

Introduction on TRACES

TRACES (TRAdE Control and Expert System) is the online multilingual management tool of the European Commission used for the notification, certification and monitoring of trade in animals, products of animal origin, feed and food of non-animal origin as well as plants, seeds and propagating materials, imported from outside the European Union (EU) or travelling through the EU Member States.

TRACES is available 24/7 in 37 languages and is free of charge, which makes it an attractive tool for the private and public sectors involved in the export of products to the EU.

Should there be a issue with a consignment, TRACES quickly tracks back to the original source of the problem and forward to the destination. This represents a major leap forward in monitoring animal diseases and combatting fraud, whilst significantly speeding up administrative procedures.

Issuing export certificates through TRACES allows consulting the related entry documents generated at the EU border through a hyperlink. This facilitates the direct communication between the competent authorities involved and provides a direct feedback on the decision taken at the EU border (e.g. link with the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed).

Moreover, TRACES offers statistical tools that can be used to rapidly extract data and help competent authorities supervise their own work.

By 2016, there were around 36.000 TRACES users worldwide who generated more than 1.9 million certificates.

While Algeria and Tunisia are already using TRACES for their exports to the EU (mainly for fishery products), training on the TRACES application was given to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past weeks. Training can be extended to any other country expressing an interest.