

12 May 2020

(20-3560)

Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**IMPLEMENTATION BY ARGENTINA AND CHILE OF ELECTRONIC PHYTOSANITARY
CERTIFICATION, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE USE OF PAPER****COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA AND CHILE**

The following communication, dated 12 May 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Argentina and Chile.

1. Since Monday, 4 May, the national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) of Argentina (SENASA) and Chile (SAG) have eliminated the use of paper for phytosanitary certificates (PCs), implementing ePhyto for all of their trade in plant products.
 2. For the first time, two countries have implemented paperless electronic phytosanitary certification for all of their trade in plant products, within the framework of the guidelines and work of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).
 3. The ePhyto Solution is an IPPC initiative to encourage contracting parties to implement electronic certification with the aim of facilitating safe trade in a digital, paperless and more flexible, transparent and reliable manner. ISPM 12 is the international standard that provides the basis for ePhyto.
 4. Following a strong testing period, the NPPOs of Argentina and Chile have begun to exchange electronic PCs through the IPPC Hub. The Hub enables both NPPOs to transfer PCs to each other electronically through their own national systems.
 5. The implementation of ePhyto will enable both countries not only to facilitate trade, but also to offer a major preventive solution in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 6. In this case, ePhyto will have a positive impact for the more than 3,000,000 tonnes of products and by-products of plant origin traded each year, which, until now, have been covered by over 9,000 paper PCs. It will also benefit the environment by eliminating the use of paper.
-