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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NEW PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE OF SINGAPORE

COMMUNICATION FROM SINGAPORE

The following document, received on 18 November 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Singapore.

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1. Singapore hereby notifies that the National Parks Board (NParks) has made amendments to the paper being utilised to produce the phytosanitary certificate with optical watermark. The new phytosanitary certificate is to be rolled out from 1 December 2021 onwards. During the transition period, the new certificate and the current certificate may both be presented over a period of time in consideration of the validity of the certificates issued prior to 1 December 2021.
 2. The new phytosanitary certificate is printed on a coloured (light green/sage) paper with visible marking which displays the word "PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE OF SINGAPORE". An added feature of invisible watermark displays the word "COPY" on the top portion of the certificate. When photocopied, the visible marking will appear diminished while the invisible watermark will appear clearly at the top portion of the certificate.
 3. The current optical watermark features of the phytosanitary certificate issued by Singapore since 1 September 2009 would remain in the new phytosanitary certificate. These features are the following:
 - a. At the centre of the certificate, a visible watermark that displays the NParks logo, while an invisible watermark has the word "COPY". Both the visible and invisible watermarks will be embedded into the document and printed together with the document on a laser print. When photocopied, the visible watermark (i.e. NParks' logo) will appear diminished, while the invisible watermark will clearly appear;
 - b. A microprint under the words "NATIONAL PARKS BOARD", at the top right hand of the certificate. The microprint is a very fine line on the certificate, which can only be viewed under a magnifying glass. The microprint comprises a repeating string of the certificate number. It will appear distorted when photocopied to detect any unauthorised reproduction of the document;
 - c. The authorised signature on certificates bearing the optical watermark is an electronic signature, and not signed by hand;
 - d. A 2D Barcode with the certificate information is printed on the upper right hand corner of the certificate. Importing authorities can verify the authenticity of the certificate using the 2D Barcode via image processing through the Online Certificate Verification System (OCVS).
 4. The Online Certificate Verification System (OCVS), which provides an online authentication service for all certificates issued by NParks, would still be available for the new phytosanitary certificate. Should you have any questions, or should you wish to request for a new user ID and password for the OCVS, please do not hesitate to contact the Singapore SPS Enquiry Point.
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