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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**MEASURES CONCERNING PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATES AIMED
AT THE FACILITATION OF TRADE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHILE

The following communication, received on 3 September 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Chile.

1. The Agriculture and Livestock Service of Chile (SAG) hereby advises:
2. That, as from 21 September 2020, SAG will change the way it issues phytosanitary certificates. From that date, phytosanitary certificates will no longer be issued on paper and instead will be issued in digital format, with the following features:
 - Each phytosanitary certificate will be issued with the advanced electronic signature of the Chilean State;
 - Each phytosanitary certificate will contain a QR code, allowing it to be displayed, validated and authenticated online;
 - Each phytosanitary certificate will be electronically stamped with the official stamp of the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture.
3. Furthermore, as an additional security measure, there will be a web page where national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) will be able to check the veracity and conformity of each phytosanitary certificate online.
4. The following URL is available to all NPPOs:
<http://multipuerto.sag.gob.cl/visitante/busquedaFito.asp>.
5. Through this URL, NPPOs will be able to verify the phytosanitary certificate in PDF format and obtain it directly from the SAG certification system, so as to guarantee the authenticity of any printed copies that processing entities submit from their respective countries.
6. The phytosanitary certificates must include the container number information for each shipment.
7. This new system for issuing phytosanitary certificates does not involve changing how import processes are carried out in each country, as each importer must continue to submit the printed certificate. It simply means that this document will be generated by printing out a digital phytosanitary certificate stored in our SAG certification system.
8. SAG has established a transition period until 30 November 2020, during which the forms that are currently in use will be circulated alongside the new ones, so that NPPOs may receive valid phytosanitary certificates issued with a wet signature and with an electronic signature.
9. In addition, the issuance of certificates with a wet signature, on paper, with security measures (the format currently in use), will be maintained as an alternative for contingency situations.

10. This information was sent to the IPPC contact points in an email dated 19 August 2020.

11. Lastly, Chile states that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to the country's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.
