

## COURTESY TRANSLATION

I am writing to you in relation to the letter recently received from Mr. Bernard Van Goethem (see attached), referred to some difficulties faced when original paper certificates issued by domestic competent authorities are presented to the EU border control posts (BCPs). This situation would be caused by restrictions applied to airplane transport and consequently the courier services used to deliver such certificates, as a result of current COVID-19 situation. In our case, the affected certificates would be Phytosanitary Certificates (PC).

In order to find a temporary solution to prevent disruptions of trade while having the current contingency situation, DG SANTE is proposing two options for presenting certificates: either the use of the TRACES platform or scanned copies of original paper certificates sent by electronic means to the BCP of the point of entry in the EU. This when it is not possible that original certificates accompany the consignments in their means of transportation.

Form our National Service for Agri-food Health and Quality (Senasa), we would like to kindly request that a third equally safe option for validation of PC that cover consignment exported from Argentina be accepted, because it would be very complex for us to implement the options proposed by the EU due to operational difficulties.

For many years Senasa has been implementing several safeguarding measures on PCs in paper. The Sole Electronic Validation Code (CUVE, in Spanish) printed as a unique number on the bottom of each PC is one of them. PCs can be validated immediately online by entering this Code (or alternatively the QR Code that is also printed on the PC) on an official webpage specially developed by our National Service. The webpage for PC validation is <https://aps2.senasa.gov.ar/vdc/faces/consulta.jsp>

Having an extensive experience with this validation tool used by many countries, I kindly request that through you the EU accept such method of validation of PC issued by Argentina. It is highlighted that this would be implemented while the present contingency situation due to COVID-19 occurs. Furthermore, original PCs in paper will continue to be issued and sent to the BCP in the EU, but in case of a possible delay in the PC delivery they can be validated in advance as previously described.

This proposal has recently been published on the following IPPC website: <https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/argentina/eventreporting/2020/03/options-of-validation-tools-for-pcs-opciones-de-herramientas-de-validacion-de-los-cf/>

As you will see in such website, our NPPO also has two other PC validation options: E-phyto and Blockchain.

Blockchain: each CF is recorded on blockchain and, in case of having the digital file of the CF in pdf format without the handwritten signature or holographic signature, it can be validated by entering it on the Senasa page (direct access link: <https://cerpov.lyncros.com/>)



It is important to note that for imports into our country, Senasa is also temporarily accepting PCs scanned or in digital format that can be validated through an online website without the presentation of the paper (e.g. online validation implemented by the NPPO of The Netherlands)

Should you have any questions about the described system or its implementation modality please contact us. In order to provide agility with the implementation, you can contact us at [dnpv@senasa.gov.ar](mailto:dnpv@senasa.gov.ar)

Yours sincerely,