



**MARITIME EXCHANGE**  
for the Delaware River and Bay

**ALERT**

**July 13, 2020**

TO: Maritime Operations Committee  
Agriculture Working Group  
TRACS Participants

The Maritime Exchange is forwarding the following CBP Cargo Systems Messaging Service for your information.

**[CSMS #43347895 - APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Will Continue To Accept Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates and Forms through September 30, 2020](#)**

To help facilitate the clearance of imported plants and plant products during the COVID-19 pandemic, APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will continue to accept electronically produced versions of phytosanitary certificates through September 30, 2020. Importers and brokers may upload the electronic documents to the Automated Commercial Environment using the Document Imaging System or provide them by other means, such as email attachments. Acceptable phytosanitary certificates include scanned copies of original certificates, electronic certificates created through a participating country's ePhyto system, or signed paper forms. Certificates should be legible and include APHIS-required statements.

In addition, we will continue to accept precleared consignments that are accompanied by an email from PPQ with an electronic copy of PPQ Form 203 attached, if the original form is not available.

For more information about plant or plant product imports, email [plantproducts.permits@usda.gov](mailto:plantproducts.permits@usda.gov) or call 1-877-770-5990. For questions about plant or plant product exports, contact your local export certification specialist or email [ppqexportservices@usda.gov](mailto:ppqexportservices@usda.gov).

PPQ is committed to facilitating the safe trade of agricultural products. We continue to closely monitor this evolving situation and will provide updates as needed. Be sure to regularly check the APHIS website for the latest information.

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