



## Global Partners System Guide "E-certificate Exchange System"

### Introduction:

The Ports' and Food Control Section / Ministry of Public Health under the Food Control Law No. (8) of 1990 and its amendments is specialized in controlling imported food consignments and ensuring their safety and suitability for human consumption. As part of the section's plans in developing the work mechanisms, This system was launched the "Global Partners System" in order to exchange the health and phytosanitary certificates as well as Halal and Halal Slaughtering certificates related to the foodstuff shipments exported to the State of Qatar in an electronical form in a much safer and easier way. Considering the saving effort and fees currently spent on the ratification of these certificates in the country of origin or country of export, the communication with the competent authorities through this system will provide an easier way to exchange information on the requirements of these documents between both sides (exporting countries and Qatar).

Despite the importance of using this system by the official authorities responsible for issuing the relevant certificates or the authorized boddies by the official authorities, the decision to deal with this system remains within the scope of the non-mandatory option in the first phase of its application. Therefore, it is up to the countries of export to decide to use this system if they found it a way to facilitate the procedures for exporters to export their products to the State of Qatar As well as taking its decision to continue issuing certificates and sending them as certified hard copies with exported food consignments as currently applied.

### The certificates that will be exchanged through the system

The Ministry of Public Health adopts the principle of food control throughout the food chain as a general principle for achieving the highest possible level of food safety. The Ministry of Public Health recognizes that food control is a shared responsibility of all relevant parties. Effective cooperation and coordination between all these parties is the best way to get the best results by ensuring a balance between food safety and trade facilitation.

The health certificate / phytosanitary certificate is an important guarantee by the competent authority in the country of origin / export to indicate of the safety of food exported from the farm to the export port, as well as Halal and halal slaughtering certificates within its jurisdiction. Therefore, the Ministry of Public Health requires that these certificates to be issued by the official authorities that are directly concerned with the process of food control or halal requirements or through the bodies adopted for this purpose. The Ministry of Public Health considers the necessity



of the accuracy and credibility of these documents as a prerequisite for ensure the safety, suitability of food and certainly that the authorities which issue these certificates are just as concerned.

To ensure that these certificates achieve the objective of their issuance, the Ministry of Public Health has clearly defined the three requirements that must be provided in these certificates, which are:

- To be issued by a competent official authority or by an authorized body by the official authority or to be issued by the accredited Islamic Center for Halal and Halal slaughtering certificates.
- To be related to the shipment and not being a general certificate related to the plant of production.
- To contain clear attestation (statement) according to the nature of the product itself.

Compliance with these requirements will have a positive effect on reducing the level of risk and will facilitate the inspection procedures at the port of entry.

### **Information about the guide and the letter from the competent authority:**

A guide issued includes an explanation of the registration process that must be done by a nominated or authorized staff by the competent authority in the country of origin / export to use the system in the process of sending / exchanging relevant certificates.

The guide adopted an illustrative methodology by identifying the fields as they are shown in the system, then presenting notes and clarifications for the registration and the method of exchange the certificates so that the process will be as clear

One of the requirements of the registration is to attach a letter from the official authority, which is responsible for issuing the certificates. Its purpose is to verify the validity of the authorization of the staff by their bodies or agencies or entities to send or exchange certificates through the system. No user name will be approved without this letter.

It is normal that there are several authorized individuals for this purpose, due to different and the multiplicity of the ports of exportation, so there is no specific number of persons authorized from each authority and this option was left to the competent authorities in the country of origin / export.

A template has been developed for this letter. This template is not mandatory in its form and is intended only to highlight the basic information that will be included in the letter in order to avoid the rejection of the registration due to incomplete information. The competent authorities may also issue the letter in both Arabic and / or English languages.

One of the most important required information is the clearness of the text for the authorization of the use of the system, and clearly adding the name(s) of the authorized staff and their signatures,



official stamps, job positions, and contact information. In addition, it is important to include an e-mail address of the responsible person to correspond with him/her if necessary.

The most important relevant information have been carefully included in the guide, however you can contact to answer any queries through the contact information of the Ports' Health and Food Control section described below, we will be keen to respond to your inquiries as soon as possible.

Email: [port.health@mophgov.qa](mailto:port.health@mophgov.qa) Contact Numbers: 44070226 - 44070236