

**Laying down harmonised rules for the Health Certificates and Veterinary Health Certificates  
for certain goods intended for human consumption for trade among CEFTA Parties**

Adopted on .....

PREAMBLE

The Joint Committee

Having regard to Articles 40.4 and 41.5 of Annex 1 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement Consolidated Version of the Central European Free Trade Agreement CEFTA 2006 (hereinafter referred to as "CEFTA"), done in Bucharest on 19 December 2006;

Having regard to Article 12(2) and 12(3) of the CEFTA 2006 on '*Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*';

Having resolved to eliminate obstacles to their mutual trade, in accordance with the provisions of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WTO"), and to progressively establish closer trade relations among the CEFTA Parties, in particular the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;

Having resolved to conduct their mutual trade relations in accordance with the rules and disciplines of the WTO, whether or not a CEFTA Party is a WTO Member;

Taking into account the importance of the positive contribution of trade facilitation to economic development;

Emphasising the role of the EU alignment process in each CEFTA Party offering a common standard;

Taking into account the specific reference to Veterinary Health Certificates and Health Certificates referenced among the documents to be exchanged among CEFTA Parties for the simplification of inspections related to the clearance procedures and reducing formalities to the maximum extent possible;

Taking into account that CEFTA Parties have pursued the harmonisation of Veterinary Health Certificates through a Veterinary Working Group, which has been set up in the framework of the CEFTA Sub-committee on Agriculture including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues;

Taking into account that the harmonisation of the certificates is supported by the Veterinary Working Group composed of veterinaries appointed by each CEFTA Party and tasked to verify the extent to which to harmonise the content of the Veterinary Health Certificate for products of animal origin and the Veterinary Health Certificate for live animals in use in all CEFTA Parties (hereinafter referred to as "Veterinary Working Group");

Recognising that no provision of this Decision may be interpreted as exempting the CEFTA Parties from their obligations under any other international agreement, especially under the WTO Agreements;

Having resolved to strengthen trade and economic relations and mutual understanding among CEFTA Parties; Considering that the CEFTA Parties are determined to improve the safety of traded goods without negatively affecting trade flows;

Seeking to facilitate trade development through the introduction of modern forms and methods of inspection, notably by employing electronic instruments with the aim of strengthening and improving the quality of risk analysis by CEFTA Parties;

Recognising that the CEFTA Parties are pursuing trade facilitation for food businesses, notably by establishing harmonised Veterinary Health Certificates and Health Certificates, by pursuing the authorisation by CEFTA of establishments in certain sectors for trade among with all CEFTA Parties, and by harmonising the approach to residue monitoring plans;

Taking into account that, at present, the regulatory framework for food safety within the EU relies on *Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety*, *Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs*, *Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin*, *Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products*, and *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/632 of 13 April 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the lists of animals, products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products and derived products, composite products, and hay and straw subject to official controls at border control posts* and that CEFTA Parties' regulation is largely conforming to these rules;

Considering *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 of 16 December 2020 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards model animal health certificates, model official certificates and model animal health/official certificates, for the entry into the Union and movements within the Union of consignments of certain categories of animals and goods, official certification regarding such certificates*;

Considering *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2236 of 16 December 2020 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards model animal health certificates for the entry into the Union and movements within the Union of consignments of aquatic animals and of certain products of animal origin from aquatic animals, official certification regarding such certificates and repealing Regulation*;

Considering that, at present, CEFTA Parties implement the mandatory Veterinary Health Certificates for products of animal origin and live animals on the basis of existing agreements and that they have the intention to adopt a unique model Veterinary Health Certificate for each product category;

Taking into account the comparison of the second page information for the Veterinary Health Certificates and Health Certificates prepared by the CEFTA Secretariat based on data provided by the CEFTA Parties;

has decided as follows:

## **Article 1**

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this Decision, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) "Veterinary and food safety Authorities" mean the relevant authorities of a CEFTA Party in veterinary matters and food safety matters or any authority to which such authority has delegated such competence;

- (2) “Veterinary Health Certificate” and “Health Certificate” refers to all Veterinary Health and Health Certificates that are mandatory under the regulation in force at any time in the CEFTA Parties for trade in certain products intended for human consumption and subject to the approval of the CEFTA Parties and to official controls upon entry into a CEFTA Party;
- (3) “Private Attestation” refers to the attestation for composite products mandatory under the regulation in force at any time in the CEFTA Parties for trade in certain products intended for human consumption and subject to the approval of the CEFTA Parties;
- (4) “Health Requirements” means the harmonised CEFTA Parties’ requirements in terms of controls, inspections, approvals or any other sanitary requirement necessary to ensure the safety of traded goods;
- (5) “Additional health requirements” means any additional guarantees and relevant documentation going beyond the harmonised CEFTA Parties’ requirements;
- (6) “Veterinary Working Group” means the CEFTA Veterinary Working Group composed of senior civil servants from Ministries responsible for agriculture and/or from the respective administrations responsible for veterinary issues and appointed by each CEFTA Party;
- (7) “CEFTA TRACES NT” means the CEFTA TRACES New Technology (TRACES-NT) platform.
- (8) “Certifying Officer” means (a) any CEFTA Party official authorised to sign official certificates by that CEFTA Party; or (b) any other natural person who is authorised by the CEFTA Party to sign official certificates in accordance with the rules referred to this Decision;
- (9) “Official Certificate” means a paper or electronic document signed by the Certifying Officer and providing assurance concerning compliance with the requirements laid down in the rules referred to this Decision;
- (10) “Official Veterinarian” means a veterinarian appointed by a CEFTA Party, either as staff or otherwise, and appropriately qualified to perform official controls and other official activities in accordance with this Decision;
- (11) “Consignment” means a number of animals or quantity of goods covered by the same official certificate, official attestation or any other document, conveyed by the same means of transport and coming from the same origin or CEFTA Party, and, being of the same type, class or description;
- (12) “Products of animal origin” means any goods of animal origin intended for human consumption, including honey and blood.

## **Article 2**

### **Scope**

This Decision lays down specific rules on the hygiene of food and relevant regulatory requirements, it establishes the harmonised model certificates for movements among CEFTA Parties of certain products of animal origin.

## **Article 3**

### **Harmonised Model for the Veterinary Health Certificate and Health Certificate**

- (1) Harmonised models for the Health Certificate are provided in the Annexes to this Decision and shall be used by all CEFTA Parties. Their content is laid down as mandatory in each of its parts.
- (2) Each CEFTA Party shall adopt the relevant requirements in its respective regulatory system.
- (3) The official languages for the Veterinary Health Certificate and Health Certificate are the language(s) of the trading CEFTA Parties. The certificates will be electronically accessible in English.
- (4) For goods traded between two CEFTA Parties and when transiting a third CEFTA Party, that third CEFTA Party shall not require an additional Veterinary Health Certificate or Health Certificate.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Requirements for certificates for consignments of goods intended for human consumption**

- (1) The official veterinarian or the certifying officer shall complete certificates for consignments of goods intended for human consumption in accordance with the following requirements:
  - (a) the certificate must bear the signature of the official veterinarian or the certifying officer and the official stamp; the colour of the signature and the colour of stamp, other than embossed or watermarked stamp, must be different to the colour of the printing;
  - (b) where the certificate contains multiple or alternative statements, the statements which are not relevant must be crossed out, initialled and stamped by the Official Veterinarian or Certifying Officer, or completely removed from the certificate;
  - (c) the certificate must consist of one of the following:
    - (i) a single sheet of paper;
    - (ii) several sheets of paper where all sheets are indivisible and constitute an integrated whole;
    - (iii) a sequence of pages with each page numbered so as to indicate that it is a particular page in a finite sequence;
  - (d) where the certificate consists of a sequence of pages as referred to in point (c)(iii), of this paragraph, each page must bear a page number and the same unique code;
  - (e) in the case of certificates for movements of consignments within CEFTA or individual CEFTA Parties, the certificate must accompany the consignment until it reaches the place of destination; and
  - (f) the certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the CEFTA Party issuing the certificate.
- (2) Points (a) to (d) of paragraph 1 do not apply to electronic certificates.
- (3) Points (b), (c), and (d) of paragraph 1 shall not apply to certificates issued in paper and completed in, and printed from TRACES NT.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Guarantees of reliability for official certificates**

(1) Official Certificates shall:

- (a) bear a unique code;
- (b) not be signed by the Certifying Officer where they are blank or incomplete;
- (c) be authentic and accurate;
- (d) allow for the identification of the person who signed them and the date of issue; and
- (e) allow the easy verification of the links between the certificate, the issuing CEFTA Party and the consignment, lot or individual animal or good covered by the certificate.

(2) CEFTA Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent the issuance of false or misleading Official Certificates or the abuse of official certificates.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Veterinary Working Group**

The Veterinary Working Group is tasked with supporting the implementation of this Decision and shall establish the health requirements and conduct periodic reviews of the Harmonised Models for the Veterinary Health Certificates and Health Certificates provided in the Annexes to this Decision.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Replacement of certificates for consignments of goods intended for human consumption**

- (1) CEFTA Parties shall only issue replacement certificates for consignments of animals and goods intended for human consumption in the case of administrative errors in the initial certificate or where the initial certificate has been damaged or lost.
- (2) In the replacement certificate, the respective CEFTA Party shall not modify information in the initial certificate concerning the identification of the consignment, its traceability and the guarantees provided for in the initial certificate for the consignment.
- (3) In the replacement certificate, the respective CEFTA Party shall:
  - (a) make clear reference to the unique code referred to in Article 6(a) of this Decision and the date of issue of the initial certificate, and clearly state that it replaces the initial certificate;
  - (b) indicate a new certificate number different to that of the initial certificate;
  - (c) indicate the date when it was issued, as opposed to the date of issue of the initial certificate;
  - (d) produce an original document issued in paper, except in the case of electronic replacement certificates submitted in CEFTA TRACES NT.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Electronic data sharing**

- (1) The CEFTA Parties pursue to use the electronic version of the Harmonised Model for the Veterinary Health Certificate and Health Certificate for purposes of sharing all relevant data among the CEFTA Parties through the CEFTA TRACES NT platform.
- (2) Consignments shall be accompanied by an Official Certificate in paper form unless an electronic Official Certificate is available.
- (3) Each CEFTA Party shall inform the Joint Committee of the technical requirements for data sharing, such as the electronic signature for the Veterinary Health Certificate and Health Certificate.

#### **Article 9**

##### **Measures by CEFTA Parties authorities**

In case of non-compliance with the requirements provided in the Annexes to this Decision, other cases of serious risks for public health identified through official controls, or non-compliance with any other relevant requirements, a CEFTA Party remains competent to take the appropriate measures and all relevant laws and regulations of that CEFTA Party apply.

#### **Article 10**

##### **Entry into force**

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Adopted in ..., on XX ..... 2022, in the presence of all CEFTA Parties.

## **ANNEX I**

### **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND HARMONISED CERTIFICATE FOR HONEY AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF APICULTURE INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

#### **Health Requirements for Honey and Other Apiculture Products intended for human consumption**

- (1) Honey and Apiculture Products intended for human consumption shall be produced and controlled in accordance with CEFTA Parties' regulations governing food safety and laying down the general hygiene principles and procedures in matters of food safety and can be traded among CEFTA Parties on the basis of the following requirements:
  - a) Originate from (an) establishment(s) implementing a programme based on the HACCP principles;
  - b) Have been handled and, where appropriate, prepared, packaged and stored in a hygienic manner; and
  - c) Fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products thereof, provided by the submitted residue plans.
- (2) Each consignment of Honey and Products of Apiculture intended for human consumption needs to fulfil the health requirements under paragraph 1 of this Article and shall be accompanied by a Health Certificate issued by a Certifying Officer of the exporting CEFTA Party.

## Harmonised Certificate for Honey and Other Apiculture Products intended for human consumption

Veterinary certificate to:					
<b>Part I: Description of consignment</b>	I.1 Consignor  Name Address		I.2 Certificate reference number	I.2a TRACES NT Reference QR code	
	I.5 Consignee Name Address ISO code		I.3 Veterinary and Food Safety Authority		
	I.6 Origin	ISO code	Region of origin	I.7 Destination    ISO code    Region of destination	
	I.7 Place of origin Name                      Registration / Approval No Address  ISO code				
	I.8 Place of destination Name                      Registration / Approval/ No Address  ISO code			I.10 Date and time of departure	
	I.9 Place of loading				
I.11 Means of transport Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Vessel <input type="checkbox"/> Railway <input type="checkbox"/>  Road vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>  Identification / Documentary references			I.12 BCP / CCP		
I.13 Accompanying documents  Type Commercial document reference  Code  ISO Code			I.15 HS code		
I.14 Description of commodity			I.17 Total number of packages		
I.16 Transport conditions  Ambient <input type="checkbox"/> Chilled <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen <input type="checkbox"/>			I.18 Total quantity		
I.19 Identification of container/Seal number			I.19 Total net weight/gross weight (kg)		
I.20 Commodities certified as or for  Human consumption <input type="checkbox"/>					
I.21 Description of consignment Species                      Cold store                      Type of packaging                      Net weight  Treatment type                      Number of packages                      Batch No.  <input type="checkbox"/> Final consumer                      Date of collection/production                      Manufacturing plant					



<b>Part II: Certification</b>	<b>II. Health information</b>	Certificate reference number							
	<p>I, the undersigned official veterinarian, declare that I am aware of the relevant requirements <b>listed in Annex I to Decision No. ?? /2022</b> of the CEFTA Joint Committee, as implemented in the respective regulatory system of all CEFTA Parties, and hereby certify that the honey and other products of apiculture described in Part I were produced in accordance these requirements and, in particular that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- come from(an) establishment(s) that has(ve) been registered and implements a programme based on the hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) principles and regularly audited by the Party;</li> <li>- have been handled and, where appropriate, prepared, packaged and stored in a hygienic manner; and</li> <li>- fulfil the guarantees covering live animals and products thereof provided by the residue plans submitted.</li> </ul>								
	<p><b>Part I:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Box reference I.7: Place of origin: name and address of the dispatch establishment.</li> <li>- Box reference I.11: Registration number (railway wagons or container and lorries), flight number (aircraft), or name (vessel). Separate information is to be provided in the event of unloading and reloading.</li> <li>- Box reference I.15: Use the appropriate HS codes: 04.09, 04.10.</li> <li>- Box reference I.19: Identification of container/seal number: only where applicable.</li> <li>- Box reference I.21: Description of consignment: "Treatment type": State 'ultrasonication', 'homogenisation', 'ultrafiltration', 'pasteurisation', 'no thermal treatment'</li> </ul>								
<p>Official inspector/Authorized inspector</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Name (in capital letters):</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Qualification and title:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date:</td> <td>Signature:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stamp:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Name (in capital letters):	Qualification and title:	Date:	Signature:	Stamp:	
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