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From Single Window to E-Certification Kenya's experience with the use of single window, TRACESNT and the road ahead towards Veterinary e-Certification

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What we'll cover

01

Kenya's trade facilitation journey

From paper-based certification to a national single window

02

What the TFP does today

Scope, agencies integrated, and how DVS uses it for processing permits

03

What TFP is — and isn't

Why a single window is not yet veterinary e-certification



What we'll cover.....

04

The road to e-certification

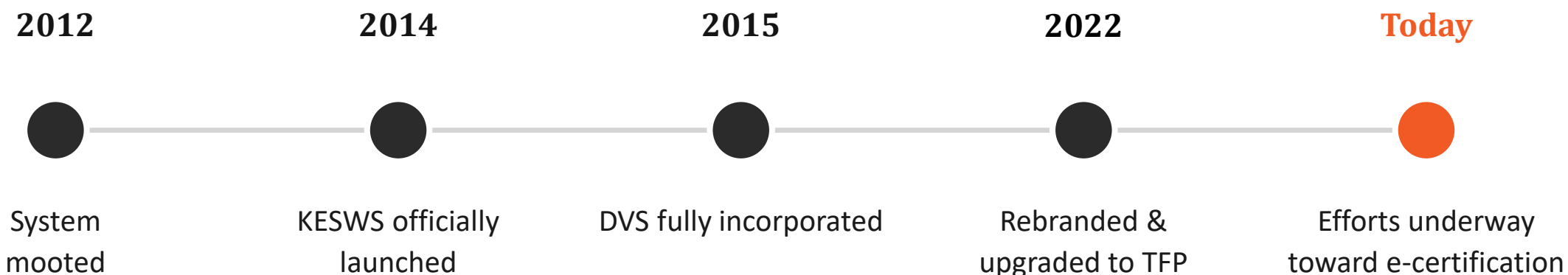
Kenya's current efforts and what's needed to get there

05

Kenya's Experience in Using E-certification system - The case of TRACES NT

Kenya's trade facilitation journey

A Vision 2030 flagship project under the Economic Pillar, aimed at cutting the cost and time of clearing goods at Kenya's borders.



Roles

DVS – approvals and managing the admin. Function within the system via the liaison officer

Liaison officer – link between DVS and KENTRADE/other agencies and stakeholders

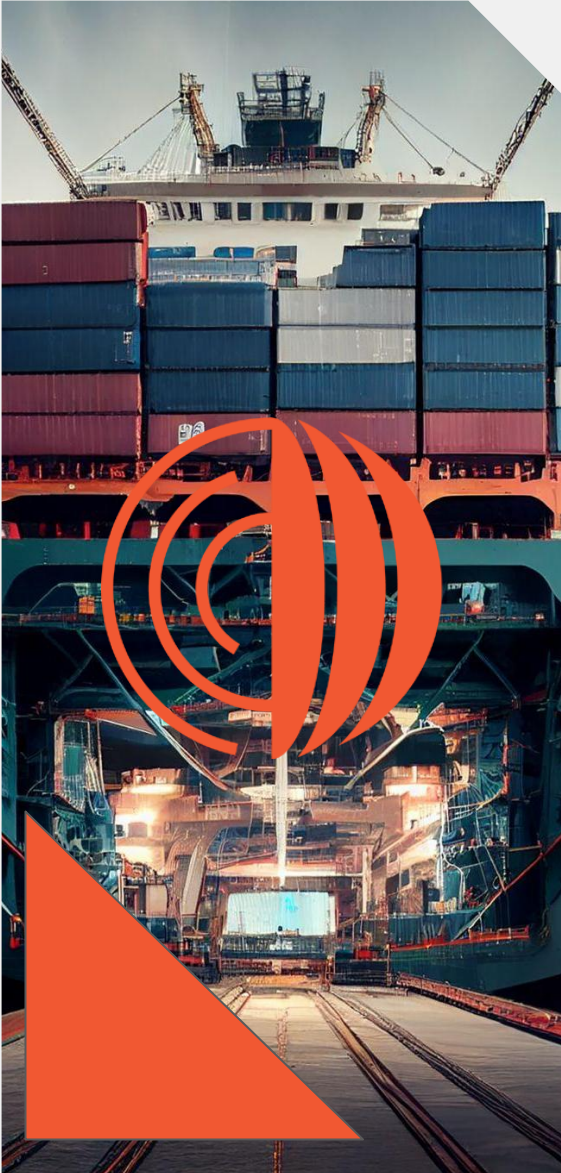
KENTRADE – system supervision

Clearing agents – applications on behalf of EXIMs

BIPs – inspection of goods and documents



What the TFP does today



A single entry point

- A facility that lets parties in trade and transport lodge standardised information and documents once, to fulfil all import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements.

How it works

- Trader submits once — routed automatically to every relevant agency. Integrated payment gateway across major banks.

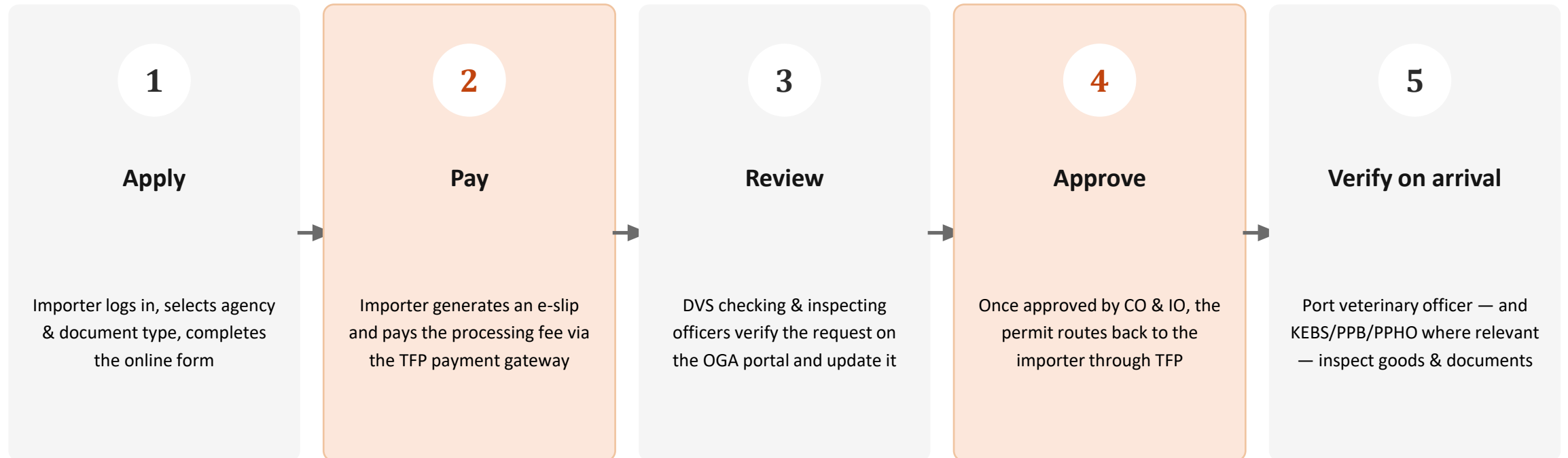
Agencies integrated into the TFP

- DVS, KRA, KEBS, PPB, KEPHIS, KPA, KWS, and banks (payment gateway) all connect through the platform.

Full visibility

- Responses from all agencies returned to the trader in one place. Reporting module for import/export & revenue tracking.

How DVS processes a permit through TFP



Note: For export, compliance is evidenced by supporting documents — e.g. health certificates — attached to the permit. Transit permits are still issued offline, as transit has not yet been configured into the system

Benefits Kenya has realised

1

Faster turnaround

Application-to-approval time cut to about 2 days or less in DVS's early rollout experience

2

Less duplication

One submission reaches every agency — no repeat manifests, permits or IDF paperwork

3

Greater transparency

Standardised, predictable processing with fewer physical touchpoints for applicants

4

End-to-end monitoring

Progress is trackable across every step, with built-in import/export & revenue reporting

A single window is not yet e-certification

TFP digitises the administrative workflow around a permit. It does not yet issue the veterinary health certificate itself as a secure digital, chain-of-custody document.

What TFP handles

- ✓ Traders submit permit applications online, with requests routing automatically to DVS and partner agencies for review and approval
- ✓ Statutory fees are paid directly in the platform through an integrated bank gateway, with automatic receipting for each transaction
- ✓ A single consignment's documents are shared across all relevant regulatory agencies at once, removing the need to visit each one separately
- ✓ Traders and DVS officers can track a permit's status in real time and pull reports on permits issued, pending or rejected



Lessons from the use of SW

1

A national single window is a strong, achievable first step — it builds the institutional coordination e-certification will later depend on.

2

Digitising the workflow around a permit is not the same as digitising the certificate itself

3

Interoperability — with trading partners' systems

4

Capacity-building and infrastructure (connectivity, trained officers) are as important as the software



Kenya is developing a Veterinary e-Certification System

DVS is building a national platform to issue, sign, and exchange veterinary health certificates digitally.

Digital certificate issuance

Secure, tamper-evident digital health certificates replace paper-based IVCs and health certificates

Electronic signature

A legally recognised e-signature from the competent authority replaces wet-ink signatures and stamps

System-to-system exchange

Certificates are verified in real time between Kenya's platform and the importing country's border authority

Chain of custody

Each certificate is traceable



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KENYA'S EXPERIENCE IN E-CERTIFICATION

The case of TRACES NT

Lessons for veterinary export certification, official controls and digital SPS compliance

KENYA

EU
MARKET

SPS



1. Digital certification is a control system, not just a paper replacement

TRACES combines certification, establishment listing, role-based access and access to EU border-control outcomes in one platform.

2. Trust depends on governance

The platform uses EU Login, second-factor authentication and granular roles linking users to authorities/operators and domains.

3. Kenya's opportunity is interoperability

For Kenya, the practical lesson is to connect competent-authority workflows, official certification and export-traceability systems so that data follows the consignment.



Core functions

- Paperless issuance of official certificates
- Application/listing of establishments authorised to export to the EU
- Access to EU entry-document outcomes and official controls
- Exchange of information with other systems

System characteristics

- Internet-accessible 24/7/365
- Multilingual interface and integrated EU requirements
- Role-based access and secure handling of sensitive data
- Developed and maintained by the European Commission; free of charge



Why e-certification changes the export process

01

Prepare

Correct certificate
template
HS nomenclature &
requirements

02

Certify

Create official
certificate
Electronic
signature

03

Transmit

Paperless
exchange
Traceable digital
record

04

Learn

View EU border-
control outcome
Faster non-
compliance
feedback



User

Individual identity via EU
Login: email + password +
second factor.

Entity

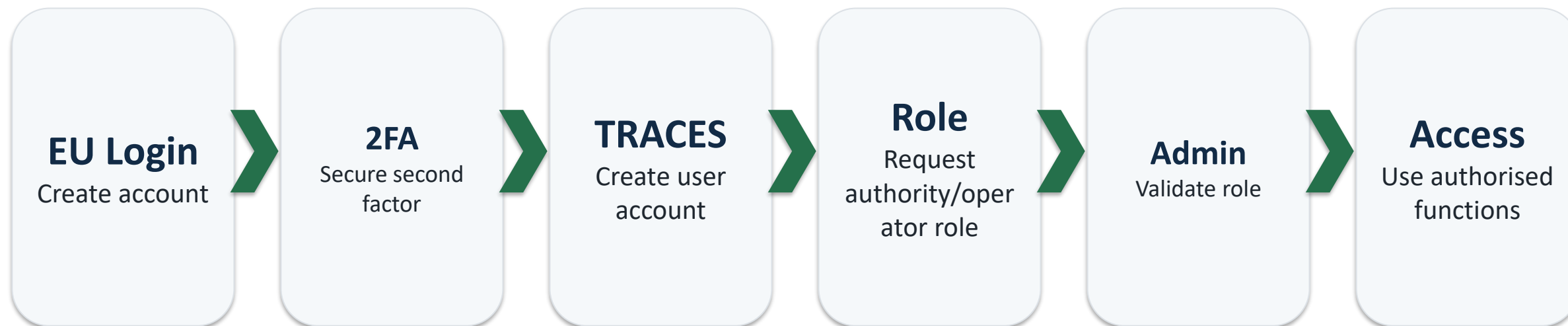
Every user is affiliated to
an Authority or Operator.

Role & profile

Access depends on role,
domain, chapter, section
and activity type.

Kenya lesson

A national e-certification platform should encode the same principle: **identity** → **institution** → **mandate** → **function** → **action**.



Critical control point

Role requests are validated by an authorised administrator or, where no user exists, by the appropriate support/authority route.



Exporter / establishment

Consignment & supporting data

Official veterinarian / authority

Create certificate Part I

Competent authority

Validate / eSign Part II

EU border control

Receive & process electronically

Kenyan authority / operator

View outcome and manage follow-up

Key design principle

The same consignment data should not be repeatedly re-entered across disconnected systems. Digital certification creates a traceable record that can be reused and verified.



Kenya's starting point

Kenya already operates digital trade/export processes thro single window system and engages with electronic certification for international consignments. The strategic question is how to make veterinary certification more interoperable, authoritative and data-driven.

What TRACES adds as a reference model

A single governance framework linking user identity, authority/operator profiles, establishment status, certificate creation, official validation/eSignature and access to destination-country control outcomes.

A single window is not yet e-certification

TFP digitises the administrative workflow around a permit. It does not yet issue the veterinary health certificate itself as a secure digital, chain-of-custody document.



TRACES as a benchmark for Kenya's e-certification journey

Capability	TRACES reference model	Kenya design implication
Identity	EU Login + second factor	Strong user identity and MFA for authorised certifiers
Authority	Authority/operator hierarchy	Clear DVS–county–establishment relationships
Permissions	Role/domain/activity based	Least-privilege access to certificate functions
Certification	Create → validate → eSign	End-to-end official veterinary certification
Establishments	Managed authorised-export lists	Master list of approved/eligible establishments
Feedback	CHED/control outcomes visible	Close the loop from destination controls to risk management



Speed

Reduce physical-document handling and repetitive data entry.

Integrity

Use controlled templates, validation and eSignature.

Traceability

Create an auditable chain from establishment to certificate to border outcome.

Transparency

Improve visibility of establishment approval/listing status.

Risk management

Use destination-market non-compliance information to target controls.

Service delivery

Give exporters and officials a guided, consistent digital process.



How Kenya should measure success

Processing time

Average time from application
to validated e-certificate

First-time-right

Share of certificates completed
without correction

Digital adoption

% eligible consignments
processed electronically

Traceability

% consignments with complete
digital audit trail

Compliance

Non-compliance trends by
establishment/product/destinati
on

Availability

Platform uptime and incident
resolution time

Management principle

Measure the digital system as a food-safety and trade-facilitation system—not merely as an IT project.



1. E-certification works best when certification, establishment data and border outcomes are connected.
2. Identity and role-based access are foundational to trust in official veterinary certification.
3. Electronic signatures and controlled templates strengthen integrity and accountability.
4. Interoperability—not digitisation in isolation—is the major strategic opportunity.
5. Kenya should use the TRACES model as a benchmark while designing for its own legal, institutional and technical environment.

Closing message

The end goal is not simply a paperless certificate. It is a trusted, traceable and data-driven SPS certification chain.

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