

Electronic Phytosanitary Certification, ePhyto

**IPPC Secretariat
Regional IPPC Workshop
2015**

ePhyto

An electronic phytosanitary certificate.

Is NOT a copy of a printed phytosanitary certificate that is emailed.

Is a secured data set using XML for transmission securely and electronically between NPPO of exporting country and NPPO importing country

Is the equivalent of a paper phytosanitary certificate and may be used if accepted by the NPPO of the importing country.



eCert and ePhyto

eCert is the general term used for electronic certification

eCert can be veterinary, phytosanitary, food safety

ePhyto is a specific term used for electronic phytosanitary certification

ePhyto follows the harmonisation as agreed by the IPPC and described in ISPM 12, Appendix 1

Benefits harmonized ePhyto

- improve security (reduce fraud)
- save costs (printing, shipping, sorting, distribution, archiving)
- expedite communication between NPPOs and save time in operational activities
- improve planning for inspection
- compatible with 'single window' initiative



CPM 10 (2015) decisions

The CPM expressed full support for:

- submission of the STDF proposal (hub and generic system)
- implementation of the STDF project by the IPPC Secretariat
- development of a hub and a generic system for ePhyto
- continued work of the IPPC ePhyto Steering Group (ESG) under oversight of the CPM Bureau
- participation of the ESG in management of the STDF project
- Developing business rules for the hub

Requested the CPM Bureau to report back to CPM-11 (2016) on the progress made on ePhyto

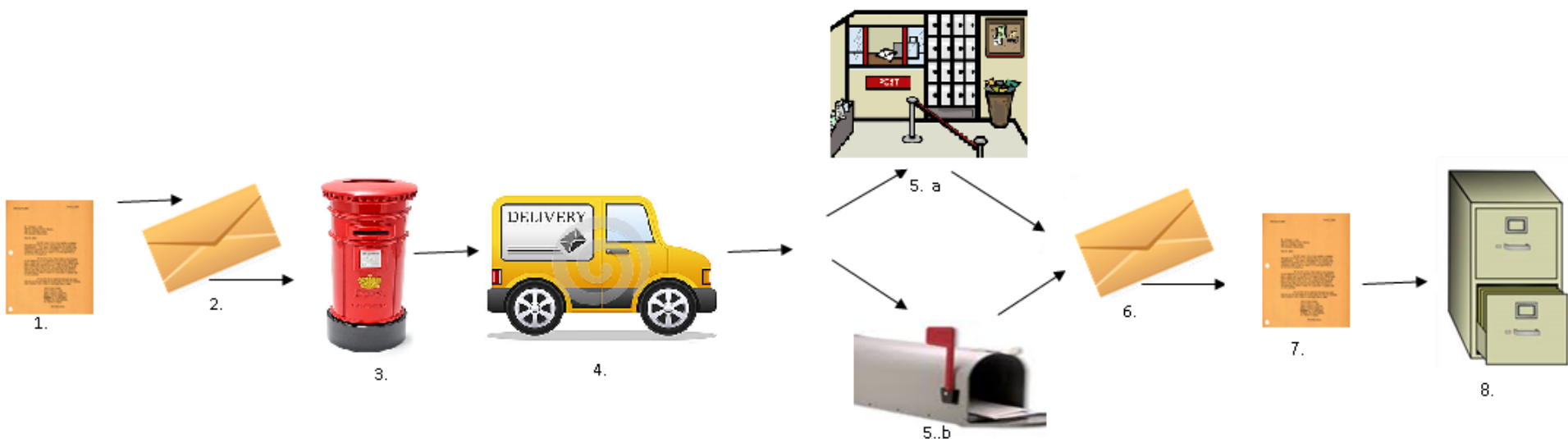


Critical Technical Components

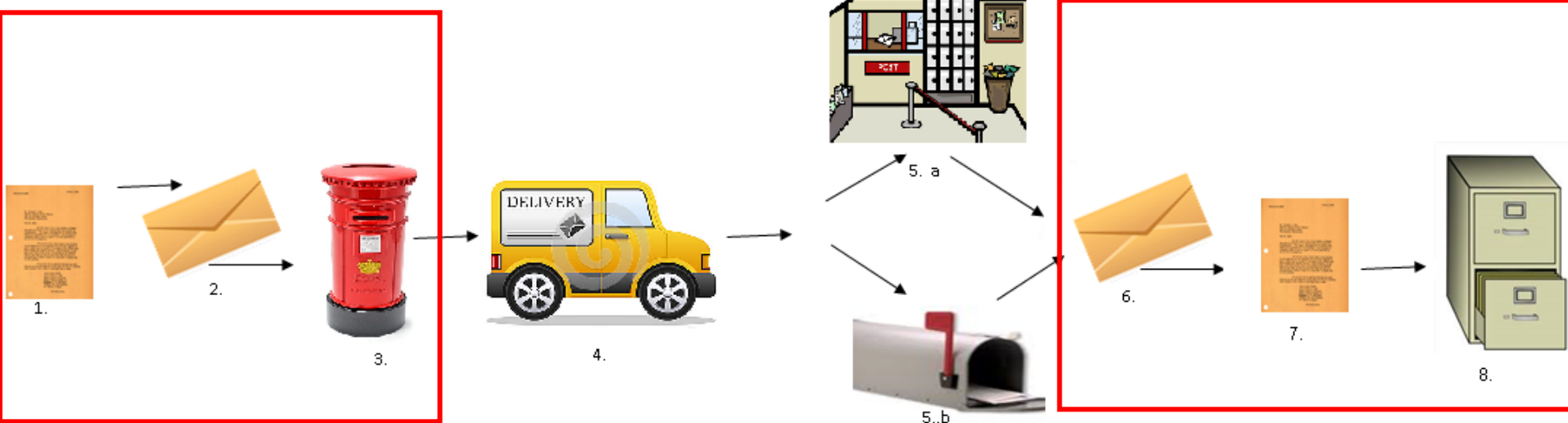
- **Availability of 'national' system**
- **Harmonisation of data exchange**
- **Efficient Electronic exchange (hub)**



Basic Functionality



Basic Functionality



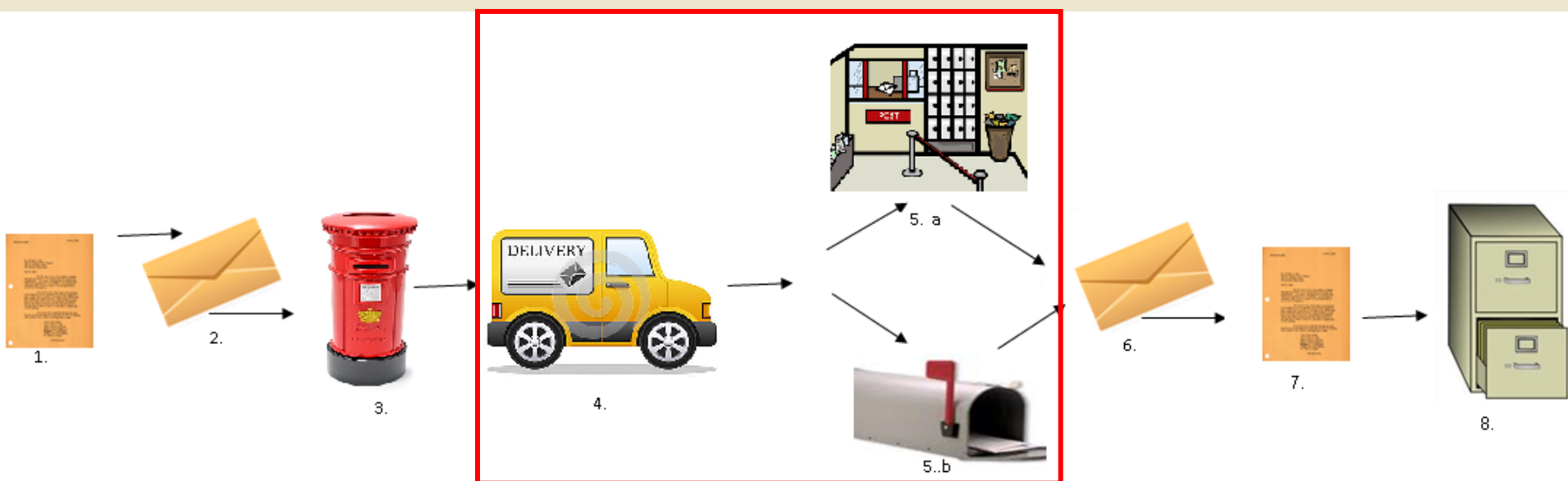
Production of message

National system

Receipt of message

For production,
dispatch, receipt,
reading and storage
of ePhytos

Basic Functionality



Exchange mechanism

Transmission of message

Either directly between NPPOs
or via a central Hub

National system

- Data entry for export certification
- Production of an ePhyto with these data
- Issuance/authorization of the ePhyto
- Sending of the ePhyto
- Printing of the sent certificate data on paper



National System

Receipt of ePhytos

Checking the authenticity of the ePhyto received

Extraction of the data from the ePhyto

Printing of the received certificate data on paper

Store the ePhytos for later reference

National system

This system can either be:

- **A truly national system, being part of a larger national system, or**
- **A generic system, made available to those countries that do not have a national system (may be web-based)**



Transmission mechanism

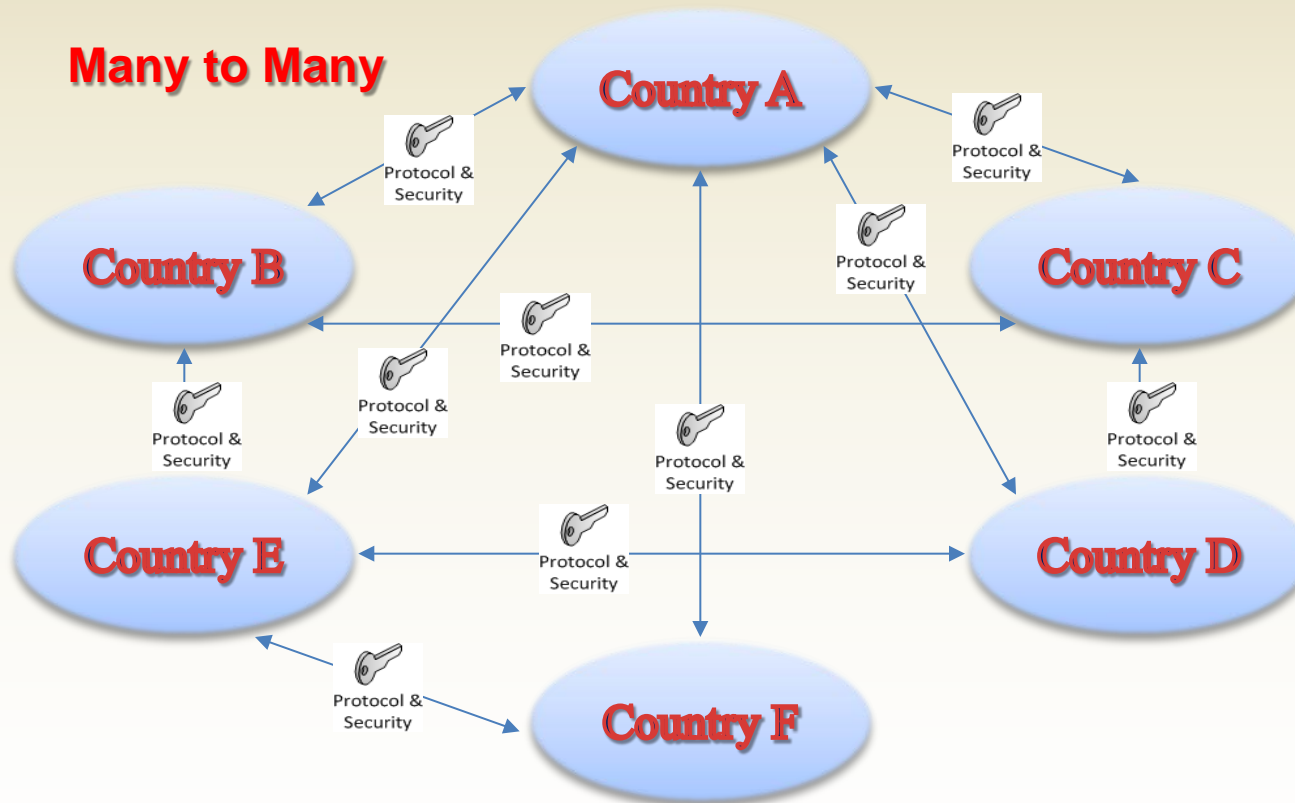
- **Transfer of ePhytos from NPPO of exporting country to NPPO of importing country**

This can either be:

- **Direct exchange between systems of two NPPOs (point-to-point), or**
- **Exchange via a central hub**

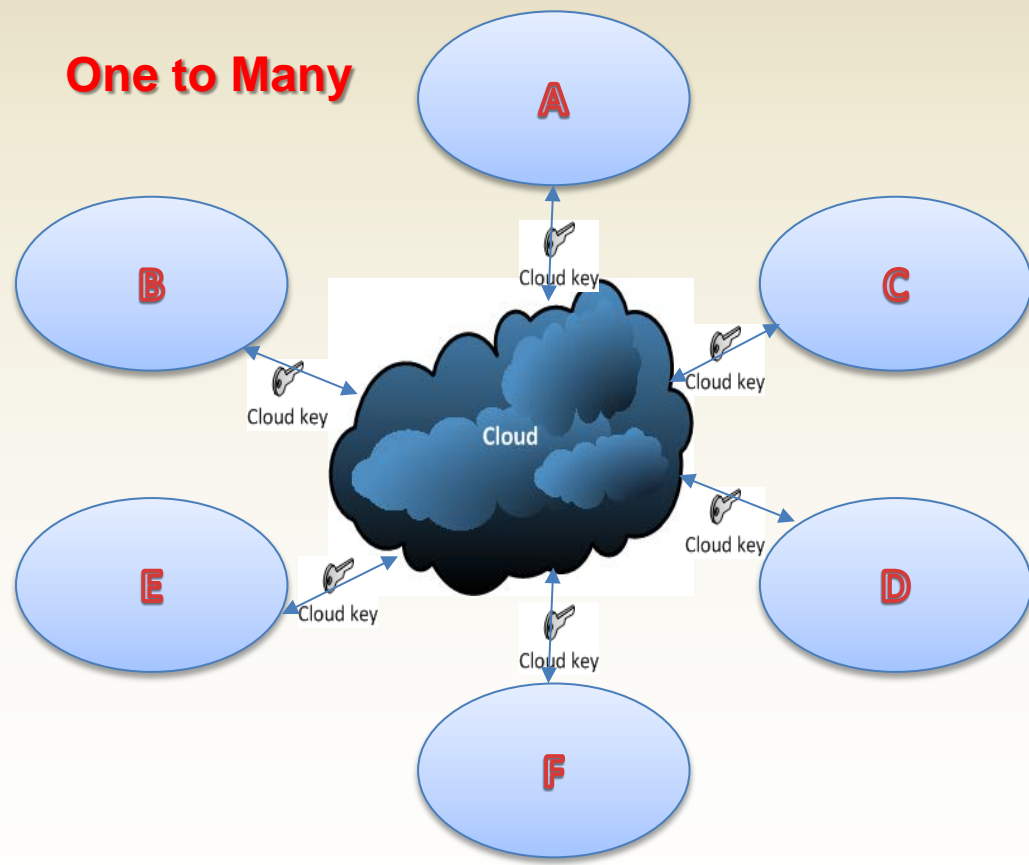


Point to Point System



THE IPPC E-PHYTO HUB

One to Many



Benefits of exchange via hub

a global ePhyto Hub will strengthen the benefits of ePhyto, and in addition

- reduce efforts of ongoing and costly bilateral arrangements.
- accelerate the harmonisation in the use of ePhyto



The Hub

- Use of the hub is Voluntary. Some countries will choose to continue to use paper certificates. Some countries may prefer point to point transmission. Countries start when they wish.
- Security and confidentiality is paramount. ePhytos are encrypted for transmission and not opened by hub.
- The cost of maintaining the hub will be based on a service business model.
- Participating countries will require a National System to exchange ePhyto data with the Hub.



Current Status of developments

- A generic national system will be developed (STDF project, web-based?)
- A hub will be developed (pilot or STDF project)
- Harmonized exchange protocol will be developed
- Cost estimate for use of hub/generic system
- System to cover the costs
- More harmonisation of message contents is needed (harmonized terms, codes, mapping)
- Awareness raising



Upcoming activities

- **Global symposium on ePhyto,
9 – 13 November 2015 in Republic of Korea**
- **Approval STDF project in October 2015?**
- **Development of a pilot hub, 2015?**
- **Development of a generic system 2015/2016?**
- **Testing of hub and generic system, 2016?**
- **Update at CPM-11 , April 2016**



Resources

- The IPPC ePhyto page:

<https://www.ippc.int/en/ephyto/>

- The IPPC ePhyto technical documents page:

<http://ephyto.ippc.int/>