

**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF TRADE**

Ankara, 22 April 2020

Subject: Export certificates for plant origin food and feed and plants and plant products

Dear Ms. SYNOWIEC,

Thank you for your letter of 24th March 2020 regarding the temporary measures on export certificates in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this respect, I would like to inform you on the temporary measures taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) to prevent disruption of import procedures and to protect the health of the personnel via minimum contact, within the framework of the Regulation on Official Control of Plant Origin Food and Feed Import and Regulation on Plant Quarantine.

Accordingly, within the framework of the Regulation on Official Control of Plant Origin Food and Feed Import, the official control procedures are conducted without asking the original certificates when the signed, stamped, and scanned forms of the health certificate are sent to the official e-mail address of the relevant Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry (provinceplatecode.gidayem@tarimorman.gov.tr, for example for Istanbul Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry 34.gidayem@tarimorman.gov.tr) conducting the official controls of the consignment by the competent authority of Turkey's trading partner, which approved/issued the health certificate required to accompany the product. This is not a mandatory practice and applications with the original certificates with wet-ink signature and stamped are also accepted.

In addition to this, within the framework of the Regulation on Plant Quarantine, taking into account the difficulties faced in obtaining the original Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) from the competent authorities of the exporting countries, MAF allows import of plants and plant products by validating PCs through the validation links of the exporter countries, which have those links. For exporter countries, which do not have validation links, MAF asks the IPPC official contact points of those countries to send via e-mail the scanned form of the original PC to Turkey's official contact point (nppoturkey@tarimorman.gov.tr) and the importer is required to provide a written commitment stating that the original PCs will be conveyed to MAF at a later stage.

Yours sincerely,



Hüsnü Dilemre
Acting Director General

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