of declaration is the date the EHC was data input into TRACES which counts as day one of the 10 day validity. Any EHC that expires beyond its 10 day validity cannot be used for export to Hong Kong and will be cancelled and recalled from your OV by CITC.

Returned Certified Copies of EHC

21. EHC on TRACES need to undergo a validation process whereby the final certificate details need to be updated in TRACES and 'validated' by CITC which sends an electronic notification of the consignment dispatch from GB to Hong Kong.

22. OV's will be required to return certified copies of TRACES EHC for Hong Kong to CITC on the day on which the EHC is signed to enable the validation process to take place in a timely manner and within the 10 day validity of the EHC.

Cancelled Consignments

23. If a consignment that has already been certified by your OV is subsequently cancelled, the exporter must notify CITC immediately by email to enable the TRACES EHC to be cancelled. This will provide an electronic notification of the cancellation of the consignment to Hong Kong.

24. These details must be emailed to: product.exports@apha.gsi.gov.uk

25. A confirmation email will be returned by CITC when the EHC has been cancelled.

Further Enquiries

26. If you have any further enquiries concerning the subject matter of this CIN you should contact the Centre for International Trade – Carlisle:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#specialist-service-centres-ssc>

Issued by:
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