

Use of Verifiable PDF Health Certificates

As of 31st January 2024, verifiable PDF's can be used for live animals and POAO imports from EU and EFTA countries where the PDF health certificate can be electronically verified.

These certificates must be created directly in either TRACES or an equivalent EU / EFTA Member State's National SPS Export System. The PDF certificate downloaded from TRACES or other approved EU/EFTA country systems must be uploaded to IPAFFS. A list of nations we are accepting Verifiable PDF certificates from is available at [Countries Great Britain will accept validated PDF GB health certificates from - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/countries-great-britain-will-accept-validated-pdf-gb-health-certificates-from).

If the exporter creates a GB health certificate as a verifiable PDF using TRACES or another EU/EFTA Member State system, they will not need to send the original (paper) health certificate with the consignment.

They must send the official, verifiable PDF certificate to the importer once it has been signed by the competent authority. The importer is responsible for creating the IPAFFS notification and uploading the verifiable PDF.

Please be aware that the **easement period** for sending scanned copies of health certificates, including original paper certificates and verifiable PDF's **is temporary**. Upon its expiry, if a trader uploads a scanned copy of a health certificate, they will be required to present the original paper certificate or verifiable PDF to the Border Control Post (BCP) on arrival. A Part II CHED will not be generated until all relevant checks on the original document presented at the BCP have been undertaken. To avoid unnecessary administrative burden and allow for a smoother flow through the BCP, **traders are strongly encouraged to adopt verifiable PDF health certificates today**.

If a paper certificate is used it must bear the signature and stamp of the certifying officer. Verifiable PDF certificates must bear a valid digital signature. You must also check attestations are completed in accordance with the model certificate 'notes for completion' and all non-applicable attestations are correctly deleted or omitted from the certificate.

Deletions carried out by hand must be initialled and stamped. If completed electronically as a verifiable PDF the signature and stamp per page is sufficient.