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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 ARGENTINA

The following communication, dated 24 April 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

1. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current restrictions on air transport and courier services used to deliver phytosanitary certificates (PCs) in many countries, trade operators are facing challenges in submitting original paper-based PCs at points of entry.

2. In order to resolve this issue and to prevent delays or disruptions to trade, the National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA) advises that, where the submission of original paper-based documents is delayed, the following tools for validating PCs are available for EXPORTS FROM ARGENTINA:

- CUVE/QR code: the party concerned will be able to check the validity of PCs by entering the Single Electronic Validation Code (CUVE) printed on the PC into the relevant field on the SENASA website. Validation can also be carried out using the QR code that is printed on each PC (the validation service can be accessed directly at: <https://aps2.senasa.gov.ar/vdc/faces/consulta.jsp>).
- ePhyto: countries that are connected to the IPPC's central server (Hub) will be able to access the electronic equivalents of paper-based PCs issued by Argentina.
- Blockchain: every PC is recorded in blockchain and, in the event that the digital pdf file of the PC does not have a handwritten or holographic signature, the document can be validated through SENASA's website (direct access at: <https://cerpov.lyncros.com>).

3. For IMPORTS INTO ARGENTINA, the requirement to submit an original paper-based PC may be waived, provided that a digital version of the PC with a mechanism for verifying its validity is submitted in place of the paper version. Such mechanisms include a QR code, a bar code or the possibility of validating the document on a website specified by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country. Moreover, for countries that are connected to the IPPC's central server (Hub), SENASA will be able to use the electronic equivalent of the PC.

4. These measures will remain in place until normal air transport and courier services resume.

5. For any additional information on this matter, please contact dnpv@senasa.gov.ar.
