



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 07/21

# Certifying Officer stamps – non-live fishery products to China

Date issued: 25 November 2021

### Purpose

1. Provides an update to Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) on using their stamps when certifying non-live fishery products to China.

### Background

2. The Chinese authorities maintain a register of all stamps and signatures of UK certifying officers for exports of fish products to China, as an anti-fraud measure. Unique stamps were introduced for all FCCOs in 2020 to be used in place of Local Authority stamps.
3. An updated register of all certifying officer stamps and signatures was submitted to General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) in early 2021, with further updates submitted throughout 2021. GACC has only now updated their systems to reflect these updates.

### Update

4. GACC has updated the certifying officers' fishery stamps and signatures list on their systems.
5. FCCOs whose details were included in submissions to GACC up to and including the September 2021 submission should **use their unique FCCO stamps effective immediately** for certification of fish products to China.
6. Only FCCO stamps submitted to APHA before 23 September 2021 are included in the GACC update.

7. Only FCCOs who have their stamps and signatures registered with GACC should certify exports of fishery products to China.
8. As far as Defra is aware exports currently in transit will be accepted with Local Authority stamps, but please contact [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk) if you encounter any issues.
9. For certification of live fishery exports to China using EHC [7432](#) and EHC [7469](#), certifying officers should already be using their unique stamps as communicated previously.

## Further Information

10. For further information please contact [exports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:exports@apha.gov.uk)