DAHD

DAHD revises the health certificate for bovine serum imports

A DAHD memorandum of April 2, 2026 issues the revised veterinary health certificate for bovine serum imports, fully in force six months after notice to the WTO.

THE DEPARTMENT OF Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, issued an Office Memorandum dated April 2, 2026, File No. L-110109(4)/13/2025-Trade (E- 36492), on the "Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Bovine Serum into India". It refers to addendum notification G/SPS/N/IND/333/Add.1, dated February 27, 2026, which notified the certificate to the WTO SPS Committee. The memorandum says the requirements were further reviewed and revised considering comments received from WTO member countries. The enclosed certificate "will serve as official veterinary health certificate requirements for import of bovine serum into India". It has the approval of the Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Dr. Gagan Garg, Joint Commissioner (Trade), signed it. DAHD posted it on its website on April 23, 2026.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

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Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

DOCUMENT

Office Memorandum, File No. L-110109(4)/13/2025-Trade (E- 36492)

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DAHD · April 2, 2026

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On timing, the memorandum says the certificate "will be completely in force after transition / migration period of six months from the date of notification to the WTO SPS Committee". It gives no calendar date. It goes to the Regional Officers and Quarantine Officers of the Animal Quarantine and Certification Service (AQCS) at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad, to share with all stakeholders including importers. It also goes to the Joint Secretary (Customs), Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, the SPS Division of the Department of Commerce, and NIC, DAHD, for upload on DAHD's and AQCS's websites.

The four-page certificate has three parts. The general information part identifies the consignment, the exporter and importer, the countries of origin and destination, the port of entry, the container and seal, the Sanitary Import Permit (SIP) or DGFT licence, and the product. A footnote says imports of livestock products are subject to the Live-stock Importation Act, 1898 and the rules under it. In the sanitary information part, an official veterinarian certifies the eleven statements in the table below and signs under an official stamp. They cover the disease status of the country of origin, the source animals, collection, handling, packaging and transit, testing, and intended purpose. Testing is to follow "World Organisation for Animal Health" guidelines, with test reports endorsed officially and attached. A disease the country is free of needs no testing, but the certification of country freedom must be provided.

The third part sets post-import clearance requirements. On arrival, AQCS examines the consignment and the documents. If the documents do not conform and the product is not as per protocol, DAHD takes appropriate action at the importing agency's cost under notification S.O. 2666 (E) of October 17, 2014. The material is to be handled under laboratory biosafety and biosecurity guidelines, and the destination laboratory must have the regulatory approvals and proper biosafety levels. Disposal follows the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules. The importing agency must dispose of leftover serum scientifically, with no exposure to susceptible animal species, and keep serum disposal data.

The memorandum does not say which requirements changed after the WTO comments, and it does not say what applies to imports during the six months. Two later documents relate to it. India's addendum G/SPS/N/IND/333/Add.2, dated April 22, 2026, told the WTO SPS Committee that the revised measure was adopted and published on April 2, 2026, and "enters into force after transaction/migration period of six months from the date of circulation of the G/SPS/N/IND/333/Add.2 notification". It gives no date either. DAHD's Office Memorandum of October 23, 2026 clarifies six clauses of the certificate.

Issued by	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Document	Office Memorandum, File No. L-110109(4)/13/2025-Trade (E- 36492)
Dated	April 2, 2026
Posted by DAHD	April 23, 2026
Subject	"Veterinary Health Certificate for Import of Bovine Serum into India"
Refers to	Addendum notification G/SPS/N/IND/333/Add.1, dated February 27, 2026, to the WTO SPS Committee
Applies to	Imports of bovine serum into India
Takes effect	"completely in force after transition / migration period of six months from the date of notification to the WTO SPS Committee"; no date stated
Certificate signed by	An official veterinarian, under official stamp
On arrival	Consignment and documents examined by the Animal Quarantine and Certification Services, DAHD
Approval	Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Signed by	Dr. Gagan Garg, Joint Commissioner (Trade)
Later	WTO addendum G/SPS/N/IND/333/Add.2, April 22, 2026: revised measure adopted and published April 2, 2026, in force after six months from that addendum's circulation; DAHD Office Memorandum of October 23, 2026 clarifies six clauses of the certificate

Sanitary information: what the official veterinarian certifies

Statement	Requirement

i	The country of origin of raw material and final product is under negligible Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4 of Terrestrial Animal Health Code by the World Organisation for Animal Health; or bovine serum has been obtained from the source animals not subjected to a stunning process with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process, or to any other procedure that can contaminate the blood with nervous tissue, prior to slaughter and collected and processed in a manner that ensures they are not contaminated with nervous tissue.
ii	The country of origin of raw material and final product is free from Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus and Foot and Mouth Disease Virus as per World Organisation for Animal Health listing; or in case the import is from the Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus and Foot and Mouth Disease Virus positive country, the consignment should be accompanied with a certificate of quality analysis and tested negative for Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus and Foot and Mouth Disease Virus.
iii	The product originates from source animal which had undergone ante- and post-mortem inspections, which have been slaughtered for human consumption at an abattoir approved by the National Veterinary Authority of the country of origin in accordance with Chapter 6.3 of Terrestrial Animal Health Code by the World Organisation for Animal Health with favourable results and shows no clinical sign of any infectious and contagious diseases related to the source animal species including Anthrax, Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease; or the product is obtained from the live and healthy source animals originated from the approved establishments free from any infectious or contagious diseases related to the source animal species including Anthrax, Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease for the last three months.
iv	The source animals originate from an approved establishment and the documented animal traceability system is in place.
v	The product came from the source animal which has not been kept in the infected zone and establishment for the diseases related to source animal species and have not been derived from the source animal species slaughtered/culled as part of an eradication/control program for any disease related to source animal species.
vi	The product has been collected by the expert and trained team approved by the competent authority of country of origin as per standard and approved procedures as approved by the official authority of country of origin as per international guidelines related to laboratory bio-safety and bio-security.
vii	Care has been taken to ensure that the product is produced and handled in a manner which ensures that the product do not contain and is not contaminated with any pathogenic agents or organism with no threat to outside environment and related species.
viii	Guidelines for International transfer (IATA guidelines) or other internationally approved guidelines including packaging (triple layered) shall be followed as per the category and nature of the product and spillage and leakage must be strictly avoided.
ix	Adequate precautions were taken after collection, processing and during transit to avoid contact and contamination of product with any potential source of infection. The product is packed in fresh, clean packing material and the materials are not exposed to any products with potential source of infectious materials.

x	Serum should be sterile; or serum should be tested negative for diseases namely Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Blue Tongue, Reoviruses and Adenoviruses (as relevant), Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL), Rift Valley Fever (RVF).
xi	The serum is fit for intended purpose (state the purpose).

The office memorandum (PDF, 753 KB)

Source: DAHD's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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Read online: indusdesk.com/dahd/insights/dahd-revises-the-health-certificate-for-bovine-serum-imports/