

MEMORANDUM

concerning the phytosanitary certification of plants and plant products to be exported from the EC to the Russian Federation

- 1) **Harmonisation of the Contents of Phytosanitary Certificates at EC Level**
 - a) The basis of the harmonised phytosanitary certificate shall be the IPPC model in contents.
 - b) The layout and the colour of the paper and the colour of the printing shall be of the same type and harmonised, in conformity with the Community plant health Directive.
 - c) The printing and issuing of phytosanitary certificates is the responsibility of the Member States.
 - d) Phytosanitary certificates shall be filled out in English and/or another language accepted by the importing country. Where forms are printed in a national language other than English, a translation into Russian shall be printed on the front of the form. In cases where forms are printed in English, a translation into Russian shall be printed on either the front or the back of the form.
 - e) Phytosanitary certificates shall be printed on paper carrying a watermark. Each Member State shall use a single uniform watermark. NPPOs shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the watermark is restricted to official use only.
 - f) Each Member State shall use a single uniform stamp, which may, however, contain references to the issuing body (e.g. numbers and/or abbreviations).
 - g) The official stamp shall not be pre-printed on the phytosanitary certificates.
 - h) NPPOs shall ensure that all certificates have an identification number to ensure traceability. This number shall be preceded by the letters "EC" followed by the two-digit ISO code of the issuing Member State. This identification number or another serial number identifying the blank phytosanitary certificate shall be pre-printed on the blank certificate to allow both used and unused certificates to be accounted for. The system for registering used and unused certificates shall make it possible to identify, by means of the number, the official of the NOQPP to whom blank certificates were given for use.

2) General Rules for Issuing Phytosanitary Certificates

- a) NPPOs shall ensure that appropriate measures are taken to prevent the release of certificates prior to inspection and finalisation. Such measures may include electronic transmission of data from exporters to the NPPO with a view to allowing certificates to be printed by the NPPO prior to inspection. All additional hand-written entries shall be certified by the same inspector (stamp and signature).
- b) Certificates are finalised (checked, dated, signed and stamped) *after* phytosanitary inspection by an official inspector of the NPPO.
- c) The NPPO shall ensure that there is a clear and traceable connection between each phytosanitary certificate issued and the relevant consignment. This can be achieved, for example, by indicating on the phytosanitary certificate the number of the relevant flight, ship, container, truck, trailer, etc., if known, as well as distinguishing marks or a sufficient description of the packages, where necessary. In particular, trailer or container numbers, if known, shall always be given. Distinguishing marks (e.g. stickers or labels) shall be introduced where no other means is available for ensuring a clear and traceable connection between each phytosanitary certificate issued and the relevant consignment.
- d) When certifying cut flowers, net weight should be cited along with numbers, provided that the weight is indicated on the original certificate. In the section "Number and description of packages," sufficient detail should be included to enable the NOQPP of the importing country to identify the consignment and its component parts, and verify the size if necessary. Container numbers and/or railcar numbers are a valid addition to the description of the packages and may be included here, if known. A sufficient description of the commodity should also be given, as well as the quantity, expressed as accurately as possible to enable officials in the importing country to adequately verify the contents of the consignment. If possible, internationally recognized units and terms should be used. Different phytosanitary requirements may apply to the different end uses or state of the product.
- d) To ensure traceability, the NPPO shall keep a record of all blank phytosanitary certificates printed and/or distributed to inspectors. The NPPO shall also keep a record of all phytosanitary certificates issued, including spoiled or cancelled certificates, for at least a year from the date of issue. The NPPO shall ensure that all blank phytosanitary certificates are safely stored and handled.
- e) No phytosanitary certificate shall be issued unless the requirements of the importing country have been met. The Russian Federation is responsible for up-dating information on its phytosanitary import requirements.

3) Movement of Consignments within the EC Prior to Export

As regards the phytosanitary status of consignments¹ destined for the Russian Federation, the same level of protection should apply for consignments originating in EC-countries and consignments originating in non-EC countries.

If a consignment, intended to be delivered to the Russian Federation, is split up and the resulting consignments are exported, then phytosanitary certificates for re-export and certified copies of the original phytosanitary certificate will be required to accompany such consignments.

When a consignment is imported into a country, then exported to another, the NOQPP should issue a phytosanitary certificate for re-export. The NPPO should only issue a certificate for the export of an imported consignment if the NPPO is confident that the importing country's regulations are met. Re-export certification may still be done if the consignment has been stored, split up, combined with other consignments or re-packaged, provided that it has not been exposed to infestation or contamination by pests. The original phytosanitary certificate or its certified copy should also accompany the consignment.

If the consignment, intended to be delivered to the Russian Federation, has been exposed to infestation or contamination by pests, or has lost its integrity or identity, or has been processed to change its nature, the NPPO should issue a phytosanitary certificate and not the phytosanitary certificate for re-export. The country of origin should still be indicated on the phytosanitary certificate. The NPPO must be confident that the importing country's regulations are met.

If the consignment, destined to the Russian Federation, has been grown for a specific time (depending on the commodity concerned, but usually one growing season or more) the consignment can be considered to have changed its country of origin.

If a consignment, intended to be delivered to the Russian Federation, is not imported, but is in transit through a country without being exposed to infestation or contamination by pests, the NPPO does not need to issue either a phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export. If however, the consignment is exposed to infestation or contamination by pests, the NPPO should issue a phytosanitary certificate. If the consignment is split up, combined with other consignments or repackaged, the NPPO should issue a phytosanitary certificate for re-export.

¹ For the definition of "consignment," see ISPM 5: *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*.

4) Implementation of this Memorandum

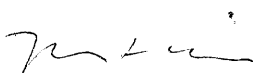
The new certificates shall enter into force as of 1 April 2005. It is also agreed to introduce a transitional period until 1 July 2005, during which old certificates will also be valid.

Brussels, 15 March 2005



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