



**MARKET ACCESS ADVICE -ALL COMMODITIES**

Reference Number: MAA2016  
 Date of Issue: 30 March 2020  
 Date of Effect: Ongoing

**COVID-19 market access issues update #2 – Amended**

<b>Att.</b>	<b>Industries</b>	Industry bodies – (meat, dairy, seafood, eggs, non-prescribed goods) Export Establishments Licensed exporters	
	<b>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment</b>	Central and regional offices ATMs and FOMs OPVs and meat inspection staff Veterinary and Export Meat Group Audit and Assurance Group Food Export Documentation	
	<b>Other</b>	State regulatory authorities	
<b>Affected Markets</b>		EU, Qatar, Jordan, Tahiti, Kiribati	
<b>Related market access advices</b>		MAA2013: EU: Export certificate arrangements during COVID-19 MAA2014: ALL COMMODITIES – COVID-19 market access issues update #1 MAA2015: COVID-19: Additional requirements for the export of food products to Qatar and potential adoption by other importing countries	
<b>Further Information</b>		Name: Robyn Schipp Email: <a href="mailto:Robyn.schipp@awe.gov.au">Robyn.schipp@awe.gov.au</a> Phone: 02 6272 5058	Name: Ann Backhouse Email: <a href="mailto:Ann.backhouse@awe.gov.au">Ann.backhouse@awe.gov.au</a> Phone: 02 6271 6336/0466 865 499
<b>OR</b> Please contact <a href="mailto:exportstandards@awe.gov.au">exportstandards@awe.gov.au</a> if you have any queries.			

This Market Access Advice (MAA) provides information on current known issues relating to market access that have the potential to impact trade. This Market Access Advice is only intended to provide limited information as we become aware of potential issues. The specific details of the department’s response(s) will be relayed separately as soon as possible in a more detailed MAA.

Departmental staff continue to work on responding to market access/trade disruptions as a result of COVID-19.

The department will be using this generic rolling update MAA template across all commodities as a means of early communication of COVID-19 trade related issues. This will allow us to update various industry sectors in a more timely and efficient manner during this unprecedented event.

**General advice relating to food safety now available on the department’s website**

The department would like to re-affirm that it will not provide additional certification or tailored statements for individual consignments for this virus. The department similarly views the provision of assurances from suppliers or shipping agents as inappropriate.

In the event that exporters require additional information or concerns are raised by trading partners in relation to the transmission of COVID-19 through food, the department has made information available via: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/coronavirus/export>. Additionally, the

---

department has also made available a generic facilitation letter which is accessible via the main commodity pages of the Manual of Importing Country Requirements (MICoR).

### **European Union Member Countries**

The European Commission (EC) has informed Australia that it will now accept scanned copies of export health certificates in cases where it is not possible to present the original certificate with the consignment. This is in response to the severe restrictions on air transport that are affecting courier services and preventing the presentation of original health certificates.

The department is continuing to work through the logistical arrangements required to support this change as the scanned copy of the certificate must come from the department and be sent directly to the Border Inspection Post (BIP).

This relaxation of this EU regulation is an interim measure during the current COVID-19 situation. This is not a permanent change to EU requirements.

The original certificate must be sent to the relevant Border Control Post (BCPs) as soon as technically feasible, noting that this might not be possible until current movement restrictions have been lifted.

Further information has been provided in **MAA2013** – EU: Export certificate arrangements during COVID-19.

### **Qatar**

On 26 March 2020, Qatar's Ministry of Public Health (Port's Health and Food Control Section) advised that the previously released Circulars notified through **MAA2014** and **MAA2015** would cease until further notice.

This advice came through Circular (Cease of the use of the circular issued regarding the precautions to limit the transmission of the new Coronavirus COVID-19). This Circular advises that due to representations made by several countries in response to Qatar's precautionary measures that the use of Circular (precaution measures Covid-19) and additional Circular 'Important Clarification' previously intended to take effect on 25 March 2020 would cease until further notice. Qatar's Ministry of Public Health further emphasised that it would not issue any Circulars or new requirements before verifying their compatibility with international agreements.

### **Jordan**

In response to rumours that shipping may be disrupted, the department can advise that as of Tuesday, 24 March while commercial air passenger flights have been suspended, air freight into the Kingdom is still permitted and the logistics chain is still functioning. The department is not aware of the closure of any ports.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment encourages all exporters to work with their importer to ensure that product meets the current importing country requirements.

### **Tahiti**

The department understands that authorities in Tahiti will also accept copies of health certificates to facilitate clearance of goods if they are emailed directly from the department to the Tahitian authorities. Exporters wishing to take advantage of this should contact the Documentation Office where their certificates are issued in the first instance.

---

## **Kiribati**

The department understands that authorities in Kiribati will also accept copies of health certificates to facilitate clearance of goods if they are emailed directly from the department to the Kiribatian authorities. Exporters wishing to take advantage of this should contact the Documentation Office where their certificates are issued in the first instance.

*The information provided above is current at the time of writing and is intended for use as guidance only and should not be taken as definitive or exhaustive. The Commonwealth endeavours to keep information current and accurate, however, it may be subject to change without notice. Exporters are encouraged to verify these details with their importers prior to undertaking production/exports. The Commonwealth will not accept liability for any loss resulting from reliance on information contained in this notice.*