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Food & Rural Affairs

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Dear IPPC contact points,

Update to my letter dated 26 March 2020

This note sets out additional, updated guidance on the procedures to be followed when sending electronic copies of original phytosanitary certificates in lieu of original paper certificates, in line with Article 4 of EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/466. The use of electronic copies is subject to the following conditions:

- You write to the UK's IPPC Official Contact Point to confirm you will be sending electronic copies of original certificates, including details of any official verification processes, *before* starting to issue them.
- Copies of phytosanitary certificates must still conform to the requirements of ISPM 12, including being signed, stamped and dated.
- The quality of these copies should allow for a comprehensive documentary check to be carried out, so in particular the content of the certificate should be clearly legible, all attached sheets must be included and the corresponding serial numbers clearly visible.
- In the event that there is any suspicion of fraud or falsification, then regulators will reserve the right to follow this up, and in these cases may require the original certificate to be provided or for consignments to be re-exported or destroyed.
- The original paper phytosanitary certificates for consignments exported with only an electronic copy must be provided as soon as technically feasible once the requirements referred to above have been substantially reviewed or lifted.
- The processes for supplying electronic copies are as follows, please **do not** send them directly to either myself or the UK's IPPC official contact point:

Exports to England and Wales

Electronic copies of certificates should be provided to the exporter who can then forward to the Importer in the UK and the normal process for exporting to England and Wales should then be followed, including uploading documents on the PEACH system. The requirements for exporting to England and Wales can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-plants-fruit-vegetables-or-plant-material-to-the-uk>

Exports to Scotland

Electronic copies of certificates should be provided to the exporter and the normal process for exporting to Scotland should be followed. Contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit (email: hort.marketing@gov.scot) for imports landing into Scotland and further information can be found here: <https://www.sasa.gov.uk/plant-health/plant-health-regulation/importing-third-non-eu-countries>

Exports for Northern Ireland

Electronic copies of certificates should be provided to the exporter and the normal process for exporting to Northern Ireland should be followed. The requirements for exporting to Northern Ireland can be found here:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/import-and-export-plants>

Exports of wood and timber products:

Electronic copies of certificates should be provided to the exporter and the normal process for exporting these commodities to Great Britain should be followed. The requirements for exporting to Great Britain can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/importing-and-exporting-wood-and-timber-products>

Regards,
Nicola Spence

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Spence', written in a cursive style.

UK Chief Plant Health Officer