National
Cattle Feeders'
Association

Association
Nationale des
Engraisseurs de Bovins

#6, 11010 – 46th Street SE
Calgary, AB   T2C 1G4
Tel: 403-769-1519
Fax: 403-209-3255

E-Certification Update

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is moving ahead across the remainder of 2022 with a roll-out of the new E-Certification of Animal Health Export Certificates for live bovine shipments to the US for a limited group of new users. NCFA met with CFIA in early August to discuss the roll-out, and CFIA has been engaging individual exporters and accredited veterinarians as well. To date, 12 meetings between the CFIA, exporters, and accredited veterinarians have occurred. This update provides critical information for cattle feeders shipping animals to the US.

What is Happening

The CFIA is implementing a new E-Certification system for live bovine exports to the US. The system will employ the CFIA's new online Internet portal entitled *My CFIA.* This portal is part of the Agency's Digital Services Delivery Platform (DSDP).

Who is Impacted

The implementation of E-Certificates will be accomplished in phases. **This first phase is only for those exporters and their accredited veterinarians who are currently registered and using the Electronic Exchange of Export Certificates (EEEC) program.** EEEC is the official name of the pilot project started in 2014 where export certificates are faxed instead of requiring a "wet" signature of the CFIA accredited veterinarian. Under this fax pilot, over 20,000 certificates have been issued. The fax pilot will end and be replaced by the new E-Certification system via *My CFIA.* CFIA will transition pilot project participants to the *My CFIA* system first. E-Certification will be opened for all others in 2024.

When it is Happening

All exporters and accredited veterinarians in the EEEC fax pilot project must begin using the new E-Certification system exclusively prior to December 31, 2022. In anticipation of this deadline, the CFIA will begin issuing E-Certificates through *My CFIA* starting September 12, 2022. CFIA is encouraging all EEEC pilot participants to enrol in *My CFIA* and begin using the new system as soon as possible. The goal is to transition all EEEC pilot participants to E-Certificates by November 30, 2022. This will provide a one month "buffer" to sort through any logistical issues that may arise.

What You Need to Do Now

If you are enrolled and have been using the EEEC fax pilot project for exporting live cattle to the US, you should take several steps right now to prepare for the new E-Certification system.

1) Review specific details here: [Before you sign up for My CFIA](https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/my-cfia/before-you-sign-up/eng/1539706469438/1539706470034)
   (https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/my-cfia/before-you-sign-up/eng/1539706469438/1539706470034)

2) Enrol with *My CFIA* and create a Profile

3) Review the following two Guidance Documents

   CFIA Document #12258538: [How to Submit a Live Bovine to USA Export Application in *My CFIA*](#)

   CFIA Document #12471392: [How to Send and Accept Party ASP Invitations in *My CFIA*](#)

4) Begin applying for and using E-Certificates for cattle exports to the US after September 12, 2022.

Please note that EEEC registered exporters, accredited veterinarians, and any other third parties that are involved in the exporting process (e.g., brokers, contacts, workers) should also enrol in *My CFIA*. It is also important to note that accredited veterinarians must enrol as individuals and not the veterinary clinic. It is individual veterinarians that are CFIA accredited and not clinics.

Why This is Happening Now

Live cattle exports to the US are currently proceeding under three separate systems for Animal Health Export Certificates, including the old paper system with "wet" signatures, the EEEC "fax" pilot project (since 2014), and a small group of exporters (mainly in Manitoba) that have been trialing the E-Certification system as it was being built and refined. USDA has requested that CFIA limit the options to paper and the new digital E-Certification system. As a result, the EEEC pilot will terminate on December 31, 2022.

Enhancements to E-Certification

A limited group of exporters and veterinarians have been using E-Certificates through the *My CFIA* portal as the system was being built. These trials have resulted in a number of enhancements and refinements, which include improved copy and paste functionality and the ability to easily re-use numerous repetitive details such as final destination. An on-screen "virtual assistant" will help with completing the E-Certificate application process, and tag numbers for cattle can be copy and pasted to a CSV or EXCEL template compatible with feedlot software systems. It is anticipated that these improvements will make exports more efficient.

What NCFA Will be Doing

The development of a system of E-Certification has been a longstanding request of the National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) and we are pleased this important milestone has been reached. Throughout the roll-out, NCFA will continue to liaise with the CFIA. We have devised a schedule to check-in with EEEC exporters and their accredited veterinarians as the roll-out proceeds to solicit your feedback on the new system and the user experience. NCFA will communicate any issues back to CFIA and collaborate on any required solutions.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or issues you can contact:

> **NCFA:** Janice Tranberg, President & CEO
> Email: jtranberg@cattlefeeders.ca
> Tel: 403-250-2509

> **CFIA:** Rachel Wheat, National Operational Delivery Coordinator
> Email: CFIA.ECODCT-ECLOCE.ACIA@inspection.gc.ca
> Tel: 306-216-2863.

Again, please note that the transition to the new E-Certification system is <u>ONLY</u> for those cattle feeders, exporters, and accredited veterinarians currently registered and using the EEEC "fax" pilot project (established in 2014). E-Certification will be made available to others at a later point in time (most likely in 2024).

Janice Tranberg
President & CEO
National Cattle Feeders' Association
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