



30 April 2020

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**MEASURES CONCERNING PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES
AIMED AT THE FACILITATION OF TRADE IN VIEW OF
ISSUES ARISING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, dated 23 April 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

In light of the COVID-19 international epidemiological emergency and in order to facilitate trade in these circumstances, the National Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) of Mexico, through the Directorate-General of Plant Health, ruled that, from 27 March 2020, shipments of products and by-products of plant origin requiring the submission of an original phytosanitary certificate may enter the country as follows:

1. The interested party must send a copy of the phytosanitary certificate to officials at the relevant Agricultural Health Inspection Office (OISA). This certificate must correspond with the indications from the countries of origin of the goods.
2. Currently, this applies to shipments of products and by-products of plant origin from Ecuador, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the United States, Chile and Member States of the European Union. However, any country may request this option from SENASICA.
3. The interested party must send a letter of commitment to the relevant OISA, in which it undertakes to send the original phytosanitary certificate 15 days after the end of the COVID-19 emergency is declared in the country of origin.

For its part, SENASICA's Directorate-General of Animal Health has ruled that, for the importation into Mexico of livestock, aquaculture and fishery products during the emergency period, copies of animal health export certificates that meet the following conditions will be accepted:

1. The importer may submit an informal copy of the certificate, provided that the certificate conforms to the agreed formats and fulfils the requirements established in the animal health requirement sheets and the aquaculture health requirement sheets, as applicable.
2. The importer should send the original copy of a letter with a handwritten signature to the relevant OISA, in which it agrees to submit the original certificate no later than 15 days after the end of the emergency in the country of origin.

Interested parties can request information on this matter from the following contact points:

- Mr Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, Director-General of Plant Health, who can be contacted by email at francisco.ramirez@senasica.gob.mx regarding products and by-products of plant origin;
- Mr Juan Gay Gutiérrez, Director-General of Animal Health, who can be contacted by email at juan.gay@senasica.gob.mx regarding livestock, aquaculture and fishery products and by-products.

In all instances, please copy in on the email Mr René Hernández Ruiz, Director of Projects and Institutional Development (rene.hernandez@senasica.gob.mx).

Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to Mexico's rights and obligations under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
