



17 February 2021

(21-1319)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>AUSTRALIA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
<b>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):</b> Dairy, honey, processed foods, seafood, eggs, wool, meat, plant, in-edible meat products (such as pet food), skins and hides, pharmaceuticals, live animal and reproductive material
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>All trading partners</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specific regions or countries:</b>
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Updates to Phytosanitary Certificates for Agricultural Exports from Australia. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b>
<b>6. Description of content:</b> Australia is implementing new export legislation, the Export Control Act. Consequently, from 28 March 2021, the reference to the year of the Export Control Act, which currently refers to 1982, shall be removed from all sanitary and phytosanitary certificates issued by Australia's competent authority, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.  Further, the reference to department names underneath the Australian Government crest will be updated to read "Australian Government" except i) where an importing country expressly requires the name of the competent authority to appear on the certificate; and ii) for plant certificates.  Australia is removing the signature of the Chief Veterinary Officer from all electronically issued meat, dairy, egg, non-prescribed goods and seafood health certificates. This will be replaced with the National Veterinary Technical Manager's (Dr Stewart Lowden) signature who will have oversight of the export systems in accordance with OIE and Codex guidance on certification arrangements. Australian health certificates that have a manual signature applied will continue to bear the signature of departmental officers authorised to sign export health certification and apply the department seal.  Signatories for live animal, reproductive material, grain, seed and horticulture phytosanitary certificates will not change. Plant export certificates will update references to "Authorised Officer" with the term "delegate".  The planned changes do not affect the agreed attestations for market access, the department's regulatory controls over exports, or the bilaterally agreed information regarding the consignment details described on the certificate.  Australia's updated certificates will be released during March 2021. Updated plant certificates will be released on 15 March 2021. There will be a short transition period where old and new certificates may be presented to border officials for clearance of goods.

7.	<b>Objective and rationale:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8.	<p><b>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</b> ISPM No. 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>
9.	<b>Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b>
10.	<p><b>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> March 2021</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> March 2021</p>
11.	<p><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): March 2021</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trade facilitating measure</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input checked="" 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>The Australian SPS Notification Authority GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia E-mail: sps.contact@awe.gov.au</p>
13.	<p><b>Text(s) available from:</b> <input checked="" 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>The Australian SPS Notification Authority GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia E-mail: sps.contact@awe.gov.au</p>