



20 April 2020

(20-3103)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

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| 1. Notifying Member: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA If applicable, name of local government involved: |
| 2. Agency responsible: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) |
| 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): Live animals, fertilized eggs, and germplasm |
| 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: Notice: APHIS Acceptance of Electronic Signatures from USDA Accredited Veterinarians. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 1 https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/wto-notice-hc |
| 6. Description of content: Effectively immediately, APHIS will accept U.S. veterinary export health certificates for live animals and germplasm that have been electronically signed and issued by a USDA Accredited Veterinarian through the Veterinary Export Health Certification System (VEHCS), a secure, online United States government-owned system controlled by APHIS. There will be no change made to Competent Authority signature/endorsement of the veterinary export health certificate. If digital endorsement is not permitted by a given trading partner, APHIS will continue to apply an ink (wet) signature and embossed seal to veterinary export health certificates during endorsement. Regardless of the type of signatures applied, an original, hardcopy of the veterinary export health certificate will travel with the shipment during the export process. |
| 7. Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. |
| 8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number): <input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None |

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| <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p> | |
| 9. | Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: |
| 10. | <p>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): 16 April 2020</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): 16 April 2020</p> |
| 11. | <p>Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 16 April 2020</p> <p><input 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): Not applicable.</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Email: ys.live.animal.import.export@usda.gov</p> |
| 13. | <p>Text(s) available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/export/wto-notice-hc United States SPS National Notification Authority, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, International Regulations and Standards Division (IRSD), Stop 1014, Washington D.C. 20250; Tel: +(1 202) 720 1301; Fax: +(1 202) 720 0433; E-mail: us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov</p> |