



Standards and Trade
Development Facility

Electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) certification



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UNECE Meat Seminar: trends and new developments
29 August 2016

What do we do?

- Increase SPS awareness, mobilize resources, strengthen collaboration, identify and disseminate good practice; and
- Provide support and funding for development and implementation of projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements

STDF vision: *Improved SPS capacity supports sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, food security and environmental protection*

STDF Seminar on electronic SPS certification 28 June 2016

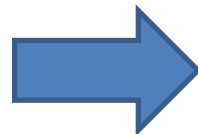
- Presentations and podcast accessible at :
<http://www.standardsfacility.org/STDF-eCert-Seminar>
- Business dialogue organized by IPPC on “private sector involvement in the deployment of electronic SPS certification”.
- Below a summary of the presentations and discussions

Electronic SPS Certification is the authenticated, non-repudiative and secure electronic transmission of sanitary and phytosanitary certification data, including the certifying statement, from the competent authority of the exporting country to the competent authority of the importing country.

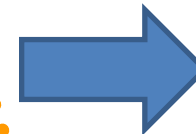
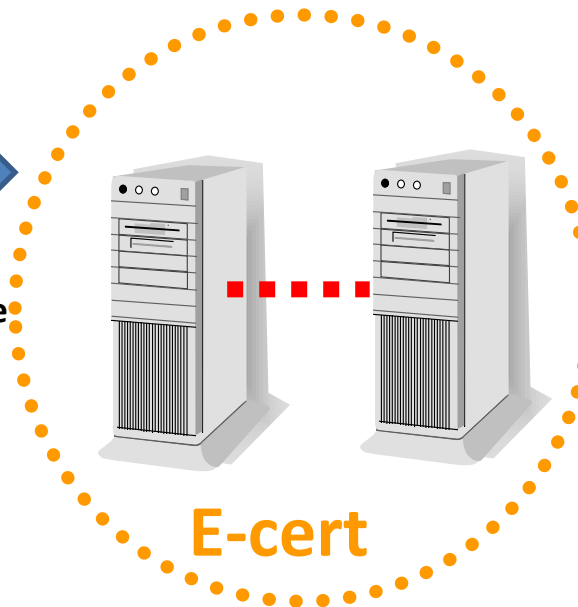
EXPORTING COUNTRY COMPETENT AUTHORITY



Certification process
Inspection procedure,
testing,...



Sending
certificate



Receiving
certificate

IMPORTING COUNTRY COMPETENT AUTHORITY



Import procedures
Inspection,
release,...

Integrity

- Electronically secured certificates
- Cross-checking in real time
- Single national register of certificates

Efficiency

- Online application and processing
- Faster processing through pre-validation
- Faster processing cuts clearance time

Security & compliance

- Very difficult to forge
- Improved compliance with policies and procedures
- Online verification for third parties / importing nations

Productivity

- Single view of all relevant information
- Searchable database with all certificates
- Simple maintenance of forms

International standards applicable to import/export certification of animal products

OIE animal health code

Art. 5.2.1. Protection of the professional integrity of the certifying veterinarian

Art. 5.2.2. Certifying veterinarians

Certifying veterinarians should:.....

Art. 5.2.3. Preparation of international veterinary certificates

Certificates should be drawn up in accordance with the following principles:.....

Art. 5.2.4. Electronic certification

Art. 5.2.4. Electronic certification

- 1) Certification may be provided by electronic exchange of data sent directly from the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country to the Veterinary Authority of the importing country.

- 2) It should allow the following:
 - a) Access by operators to the system for input of information.
 - b) Access of certifying veterinarian to all information (e.g. lab results and animal identification data).
 - c) Use internationally standardised language, message structure and exchange protocols (UN/CEFACT).
 - d) Authentication, encryption, non-repudiation,...

Codex Alimentarius

Codex guideline **CAC/GL 38-2001**: Guideline for design, production, issuance and use of generic official certificates (**Sections 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9**)

› Certificates:

- ➔ Are defined as paper or electronic documents
- ➔ Are applicable regardless the mode of transmission (paper or electronic)
- ➔ Should meet the requirements of the importing country

› Issuance of official certificates

- ➔ The competent authority of the exporting country is ultimately responsible for any certificate it issues or authorizes to be issued.

› Use of electronic certificates

2016 : Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (**CCFICS**) created an e-WG on electronic certification

Challenges and pre-requisites for implementation of electronic SPS certification

- Unlike plant health, lack of standard certificate makes negotiation more complex
- Lack of standardized exchange protocols (Considerable investment required to deal with non-standard data requirements)
- Lack of political goodwill (sometimes buy-in at top level, **BUT** resistance of mid-level management);
- Adequate legislative framework
- High costs of establishing a system (possible solutions turnkey systems payment on usage e.g. Philippines, development assistance?)
- Weak SPS systems: Paper-based system needs streamlining to start with!
- Lack of collaboration framework between relevant national agencies (Inter-agency competition)
- Weak ICT infrastructure in agencies in charge of SPS matters;
- Challenges of the system's sustainability

- Electronic SPS certification can contribute significantly to facilitating safe trade => Momentum WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Electronic SPS certification => a driver for reform (streamlining import-export business process, promoting regulatory reform and inter-institutional collaboration)
- Start with Business Process Analysis (BPA), then cost-benefit analysis.
- Include a pilot phase, a transition phase and a fall-back plan
- Establish a sustainable cost recovery mechanism
- Stakeholder consultation (acceptance by smallholders, real gains vs. what may change)
- Guidance and support to developing countries (carry out BPA, map out business process reengineering needs, and undertake the necessary cost-benefit analysis to inform investment decision).

**“Tomorrow’s exports shall be
transmitted and not
transported”**

Dubai International Airport

For more information:

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The Standards and Trade Development Facility is a global partnership that supports developing countries in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal, and plant health status and ability to gain or maintain access to markets.

NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FUNDING PROPOSALS: 3 JANUARY 2014

RECENT THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

- Facilitating safe trade**
The STDF hosts a thematic session entitled "Implementing SPS Measures to Facilitate Safe Trade" in Geneva on 26 March 2014, back-to-back with the WTO SPS Committee meetings.
- Invasive Alien Species**
The STDF organized a seminar on International Trade and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Geneva on 12-13 July 2012.
- Fruit fly**
The STDF, the HoAgB and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) initiated a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach to control fruit fly in West Africa.
- Aid for Trade**
The STDF held side event of the Fourth Global Review of Africa Trade entitled "Public-Private Partnerships in a Value Chain Context".

WHAT'S NEW | RESOURCES | EVENTS

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES
MSD terms strategy

NEWSLETTERS
BRIEFINGS
PUBLICATIONS
VIDEOS

29
03
15

Codex Committee on Residues and Toxicity Special Dietary Uses
Organization: Equities, IAS Services

WTO SPS Committee Meeting
Organization: WTO
Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene
Organization: Codex
Location: Mexico, Mexico

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