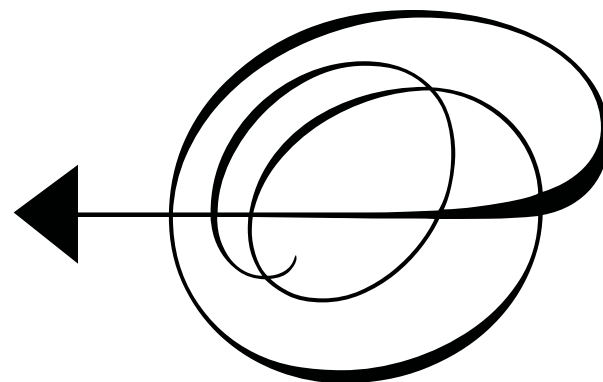




International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

www.ippc.int

ePhyto *Factsheet*



Background

Key to successful national economic growth is worldwide exports of national products and an important component of those exports are its plant products. Trade is expected to expand as both the capacity to trade and the interest to trade increase, this expansion will also create opportunities that benefit rural areas. This continued reliance on regional and international trade for stimulating economic growth, including trade in agricultural and forestry products as well as food, will put increasing pressure on the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). NPPOs will need to effectively manage the pest risks inherent in these new or expanding trade flows. Members of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) will have to develop the necessary international standards to help harmonize requirements and NPPOs will need to increase their knowledge base and technical capacity to help ensure safe trade.

Timely acceptance and processing of these traded plants and plant products at port-of-entries (POE) is important to reduce wastage, improve product viability and ensure financial benefit. One such challenge can be the phytosanitary certification verification process of agricultural products on arrival. The widely used current model of phytosanitary transmission is the paper certificate that accompanies commodity shipments. The next step in this evolution is the secure electronic transmission of certification data directly between the exporting and importing NPPO.

The governing body of the IPPC, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) is leading in the development of an international standard for electronic transmission protocols and procedures, which is based on the ISPM 12:2011. To attain this goal, the CPM has established three IPPC ePhyto working groups which work under the oversight of an IPPC ePhyto steering committee

Recent Developments

CPM-6 (2011) adopted a revision to ISPM 12:2011 with a blank Appendix 1 on electronic certification. A draft Appendix was developed by the IPPC ePhyto steering committee, supported by working groups and the steward of ISPM 12:2011. In April 2012, the Standards Committee (SC) approved the draft Appendix for member consultation. This standard is currently out for member consultation (ocs.ippc.int), comments should be submitted through the NPPO no later than 20 October 2012. Taking member comments into consideration, the draft Appendix 1 to ISPM 12:2011 will be revised and it is hoped this will be considered for adoption by the CPM in 2014. Further information on ePhyto can be obtained from the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) or from the ePhyto page on the IPPC Website at: www.ippc.int/index.php?id=1111140.

Benefits of ePhyto

- Use of a single global International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12:2011 (Phytosanitary Certificates), for electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto)
- Reduction of potential of fraudulent documentation
- Reduction of data entry and validation functions by national plant protection organizations' (NPPO) staff i.e gains in efficiency
- Improvement of security in transmission of certificate documentation (electronic versus paper)
- Improvement of planning for the arrival and clearance of plants and plant products at customs that will need phytosanitary clearance
- Reduction in delays in receiving replacement phytosanitary certificates
- Maximization of investment by building on initiatives already in place
- Substantial reduction of the need for ongoing and costly bilateral discussions on electronic phytosanitary standards
- Ability to link into the World Customs Organization "One Window" initiative and harmonize codes and processes
- Employment of international e-business standards between governments (UN/CEFACT)

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