



# Updates to phytosanitary certification

July 2024



## Certificate harmonisation

The department is working towards updating paper phytosanitary certificates in October 2024.

Since connecting our Export Documentation System (EXDOC) to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Hub in November 2023, we have been working on updates for it to meet the IPPC phytosanitary certification requirements. This ensures the harmonisation of paper-based certification and ePhytos.

All phytosanitary certificates will include three new fields:

- **Product part:** describes the part of the product such as wood, grain, plants, fruits.
- **Product condition:** describes the condition of the product such as sawn, with bark, fresh, dried.
- **Intended use:** describes the use of the product such as processing, consumption, stockfeed, planting.

To accommodate the new fields, there will be small changes to the appearance of certificates.

A range of resources are being developed to support stakeholders with these changes. More detailed information and training will be provided to exporters and electronic data interface (EDI) users on the impacts to raising Request for Permits (RFPs).

Following updates to paper phytosanitary certificates in October 2024, we will be establishing further ePhyto Hub arrangements with trading partners across the globe. This will continue to drive our paperless trade agenda.



## Background

Australia is a signatory to the [International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\)](#). The IPPC develops, adopts and promotes the application of [International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures](#) (ISPMs) as the main tool to safeguard global food security, facilitate safe trade and protect the environment.

The [ePhyto Solution](#) is a key initiative of the IPPC which consists of three main elements:

- **Harmonisation:** ePhytos will follow a harmonised format. Displaying phytosanitary information in a standardised and consistent manner will provide efficiencies for both industry and the department.
- **A central server (Hub):** This will facilitate the transfer of ePhytos between National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs), either from and to their own national electronic system, or by using the generic system described below.
- **A Generic ePhyto National System (GeNS):** This is a web-based system that can produce and receive ePhytos, to allow countries without a national electronic system to produce, send and receive ePhytos.

The ePhyto Solution is designed to significantly improve security, border efficiency, and global coverage, making the movement of goods across borders safer, faster, and economical.



## More information

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