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ANIMAL HEALTH FOR
HUMAN HEALTH AND WEALTH

पशु संगरोध एवं प्रमाणीकरण सेवा
ANIMAL QUARANTINE & CERTIFICATION SERVICES

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Notice

Subject: Online Submission of application forms for AQCS clearance

All importers and their authorized representatives/CHAs are informed that from 1.4.2016, there is no need to file separate application form for AQCS clearances in respect of designated ports (IGIA, ICD PPG and TKD) where ID system is working.

All the information and related documents (except original official health certificate which is coming with the consignment) will be uploaded on line under the ID system for viewing and examination by line agency.

Therefore, importers/CHAs are advised to submit only the original official health certificate issued by the Official Veterinarian of the country of origin as per OIE

regulations under Chapter 5.2 of the Terrestrial Health Code along with custom

sealed samples (wherever power delegated to Customs) for AQCS related decisions and clearances.

- DGCA Circular for Airlines (<http://aqcsindia.gov.in/dgca-circular-for-airlines.html>)
- DGFT notice for Importers and Exporters (<http://aqcsindia.gov.in/dgft-notice-for-importers-and-exporters.html>)
- DGFT Circular on Clearance of Imported Goods (<http://aqcsindia.gov.in/dgft-circular-on-clearance-of-imported-goods.html>)

Alert

IMPORT**AQCS Decisions/clearances: REQUIREMENT OF OFFICIAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE**

(Original or if, electronic/digital/paperless then it must be between Veterinary authority of exporting country and Veterinary authority of importing country (**G to G ie. Governemnt to Governemnt**))

This is the very important international technical document for biosecured and healthy trade from one country to other country. The requirement and examination of official original health certificate by AQCS is as per the power conferred under Livestock Importation Act, 1898 (9 of 1898), DADF OM No. 109-36/2014-Trade dated 12.5.15 and recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial team vide DADF letter no. 109-36/2014-Trade dated 27.2.15. Moreover, *the requirement of original official health certificate is **in Global line** and is necessary keeping in view the bio security aspects, health hazardous, zoonosis, countries diseases freedom, trade including International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005, and OIE Global mandate as per chapter 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, and 5.7 of Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2014, volume II, 23rd Edition).*

As per OIE, Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 5.2, Article 5.2.4: In case of electronic/digital/paperless procedure, the transfer of official health certificate and other health information should be (**G to G**) ie., between Veterinary authority of exporting country and Veterinary authority of importing country. Therefore, the uploaded official health certificates on the system by the importer/brokers cannot be considered.

At first stage of arrival/post arrival risk analysis the original official health certificate is checked/examined and matched with the original packs of Custom sealed representative samples of the consignment. The decision/clearance is than granted with/without cargo inspection and/or/no testing as the case may be.

The importers/brokers cannot be trusted for this important health document (official health certificate) as many cases of submission of fraud/forged official health certificates are regularly noticed. Such fraud/forged official health certificates are made by using latest computer and printing technologies.

ADVICE: The importers are advised to be careful while submitting the original official health certificate at AQCS for clearance purpose and ensure that the submitted original official health certificate is genuine and is issued by the

official Veterinary authority of the country of origin as per Government of India requirements. The importer/authorized person will be responsible in case any fraud/forged official health certificate is noticed. The procedure of verification of health certificate takes long time which may delay the clearance of the consignment and if the certificate is found forged/fraud than the consignment will be liable for rejection.

Any relaxation in AQCS clearances/procedures will be dangerous as many exotic and other diseases may enter the country which will be difficult to eradicate and in case eradicated they take huge money and manpower with possibility of return of outbreak. **Moreover strict quarantine checks are also important for economy and Trade (export).**

EXPORT

AQCS also issues international Official Animal Health Export Certificate for export of livestock and livestock products

As per the Certification Procedure of OIE, Terrestrial Animal Health Code (chapter 5.2, article 5.2.1 to 5.2.4) the Official Veterinarian of the Veterinary Authority of the Exporting Country (In India the Veterinary Authority is Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) should sign the export Health certificate. Regional/Quarantine Officers (AQCS) signs the official health certificate as they are the authorized Certifying Official Veterinarians of Federal Government of India authorized under Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture & FW, Government of India.

Notification of Department of Commerce (ministry of Commerce & Industry): As per the Notification No. 34/2015-2020, dated 13.1.2017 AQCS certification is necessary for export of livestock product to EU for mentioned HS codes.

Definitions justifying AQCS export certification of animal health Internationally:

As per OIE chapter 5.2, articles 5.2.1 to 5.2.4 of certification procedure, the definitions of Official Veterinarian and Veterinary Authority are as under:

A. Official Veterinarians: Means a Veterinarian authorized by the Veterinary Authority of the country to perform certain designated Official Tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.1

and 5.2 of the Terrestrial Code.

B. Veterinary Authority: Means the Government authority of an OIE Member, comprising Veterinarians, other professionals and para- professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code in the whole territory.

ADVICE: The cases of fraud/forged export certification are noticed in export also. Exporters are advised to check the right procedure and authority for export animal health certification for export of livestock and livestock products. The improper/forged/fraud export certification may lead to rejection at port of destination including other complication.

Fraud health certificates

List of some Fake import official health certificates submitted by importer/CHAs for import clearance at AQCS

ALL CASES ARE RJECTED BY AQCS AND REPORTED TO CUSTOM UNDER INTIMATION TO IMPORTER

ALL BELOW CASES WERE VERIFIED THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNEL

NOTE:

1. The below cases are just an example to show that submission/uploading of fraud health certificate by importer and CHAs is very serious issue for the biosecurity of the country. The number of submission of fraud health certificate may be huge if all the health certificates are verified and mainly in cases where the official health certificates are uploaded on line by importer/CHAs/Brokers. **Therefore, no country is clearing the consignment based on the official health certificate uploaded by importer/broker online.**

2. E-certification/paperless procedure is very well defined in OIE certification guidelines under chapter 5.2 (Article 5.2.4) where the most important requirement is that the **official health certificate must be sent directly from Veterinary Authority of exporting country to Veterinary Authority of importing country.**

3. AQCS works on Single Day Decision Policy (SDDP) with animal health mandate therefore, it is not possible by AQCS to verify each and every health certificate. Moreover, the cases of verification takes lot of time (may be months) creating huge delay in clearances/decisions. AQCS, depending on risk analysis and profile of the importer may give NOC (LG) to the consignments till the verification is received from country of origin and accordingly after the receipt of the results, final decisions are communicated to the Custom for further necessary action.

S. No	Livestock Product	Country from where Imported	Quantity (kg.)	Registration No./Date
1	Cheese	Italy	550	69/ND/2016 Dt.23.6.16
2	Whey Protein	Australia	1482	88/ND/2017 19.6.17

3	Whey Protein Supplements	Poland	1200	2256/ND/2017 10.8.17
4	Wet blue cattle hide	Turkey	20176	6558/CH/2017 Dt.11.8.17
5	Finish bovine leather	Romania	15900	7694/CH/2017 Dt.7.9.17
6	Pickled sheep skins	Yemen	6000	11150/CH/2017 Dt. 13.11.17
7	Finished bovine leather	Italy	818	12915/CH/2017 Dt. 19.12.17
8	Goat finished leather	Italy	75	16586/CH/2017 Dt. 14.3.18
9	Finished Leather	Malaysia	7250	5582/ND Dt 17.3.18
10	Fish Food	Thailand	2111.76	67/CH/2018 Dt. 2.4.18
11	Sheep Pickled Skins	Italy	31.9	141/CH/2018 Dt.4.4.18
12	Finished bovine leather	Italy	71180	1493/CH/2018 Dt.1.5.18
13	Finished bovine leather	Italy	45060	1494/CH/2018 Dt 1.5.18
14	Tanned Bovine Leather	Brazil	10870	1679/CH/2018 Dt.4.5.18

15	Wet Blue Harry skins	Saudi Arabia	18990	1798/CH/2018 Dt.5.5.18
16	Cow crust leather	Argentina	975	2079/CH/2018 Dt 11.5.18
17	Cow Finished Leather	Netherlands	1160	2946/CH/2018 Dt 30.5.18

	Leather			Dt. 30.5.18
18	Finished Leather	Netherlands	1243	2953/CH/2018 Dt. 30.5.18
19	Finished Leather	Brazil	57	3123/CH/2018 Dt. 1.6.18
20	Finished Leather	Slovenia	16310	1457/ND/2018 Dt 14.6.18
21	Finished Leather	Brazil	20501.00	1451/ND/2018 Dt. 14.6.18
22	Bovine leather	Brazil	95	1613/ND/2018 Dt. 23.6.18

NOTE All Notifications, Rules, Orders and Procedures are subject to change any time. All decisions will be taken as per the applicable Notifications, Rules, Orders and Procedures at the time of actual filling of application.

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