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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

UN/CEFACT Business Standard

Export Certificate Business Requirement Specification

Version: 0.4.1, Revision: R.05A

This document is submitted by the UN/CEFACT Forum Management,
through the Bureau, for APPROVAL by the UN/CEFACT Plenary.

Summary

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| Business Domain: | Government to Government electronic certification for traded agricultural commodities |
| Business Process: | Electronic transmission of data exchanged between government inspection and quarantine authorities involved in border clearance activities |
| Title: | E-cert BRS |
| Version: 0.4.1 | Release: R.05A |
| Date of TBG approval: | 2005-06-05 |

Owing to its large size, the full text of this specification cannot be issued as a UN/CEFACT Plenary document. However, it can be downloaded for review by delegations from the UN/CEFACT website at www.unece.org/cefact under "Technical Specifications" in the left column menu.

Executive Summary

1. The current practice of the exchange of government-to-government certification associated with the import of agricultural commodities represents a major opportunity to improve the integrity and business processes of importing border authorities.
2. The trade of agricultural commodities is highly regulated by governments to protect human, animal and plant health. The importing authority sets standards for commodities (products) crossing their border and requires certification issued by the recognised competent export authority to verify compliance to bilaterally agreed requirements.
3. The E-cert (E-certification) system is currently operating between some trading partners and others have indicated a willingness to participate, Therefore this document seeks to initiate the process to standardise the data elements and message structure to facilitate global implementation.
4. The development of the E-cert system was a joint effort between the New Zealand Safety Authority and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service. The incentive to develop the system further for global implementation has its foundations in the Food Safety Quadrilateral Group (USA/Canada/Australia/New Zealand). Each of these countries has made significant progress in developing systems to exchange information electronically and have undertaken trials to verify the concept.
5. In principal the E-cert system is the XML version of the UN/EDIFACT compliant system, “the International movement of goods governmental regulatory message” known as SANCRT. The business process is the same for the E-cert and SANCRT systems however the technological solutions vary because of different implementation environments (E-cert being implemented on the World Wide Web.
6. The purpose of this document is to define the electronic transmission of data exchanged between government inspection and quarantine authorities involved in cross border clearance activities.
7. The structure of this document is based on the structure of the UN/CEFACT Business Requirements Specification (BRS) document reference CEFACT/ICG/005.

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