



# NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization  
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

## NAPPO Conference Call

Expert Group:	Electronic Phytosanitary Certification	
Location:	Zoom meeting – Videoconference call	
Date:	February 22, 2021	
Chairperson	Christian Dellis (APHIS – PPQ)	
Participants:		
Brian Zak (Canada industry)	María Eugenia Jiménez (SEMARNAT)	Michael Perry (APHIS – PPQ)
Jamie Richardson (CFIA)	Chuck Dentelbeck (Canada industry)	Francisca de la Cruz (SENASICA)
Mayra Acal (SENASICA)	Tim Cunningham (APHIS – PPQ)	Edgar Reyes (SENASICA)
Avtar Virk (CFIA)	Delfino Hernández (SENASICA)	Patricia Abad (APHIS PPQ)
Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO)	Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO)	Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)
<b>Summary</b>		
Project:	Electronic phytosanitary certification	
General comments:	<p>TD and chairperson welcomed and thanked all EG members for joining the call.</p> <p>Agenda approved as presented.</p> <p>TD agreed to write the report and send it to the chairperson for review and approval.</p>	
Item 1:	Country updates	
Consensus:	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finished adding the requirements for the data system in the electronic certification platform. Expected to be completed by the end of March.</li> <li>• Will start loading requirements in the system for shipments to the US.</li> <li>• The system will also be tested with other countries later.</li> <li>• Training on the system will start as soon as Canada has completed the testing.</li> <li>• Canada contemplates to work on the government-to-government system in a near future.</li> <li>• Canada has successfully tested communications aspects in the government-to-government system.</li> </ul> <p>United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant increase in the number of countries using</li> </ul>	

	<p>ephyto due to the pandemic (12 countries in 2020; 46 countries in 2021). This information is available in the APHIS – PPQ website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US is receiving ephytos from 18 countries.</li> <li>• EU can receive ephytos but cannot send.</li> <li>• Troubleshooting ephyto certificates with the EU.</li> <li>• Good success with ephyto exchange with Mexico, however, some issues need to be resolved with special cases like multiple inspection dates used. The ephyto schema needs to be modified to consider these cases.</li> <li>• Ephytos received from foreign countries are reformatted and shared with the US customs officials. Importers will have to provide only the certificate number for any shipment to the US using electronic certification.</li> <li>• Currently testing the system with Bahamas, Colombia, and Uzbekistan.</li> <li>• US only exchange through the hub.</li> </ul> <p>Mexico</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great progress with the ephyto system. Mexico has been running tests with the US.</li> <li>• More than 100 tests (ephyto exchanges with the US) have been reviewed with very few issues.</li> <li>• No issues were detected also with four e-certificates sent to the US.</li> <li>• Mexico is ready to start the ephyto exchange with the US and invited Canada to run tests with Mexico for future exchanges.</li> </ul> <p>From the Secretariat (ED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAPPO will coordinate the activities of the Interamerican Group for Cooperation in Plant Health (GICSV in Spanish) in 2021 and 2022.</li> <li>• GICSV has a working technical group (WTG) on ephyto.</li> <li>• GICSV ephyto WTG experts from the US are also members of the NAPPO EG.</li> <li>• GICSV provide an opportunity to cooperate with other NPPOs, specially with ephyto and its implementation in the Americas.</li> </ul>
Item 2:	Industry updates
Consensus:	<p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Zak offered to send a copy of a presentation (Canada industry report) after the videoconference.</li> </ul>
Item 3:	Upcoming IPPC activities
Consensus:	<p>The chairperson provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts from the IPPC to encourage African countries to participate in the ephyto certification system.</li> <li>• IPPC working with French-speaking African countries to</li> </ul>

	<p>participate in the generic system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of meetings have been canceled due to the pandemic.</li> <li>• IPPC working on updates regarding the message to include more description and field length into the mapping document allowing a standardize system to use specially for file names.</li> <li>• Finalizing the ability to respond when a shipment has a problem (additional declarations, wrong data, etc.).</li> <li>• “Carbon copy” ephyto certifications with other systems for example with customs.</li> <li>• Virtual CPM – 15. Updates will be provided by Craig Fedchcock but the main point will be the discussions on how to make the system financially sustainable in a long term. Options will be introduced for consideration.</li> </ul>	
Other subjects	Open discussion	
Consensus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico indicated that it is important to work closely to solve the problems related to the XML file in the ephyto schema. Mexico is currently exchanging with Chile and Argentina and issues related to ephyto are currently being solved using a web-based platform.</li> <li>• Mexico requested to formalize the electronic certification system with the US through an official notification from the US NPPO. The US indicated that they do not need any formal agreement but agree to work with Mexico on an official notification.</li> <li>• Mexico will draft the official notification.</li> <li>• Mexico proposed to work the electronic certification system progressively, allowing printing copies first and then completely migrate to a paperless system. During the initial phase, both versions (electronic and hardcopies) will be accepted.</li> <li>• The chairperson indicated that in many cases, the industry needs to have a hardcopy of the certificate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Steps</b>		
<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
	No specific action items before next meeting	
<b>Next Meeting</b>		
Location:	Zoom meeting – Video conference	
Date:	April 26 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm EST	
<b>Proposed Agenda Items</b>		
1. Industry Updates		
2. Canada Progress		
3. Mexico Progress		
4. US Progress		
5. IPPC Updates		

6. Other