



Ref: APPPC/ephyto

Country Report: New Zealand

Introduction:

New Zealand first initiated “Electronic Exchange” (Ecert) some 15 years ago with the initial developments focused on electronic certificate production systems. These initial developments quickly evolved into early versions of Ecert based on a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) web service designed to electronically communicate with our nearest trading partner country on issuance/replacement of phytosanitary certificates for shipments between two countries. This Web based ePhyto system also contains an automated Email function to relay certificate data to several countries and produces hard copy phytosanitary certificates which are still in use to accompany the majority of our export shipments.

Certificate Production:

The NZ ePhyto system currently electronically produces 62,000 phytosanitary certificates and 1530 re-export phytosanitary certificates annually.

New Zealand also receives 13,000 phytosanitary certificates annually.

NZ ePhyto Data Standard:

The NZ ePhyto system has been designed to operate according to internationally agreed formats (i.e. the specifications provided by United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) SPS Certificate Schema).

The NZ ePhyto system is currently operating UN/CEFACT SPS Schema version 2011b SPSC certificate _7p0.

Compliance with Appendix 1 of ISPM 12:

The NZ ePhyto system was designed and built to comply with ISPM 12 prior to the publication of Appendix 1. While we consider our current ePhyto system to be largely compliant with the contents of Appendix 1 we have reorganised some data elements and flows to best manage export consignments made up of mixed commodities.

ePhyto Security Mechanisms:

The NZ ePhyto system is;

- a Web based application
- internal (NZ) users register within our “whole of Govt. process” to gain electronic access to MPI’s electronic certificate production system. This allows our NZ exporters to electronically request a phytosanitary certificate and provide information to populate the data fields of a phytosanitary certificate. Our “whole of Govt” registration and authentication process operates as a form of user name & password access.
- utilises Soap to facilitate the electronic exchange of certificate data

- has an automated Email function which facilitates the exchange of certificate data to five countries.
- uses X.509 certificates for authentication with Australia, not username/password and it uses SSL for the encrypted traffic .
- operates on the bases of X.509 certificates for authentication for the electronic exchange of certificate data and digital signatures/SSL for the encrypted traffic of certificates to the one (1) country we currently electronically exchange phytosanitary certificate data with.

Please note; the NZ ePhyto system for the electronic exchange of certificate data to an importing NPPO does not use S/MIME or user name/password.

Objectives of New Zealand attending the APPPC ePhyto Workshop:

1. To share our New Zealand experiences in developing an electronic certificate production and ePhyto system.
2. To gain knowledge from other APPPC/NPPO experiences in the development of their ePhyto systems.
3. Discuss and identify;
 - areas for ePhyto harmonisation within the Region & Globally
 - cost effective ways of ePhyto exchanges of certificate information (e.g. point to point versus “Cloud/Hub concept), and
 - the next steps to progress ePhyto at Regional & Global levels.

