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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES IS CHANGING  
ITS ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS**

COMMUNICATION FROM NEW ZEALAND

The following communication, received on 14 August 2014, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of New Zealand.

1. On 21 July 2014, the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) moved its electronic certification system for dairy products to the revised Animal Products E-cert system (AP E-cert) for export certification to Australia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). MPI dairy product export certification for other markets is currently carried out via the milk products electronic certification system (MP E-cert). On 1 September 2014, dairy product export certification for all other markets will be moved to the AP E-cert system, with a few exceptions where specific arrangements are in place.

2. The AP E-cert system is the software platform through which MPI creates sanitary/zoosanitary certificates for animal products, when these are required by importing countries. The move to the AP E-cert system will not alter MPI's current provision of certification on paper. However, because dairy product certification is moving to the revised AP E-cert system, paper certificates printed from the AP E-cert system will look slightly different from paper certificates printed from the current MP E-cert system. Despite the different appearance, the changes are superficial in nature as all assurances and essential product information provided on certificates printed from the MP E-cert system will still be provided on certificates printed from the AP E-cert system. Some changes on printed certificates include:

- a change in certificate title to better reflect the range of commodities the template covers;
- some minor changes to phrasing of some health attestations where there has been consolidation of multiple templates into one unified template; and
- a separate box for manufacturing date.

3. MPI is communicating with competent authorities in all countries with whom New Zealand has significant dairy trade to notify the change to this revised AP E-cert system and the associated appearance of the certificates.

4. The major reason for the system upgrade is that the technology supporting the current MP E-cert electronic certification system is now outdated. Also the international data standard (UNCEFACT) for conveying sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) assurances of compliance by way of electronic certification, which is available in the revised AP E-cert system, is not available in the MP E-cert system. A move to the revised AP E-cert system means dairy certificates will now be able to be received electronically by importing countries, if and when such arrangements are made by agreement between MPI and the importing country regulatory authority. Online border inspector access is another feature of the revised AP E-cert system that is not part of the current MP E-cert system. The revised E-cert system makes it possible, in future, to implement paperless certification for dairy product export certificates. Paperless certification has already been implemented in some markets for meat products.

5. Overseas enquiries regarding the AP E-cert upgrade should be directed to [market.access@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:market.access@mpi.govt.nz).

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