

Reply Letter Export Certificates amid the Pandemic

International Cooperation Department of the General Administration of Customs

Delegation of the European Union,

Your letter dated 26 March on issues about export certificates of animals and plants and related products are well received.

On 26 March, G20 leaders jointly declared that 'consistent with the needs of our citizens, we will work to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders, and work to resolve disruptions to the global supply chains, to support the health and well-being of all people.' China Customs always attaches high importance to EU-China trade safety and facility. China is willing to actively implement the G20 joint statement, work together with the EU, and strive to minimize the impact of COVIC-19 to EU-China trade. China Customs will keep close contact and cooperation on issues of certificates verification with the EU, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations amid the pandemic. Our reply is as follows:

1. About inquiry and examination of the certificates of export from China to Europe. To facilitate examination and verification by foreign official authorities, China Customs set up a system for export inspection and quarantine certificates (ecert.eciq.cn). The EU competent institutions could check the inspection and quarantine certificates of the export to EU on this system, as an alternative of paper certificates amid the pandemic.
2. About inquiry and examination of the certificates of export from Europe to China. China Customs is willing to work together with the European side, on the premise of ensuring that the original paper certificate is provided afterwards, the electronic examination of documents can be done through networking and uploading electronic documents in the process of customs declaration and inspection. For meat products, considering that China has negotiated and confirmed the certificate samples with some individual EU Member States, and the inspection and quarantine requirements designed by different member states are different, the certificates of the EU member states temporarily cannot be replaced with the EU unified certificate. However, China supports the temporary replacement of paper originals with electronic or scanned certificates.

International Cooperation Dept
General Administration of Customs
11 April 2020