

What is “CertEX” and how does the system work?

In NL/EU day-to-day practice, people often use “CertEX” as an umbrella term for the **digital certificates/official controls workflow** around **(pre-)notification and border controls**. The core is:

- **TRACES NT** is the EU system where consignments that fall under SPS/official controls are **notified** using a **CHED**:
 - **CHED-P** (plants/plant products),
 - **CHED-A** (animals),
 - **CHED-PP** (products of animal origin / POAO),
 - **CHED-D** (certain goods / food & feed of non-animal origin, depending on the regime).
- In the Netherlands this is commonly referred to as **“GGB”** (Gemeenschappelijk Gezondheidsdocument bij Binnenkomst) — in practice the Dutch naming/handling of the **CHED** workflow.

Process at a glance (end-to-end):

1. **Scope check**: does the commodity/consignment fall under EU “official controls” (phytosanitary, veterinary, high-risk FNAO, etc.)?
2. **Pre-notification**: importer/agent creates a **CHED/GGB** in TRACES NT and attaches:
 - consignment details (origin, destination, HS/commodity code, quantities, packaging),
 - documents (certificates, analyses, attestations),
 - logistics (BIP/BCP, ETA, container/vessel/flight data).
3. **Arrival & controls** by NVWA/BCP:
 - documentary check,
 - identity check,
 - (where applicable) physical check / sampling.
4. **Decision**: release / release with conditions / rejection / redirection / destruction / re-export.
5. **Downstream effect**: release is often a prerequisite for **customs clearance** and onward movement.

Important: a **CHED/GGB is consignment-based**, not “product-based”. You can’t use one CHED indefinitely for multiple physical shipments.

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