

UPDATE ON TRACES

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TRACES

TRAdE Control and Expert System

UPDATE ON TRACES

If you ship animals or animal products

- Into the EU
- Out of the EU
- Within the EU

You are Required to Use TRACES

The system is intended to track and trace all animal and animal product movements within the EU. This will allow high level analysis of trade and movements, as well as monitor possible disease threats.

TRACES Objectives

Integrated structure for ANIMO and SHIFT

- ANIMO has been switched off
- SHIFT is the up-coming database for import requirements
- Animal Health, animal welfare, veterinary public health

ANIMO [Animal Movements] database was switched off 1 January 2005.

Nobody has been able to tell me the true wording of SHIFT. The WWW acronym dictionary gives 'Secure Hosted Interface for File Transfer' which sounds reasonable, but it actually relates to import requirements. Keen students may care to refer to the original Decisions: 92/438 and 92/563

We have learnt the hard way about spread of disease following swine fever, Newcastle disease, foot and mouth disease. All exacerbated by animal movements. TRACES is supposed to alert and prevent any new movements in the event of a disease outbreak.

The data storage is so vast that this giant computer has been installed in a nuclear bunker 'somewhere in Luxembourg'.



- It needs to be vast, when you consider the enormous amounts of data that will have to be stored. Not just animals, but every last piece of meat delivered to Tesco, or salami sausage to Sicily.
- Obviously, if it works, it will allow one central office to monitor and control all movements, but as to reducing administrative workload ... perhaps at the centre, but I have heard nothing but complaints from the BIPs and others who have to enter the data.

Some features

- **Track and trace of all movements - origins and destinations**
- **Central risk assessment**
- **Reduction of administrative workload**

FOR MORE INFO...

<https://sanco.cec.eu.int/traces/>

More features

Stores

- **Legislation**
- **Approved establishments**
- **Approved countries**
- **Animals and products**
- **Transport operators**
- **Staging points**

FOR MORE INFO...

<https://sanco.cec.eu.int/traces/>

Just these items alone make up a vast database. All increased by the fact that an Economic Operator has to register with every BIP they use. Hence I have to register with any EU exit point I may use including Gatwick, Heathrow, Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam. I also have to register with every Regional Ministry Office in the areas from which I am collecting animals.

Procedures [i]

In relation to animals:

- **Applies to all commercial movements**
- **Access only by registered economic operators**

FOR MORE INFO...

<http://www.traces-cbt.net/en/onlinehelp/Traces/contents.htm>
http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/export-cert/pdf/traces_exa.pdf

- 'Commercial movements' in this context excludes pets [dogs and cats] because they are not considered 'commercial'.
- In theory anyone can become an 'economic operator', but they do have to be recognised by the local BIP. So, although I might recommend that a horse shipper in New York registers with each of the BIPs they ship to, the BIP may reject the applicant on the basis that they are not domiciled in the EU. This means that the US shipper must use a local agent who is recognised.
- In order to speed up the whole process, it will assist greatly if the third country sender can complete most, if not all, of the paper application form to assist his local agent. This 6 page application paper is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/export-cert/pdf/traces_exa.pdf

Procedures [ii]

Generates:

- **CVED [Certificate of Veterinary Entry Document].** The CVED can be downloaded from most BIP web-sites, but although you are only completing the front page, they do require it to be double sided, with their own check boxes on the back. As anyone knows, if you download a document from the www, you only get printing on one side of a sheet of paper!

Procedures [ii]

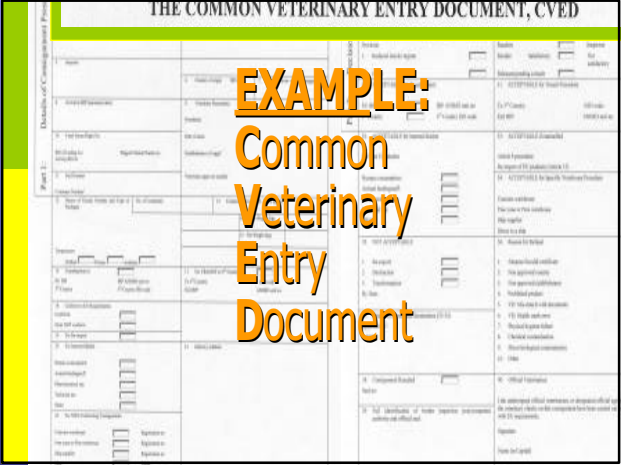
Generates:

- **Route Plans** - Route plans now require a lot more detail. When you enter a Staging Point, you must now enter the SP number. This will allow the local veterinary office to monitor the movement and carry out the in-transit veterinary checks. It also means that you cannot omit a required stop without it being noticed.

Procedures [ii]

Generates:

- **Border crossing certificate** - If all is correct and in place, the veterinary certificates that arrive with the animals are exchanged for a Border Crossing Certificate that has to travel to destination with the animals. The consignee must keep it for 3 years. This movement is notified by the system to the local veterinary office who can inspect the animals and the crossing certificate if necessary.



**EXAMPLE:
Common
Veterinary
Entry
Document**

Current Status

Although there may be some good things to say about the system, I have never heard any user of the system expressing them. Like all software, it was rushed out to meet a deadline before it was ready. It has several bugs in the system. The training manual is on line, but 399 pages long, and because it is in .html, does not allow a search for keywords.

The opening page for a new registrant does not require you to enter your Email address twice, as it should to ensure accuracy. The password it generates, if at all, is hopelessly complex and does not allow you to amend it to something more memorable. The system is dreadfully slow at times. This has not been helped by the story reported to me that the 'techies' are playing with what they consider to be a vast playground, thus slowing the exchange of essential data through the supply pipes.

At the end of a data entry session, the machine often reports the incorrect entry of data, without being too specific what is wrong. All these things combine to make a frustrating system that nobody likes. 42 horses landed at Frankfurt last month took 7 hours to register. This did nothing for animal welfare as they had to stand around all that time, almost as long as the transatlantic flight itself.

Current Status

- **Complex**
- **Unforgiving**
- **Slow**
- **Unstable**
- **Still under development**

Current Status

- **Fortunately, a paper submission is acceptable, so we can still pass it on to the local administrative office for them to make the data entry!**
- **So, in spite of my criticisms, TRACES is now sitting up and taking a lightly boiled egg, and we must all learn to live with it.**

