



ICT



GLCC Statement on Sanitary Certificates for the International Trade of Tanned Animal Hides and Skins

The Global Leather Co-ordinating Committee (GLCC)* meeting in Hong Kong on 13 March 2019 noted with concern that certain countries still require sanitary health certificates for the importation of tanned animal hides and skins.

Recalling its common statement adopted on 30 March 2017:

“The GLCC believes animal product and by-product export or import requirements promulgated by national governments, including hide, skin and leather health certificates, should be produced in accordance with the recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and supported by sound science. According to the OIE, hides and skins that have undergone a tanning process, including wet blue, wet white, crust and finished leather, do not require health certificates for export or import.”

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code makes a series of references to leather being safe for trade and a typical such reference can be found in Article 8.8.27, which refers to Foot and Mouth Disease:

Veterinary authorities should authorise, without restriction, the import or transit through their territory of semi-processed hides and skins (limed hides, pickled pelts, and semi-processed leather such as wet blue and crust leather), provided that these products have been submitted to the usual chemical and mechanical processes in use in the tanning industry.

http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_fmd.htm

The GLCC calls on national Governments to refrain from the practice of requiring sanitary health certificates for products traded under the HS customs headings 4104 to 4115, which are all materials that have undergone the irreversible process of tanning. These materials are acknowledged by the OIE to be free from pathogens or viruses posing a risk to humans or livestock and should not require sanitary health certificates to be traded internationally.

Requiring health certificates for products such as wet-blue, crust or finished leather constitutes an unnecessary barrier to trade, as well as a costly burden on the global trade of the products affected, which were worth 19.97 billion US Dollars in 2017, according to UN-COMTRADE data.

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For further information and any queries contact Paul Pearson, Secretary, ICT:

paulpearson@leatheruk.org

* GLCC is the good governance body of the Global Leather Industry gathering the three primary International leather industry organisations, the International Council of Tanners (ICT), the International Council of Hides, Skins and Leather Traders Associations (ICHSLTA) and the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS).