



October
2012

Implementation update

Phase 1 of the eCert for Imports project

Biosecurity



The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is working with the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries to trial **eCert for Imports** — an electronic system that will enable DAFF to receive overseas government generated certificates for food and agricultural commodities being exported to Australia. Once this trial has been completed DAFF will open up the system to other overseas government agencies in early 2013.

Phase 1: New Zealand phytosanitary certificates only

During Phase 1 of the eCert for Imports project DAFF will receive all **phytosanitary certificates from New Zealand** for plant based products including, but not limited to, fresh produce, plant, grain, nursery stock and timber.

Implementation date

Phase 1: Monday 26 November 2012

What will importers and brokers need to do?

From 26 November 2012 when making your declaration you will need to accurately enter the phytosanitary certificate details into the relevant fields below in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) via your third party software application.

- AQIS Document type: **NZPHYTO** and AQIS Document number: **NZ phytosanitary certificate number.**

Please contact your software provider if you are unsure or have difficulties with these fields.

Please note: if you are lodging the declaration via Customs Interactive there is an issue whereby wildcard symbols, such as “/#”, will not be accepted. DAFF is aware of this issue and we are currently working on a solution with Customs and will advise when it is rectified. NZ currently use the back slash as part of their certificate numbering system.

Biosecurity

DAFF works closely with other governments, agencies, industry and the community to minimise the risk of exotic pests and diseases entering and establishing in Australia and harming the natural environment, our food security and economy.

Additional information

By participating in this initiative importers and brokers will no longer need to submit a paper version of the phytosanitary certificate for clearance purposes because DAFF will have immediate access to the certificate from New Zealand.

Please note: there is no change to the procedures for foreign certificates under the Imported Food Act 1992.
<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/food/notices/2009/2012/ifn-04-12>

An Industry Notice advising of the changes will be published on www.daff.gov.au

