

Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality

Inspection

Veterinary & Import division

Import Inspection department
Catharijnesingel 59
3511 GG Utrecht
P.O. box 43006
3540 AA Utrecht
www.nvwa.nl

Contact person

Arjen Vroegop
T 062 517 97 31
F 088 223 33 34
a.m.vroegop@NVWA.nl

Date 15 January 2021

Re Brexit procedure for the import of veterinary products

Dear Sir/Madam,

As of 1 January 2021, the United Kingdom (UK) is in the framework of the European Union considered a third country. This has consequences for the import of veterinary products. Such products from the UK must now undergo a veterinary inspection at an Inspection Centre (IC) designated for that purpose. This means a change in the rules and processes for importers bringing veterinary products from the UK into the EU.

In spite of the joint efforts, in many cases it turns out that no "D conformity" declaration is available on arrival at the ferry terminal or that no appointment has been made with an Inspection Centre (IC) to have the veterinary products inspected, even though the ferry operator's booking system claims that this is the case. This is undesirable and increases an unacceptable risk for NVWA of consignments getting through without inspection.

To prevent this, all veterinary consignments from the UK are currently blocked by Customs at the ferry terminals. Customs release the products for transport to the IC only if the haulier of the relevant consignment can present a D conformity declaration and proof that an inspection appointment has been made with an IC.

The parties involved are working together to establish a situation where the logistical disruption can again be reduced on the basis of acceptable guarantees.

Officially, the process is as follows:

1. The exporter has the consignment inspected in the UK in order to obtain a health certificate.
2. The import consignment is reported in VGC (GGB) no later than four hours (in the case of RORO transport) prior to arrival in the Netherlands.

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3. After arrival in the EU, a document inspection (D inspection) is carried out by the Customs D inspection team on the basis of the original health certificate.
4. Once a D conformity report has been issued by VGC to the declarant, the consignment may leave the terminal, but only if an appointment has been made with an IC, where NVWA carries out an import inspection.

The consignment may not leave the terminal without a D conformity declaration or without an appointment for inspection with an IC. Because of the limited parking facilities at the ferry terminals, this is undesirable.

Because of the issues outlined above, we have changed the current process for arrivals by ferry from the UK. From now on, NVWA will offer a voluntary process, with the aim to prevent congestion at ferry terminals as far as possible.

Process from 8 January 2021 to avoid congestion:

1. The exporter gets the consignment inspected in the UK in order to obtain a health certificate.
2. The import consignment is preregistered in VGC in the UK before the ferry departs.
3. A correct copy in colour (PDF) of the health certificate is sent by email to the following email address: douane.drh.veterinair.vk@belastingdienst.nl.
4. Customs/NVWA carries out a D inspection on the basis of the copy of the health certificate and the preregistration in VGC. If the preregistration and the copy of the health certificate are found to be correct, the declarant will receive an electronic confirmation of this. (This can be used by the parties involved, for example for giving loading permission at the ferry terminal of departure.)
5. The declarant issues an import documentation report (in Dutch: MID) in PORTBASE, as a result of which the consignment will be released in the ferry system.
6. The declarant makes an appointment with an IC designated for the type of products as soon as they have received the D-conform report from VGC.

Once a D conformity report has been issued by VGC to the declarant, the consignment may leave the terminal if an appointment has been made with an IC, where NVWA will carry out the import inspection.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING!

- Both the preregistration in VGC and the copy of the health certificate are sent by the declarant, preferably as soon as possible after the certificate has been issued, in order to optimise the processing time.

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- *If the declarant does not have both a D conformity report and an appointment with an IC prior to sailing from the UK, there is a risk that the consignment may not leave the ferry terminal on arrival in the EU.*
- *Inspection Centres are private organisations in the Netherlands.*
- *On inspection at the IC, the original health certificate must be presented. An exception to this is the temporary COVID arrangement.¹ Under this arrangement, the certificate is sent directly by the body issuing the certificate in the UK (i.e. not the declarant) to an email address specifically intended for that purpose:
douane.drh.health.certificates.rotterdam@belastingdienst.nl*

In that case, the inspection by the NVWA can take place on the basis of the certificate copy. NVWA will check whether the certificate has been sent by the correct body.

NVWA will provide a copy of the confirmation of the D conformity declaration to the declarant who has carried out the preregistration via VGC. The declarant can then make an inspection appointment with an IC, after which the declarant informs the ferry operator that this consignment may be admitted on board its ship. The original health certificate will then be supplied as soon as possible by NVWA.

For more information, go to <https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/brexit>.

Yours faithfully,

P.I. (Peter) Verbaas

Head of Department of Import Inspection and Brexit Coordinator of NVWA

¹ For the full COVID-19 procedure, see: <https://www.nvwa.nl/onderwerpen/import-van-dieren-en-producten-van-dierlijke-oorsprong/documenten/import/veterinair/nvwa-import-veterinair/algemeen/tijdelijke-werkwijze-documentencontrole-import-ivm-covid->