



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants  
**The Director**

Brussels  
Sante.ddg2.g.3/HK/ng (2022)3857810

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**TRACES – INFO NOTE**

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<b>Number of pages:</b>	2		
<b>Subject:</b>	Electronic INTRAs in TRACES – Transitioning towards paperless intra-Union trade		

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**Message**

In the framework of the IMSOC Operations Management Board and TRACES Sub-group meetings held respectively on 5 and 6 April 2022, you were informed that the electronic signature capability will be made available for the INTRA module of TRACES used for certifying intra-Union movements of live animals and certain products of animal origin and animal by-products with release 6.4.0 of TRACES that was deployed on 9 May 2022.

Some of you raised concerns about the impact of paperless operations on controls of animal transports conducted by police to verify the correct enforcement of EU animal health and welfare rules.

Let me clarify that electronic seals applied on PDF certificates inside TRACES by the certifying authority are qualified electronic seals in line with the standards set by Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (“the eIDAS Regulation”) and are considered as digital equivalent to seals of legal entities applied on paper within the Union.

Therefore, electronically signed PDF certificates are to be accepted as equivalent to original paper certificates bearing a hand-written signature of the certifying officer and a wet stamp of the issuing competent authority. They provide a guarantee on the authenticity and integrity of the content of the certificates since post-signature manipulation is particularly difficult and invalids the signature.

Electronically signed PDF certificates can be downloaded from TRACES by the transporters involved in the movements in question and emailed to the relevant drivers, the latter being responsible to present them on request of any control authorities, using any mobile device.

Verification of electronic signatures can therefore be performed without being connected to TRACES. More details on how to verify electronic signatures on electronically signed PDFs will be shared with the TRACES INTRA contact points.

This solution certainly requires prior consultation and agreement at national level between the relevant authorities and stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]  
Bernard Van Goethem