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Subject: Changes in trade of animals and animal products from 14 December 2019 - **action required**

We are contacting you regarding trade in animals and animal products; if this does not apply to you please disregard this email.

As you may already be aware, from 14 December 2019, new European regulations - Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF) - will be introduced. Collectively these will replace 70 existing European directives and regulations to modernise and improve health and safety standards for the agri-food chain.

SRSF introduces two new regulations from 14 December 2019: Official Controls Regulation (OCR) and Plant Health Regulation (PHR). A third, Animal Health Regulation (AHR), applies on 21 April 2021. For the moment it is the OCR which concerns your business.

The new regulations will apply to the UK whilst we are a member of the EU and during any transition period. Even if we leave the EU without a deal, the regulations will be retained by the Withdrawal Act and will continue to apply subject to any amendments Parliament may agree. You are receiving this communication now as we have been waiting for confirmation concerning the new SRSF systems and guidance.

What will be changing from 14 December 2019?

Border Control Posts (BCPs)

All Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) and Designated Points of Entry (DPEs) will automatically be re-designated as Border Control Posts (BCPs).

Pre-Notification deadline

Importers of live animals and animal products will need to give the relevant BCP at least one working day, and a minimum of four hours prior notice of importation. Note: there are no changes to the minimum pre-notification period for live animals.

Common Health Entry Document

Importers will also complete a new Common Health Entry Document (CHED), replacing the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) and the Common Entry Document (CED).

Some additional commodities such as reptile meats, rendered animal fats and insects will now require a model certificate.

New pre-notification IT system

From 11pm on 13 December 2019 TRACES NT will be the new system used for notifying imports from outside the EU. For such imports arriving in the UK after this date, you will need to notify using TRACES NT. Registration details can be found below.

Goods that have been pre-notified on TRACES Classic (in use now), will not automatically transfer over to TRACES NT. This means that if you are importing goods from outside the EU that arrive on or after 14 December and that have already been pre-notified you will need to repeat the process on the new IT system.

If you use TRACES Classic for intra EU Trade, you must continue to do so.

Training for the new system

We are arranging webinar sessions for Import Agents which will start on the week commencing 9 December. We will be in touch about these sessions very soon.

What do businesses need to do now?

1. Familiarise themselves with the new regulations. Further information can be found [here](#).
2. Importers of animals and animal products from outside the European Union should register for TRACES NT following the instructions below:
 - a. Create a [new EU Login account](#).
 - b. Once you have your new EU Login Account you can [Request a new user access profile in TRACES.NT](#)
 - c. The profile you use must reflect your role, for example as an economic operator or Border Control Post (BCP) official.
 - d. Economic operators must choose the BCP to which they wish to be associated for registration purposes, once registered you will be able to import through any BCP.
 - e. BCP users should associate themselves to the appropriate Competent Authority. Requests will be validated by the Competent Authority or BCP depending on your role.

Please be aware the first user who registers for a new TRACES NT account will become the admin for that organisation and will then be responsible for authorising all further users within their organisation.

3. Once registered and trained on TRACES NT, familiarise yourself with the requirements of CHEDs and use them for imports that will arrive on or after 14 December 2019. Further information on CHEDs can be found [here](#).
4. Once registered and trained, importers of animals and animal products should ensure they use TRACES NT to pre-notify BCPs and ensure that prior notice is given for all consignments due on or after 14 December 2019. Details of UK BCPs can be found [here](#).

Further information

For any technical help required with the registration, you can email your questions to sante-traces@ec.europa.eu.

You can find further information about the regulations by clicking on the embedded links:

- [EU Official Controls Regulation](#), published on 15 March 2017.
- [EU Animal Health Regulation](#), published on 31 March 2016

We will be in touch again shortly with information on training and registration. Please continue to look out for further communications ahead of 14 December.

The Imports and Exports Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)