



NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: <u>SOUTH AFRICA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: NPPOZA: Directorate Inspection services
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Horticultural fresh produce, cut flowers, plants and other plant-based commodities.
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Temporary changes to certification requirements for imported fresh produce, cut flowers, plants and other plant based commodities. Language(s): . Number of pages:
6. Description of content: To provide for alternative arrangements to the use of original paper phytosanitary certificates due the impacts of COVID-19 on airfreight and courier mail services. Who does this notice affect? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Importers of horticultural fresh produce, cut flowers, plants and other plant-based commodities.2. The exporting NPPO that has asked to use alternatives to original paper PCs.3. This temporary change is relevant to the use of original paper phytosanitary certificates (PCs) and it does not apply to countries that already provide original PCs via ePhytos or with the consignments. Interim arrangements <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where an importer is unable to present the original paper PC from the exporting country NPPO as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our inspection officers will instead accept the electronic copy of the PC as lodged by the exporting NPPO through our contacts provided hereunder.2. Our inspection officers may in some cases request verification of documentation directly from the exporting NPPO or use an online tool provided by the exporting NPPO.3. Where a paper original is issued by the exporting NPPO prior export, we recommend that it is attached to the goods and/or consignments to minimise potential delays at inspection

7.	<p>Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. The objective of this policy is to promote safe trade under the impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the movement of airfreight and courier mail in multiple countries. This has led some exporting country NPPOs to advise South Africa that they are unable to provide original paper-based phytosanitary certificates with import consignments of a range of imported fresh produce, cut flowers, plants, plant products, and other regulated articles, as per our requirements.</p> <p>This temporary arrangement will be in place until 1 July 2020. Stakeholders will be notified of any extension to this arrangement closer to this date.</p>
8.	<p>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): ISPM 07, ISPM 12, ISPM 20 and ISPM 23.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard: While international standards require exporting countries to issue original phytosanitary certificates it is up to importing countries how they process such. South Africa's interim arrangements require the exporting country to provide a mechanism to verify copies if required by our inspecting officers.</p>
9.	<p>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: None.</p>
10.	<p>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): 10 April 2020</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</p>
11.	<p>Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 9 April 2020</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
12.	<p>Final date for comments: <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy):</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>NPPOZA: Directorate Inspection Services E-mail: TankisoA@Dalrrd.gov.za KhulisoM@Dalrrd.gov.za GilbertM@Dalrrd.gov.za Website: http://www.daff.gov.za</p>

13. Text(s) available from: [] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

NPPOZA: Directorate Inspection Services

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