

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea
and the Department of Agriculture of Australia
on Electronic Certification Cooperation**

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea and the Department of Agriculture of Australia (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Sides” and individually as “Side”), desire to enhance cooperation between the Sides in the launch of electronic certification (hereinafter referred to as “eCert”, see paragraph 2 of this MOU for definition), have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph 1. Objective

The Sides will facilitate cooperation in the launch of an eCert exchange for agriculture (‘agriculture’ hereinafter includes livestock products), food and fisheries products traded between the Republic of Korea and Australia. The initial pilot program will be establishing an eCert exchange for Australian meat products exported to the Republic of Korea.

Paragraph 2. Definition

The term “electronic certification (eCert)” means an electronic transmission of jointly decided government-to-government certification between the Sides.

Paragraph 3. Areas of Cooperation

1. The Sides will collaborate to develop and commence an eCert exchange system for agriculture food and fisheries products that are imported and exported between the two countries.
 - The initial pilot program will be an eCert exchange for meat products exported from Australia to the Republic of Korea. The dates and timeframes for its implementation will be jointly decided upon by the Sides.
2. The Sides will collaboratively promote technical exchanges on eCert between experts of the two countries, including but not limited to, onsite inspections, system interoperability enhancement, pilot programs and data security.
3. The Sides will pursue paperless certification through the pilot program operated by the two Sides. The dates and timeframes for development and implementation will be jointly decided upon by the Sides.
4. The Sides will make efforts to move to an eCert system for trade in both directions between the two countries and to expand the range of traded goods managed by the eCert system.
5. The Sides will promote the active use of the eCert system in the trade of agriculture, food and fisheries products between the two countries.
6. The Sides will exchange information on and discuss issues of mutual interest related to eCert, including but not limited to, technological innovations e.g. Login credentials, Digital certificates and Blockchain technology for data security.
7. The Sides will seek to work cooperatively on eCert matters in relevant multilateral and international forums.

Paragraph 4. General Provision

1. This MOU is not intended to create any legally binding obligations between the Sides under national or international laws.
2. The Sides will bear their own costs associated with the implementation of this MOU unless otherwise jointly decided by the Sides.
3. This MOU will be carried out within the framework of the respective laws and regulations of the two countries and subject to the availability of appropriate funds and personnel of the Sides.

Paragraph 5. Resolution of Differences

Any differences arising from the interpretation, application and/or implementation of this MOU will be resolved amicably through consultations between the Sides.

Paragraph 6. Entry into Effect, Duration, Termination and Amendment

1. This MOU will come into effect on the date of its signature by the Sides.
2. This MOU will remain in effect until it is terminated.
3. Either Side may terminate this MOU by providing the other Side with three month's prior written notice. This MOU will cease to have effect three months after the other Side receives this notice.
4. This MOU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Sides. Amendments will take effect on a date jointly decided upon by the Sides through an exchange of letters.
5. The Sides will review this MOU annually in the month of June.

Paragraph 7. Liaison Officials

All notices and communications issued under this MOU will be issued to the following personnel who which act as the contact point for each respective Side.

Republic of Korea

[eCert Administrator]

ecertadministrator

@korea.kr

Imported Food Safety Policy Bureau

Ministry of Food and Drug Safety

Australia

[eCert Administrator]

ecertadministrator

@agriculture.gov.au


Export Division

Department of Agriculture

SIGNED in duplicate at Canberra, on 24 / 06 / 2019, in the English and Korean languages, both texts being equally valid. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

For the Ministry of Food and Drug
Safety of the Republic of Korea

For the Department of Agriculture
of Australia



Director General

Imported Food Safety Policy Bureau



First Assistant Secretary

Exports Division