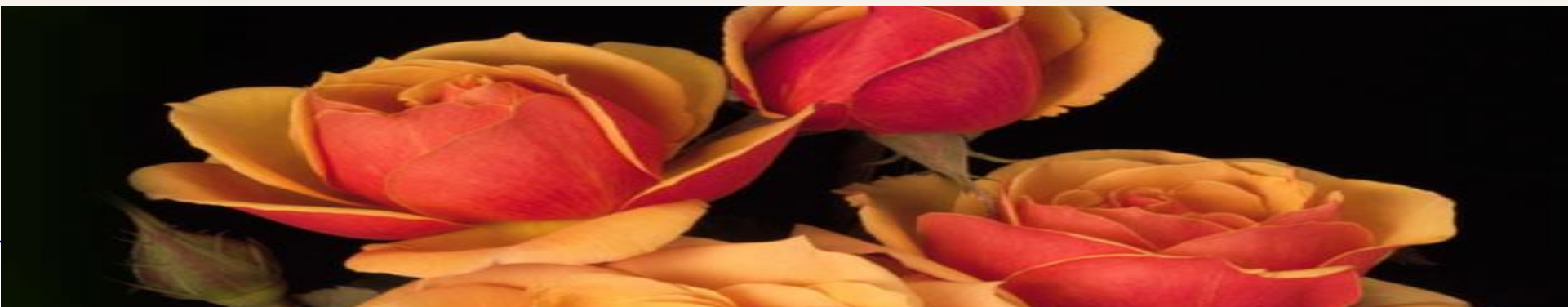




**ISPM 12**  
**Guidelines for the issuance of**  
**phytosanitary certificates**



This standard describes principles and guidelines for the preparation and issuance of phytosanitary certificates and certificates for re export.



# Mode of issue

✚ **original official document** accompanying the consignment; or

✚ **electronic certificate** in which:

- the mode of issue and security are acceptable to trading partners
- the information is consistent with the appropriate models
- the intent of the IPPC is realized
- the identity of the issuing authority can be adequately established and verified



# Attachments

- ▶ should include information that should be on the certificate but for lack of space
- ▶ should bear the number of the PC, dated and signed as for the PC
- ▶ indication on the PC of the attachments



# Unacceptable Certificates

Fraudulent or invalid if:

- not authorised by the NPPO
- issued on unofficial forms
- containing false or misleading information


*Need for notification in such cases;  
NPPO vigilance and security systems  
required to ensure high level of confidence*



# Invalid Certificates

- ✘ illegible
- ✘ incomplete
- ✘ period of validity expired or not complied with
- ✘ inclusion of unauthorised alterations
- ✘ inclusion of conflicting information
- ✘ certification of prohibited products
- ✘ non-certified copies



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE <b>PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE</b> TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY		
	PLACE OF ISSUE	A B	
	NO. FPC 6432651		
DATE INSPECTED			

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.

**DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT**

1. DATE	2. TREATMENT
3. CHEMICAL (active ingredient)	4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE
5. CONCENTRATION	6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER	8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE
9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED	10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS
11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES	12. DISTINGUISHING MARKS
13. PLACE OF ORIGIN	14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE
	15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY

**WARNING:** Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to \$250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

**ADDITIONAL DECLARATION**

16. DATE ISSUED		
17. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print)		18. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

# Security Features of USDA-APHIS-PPQ Phytosanitary Certificate

**A.** Each certificate has a unique 7-digit number and USDA seal imprinted in red, hindering simple reproduction.

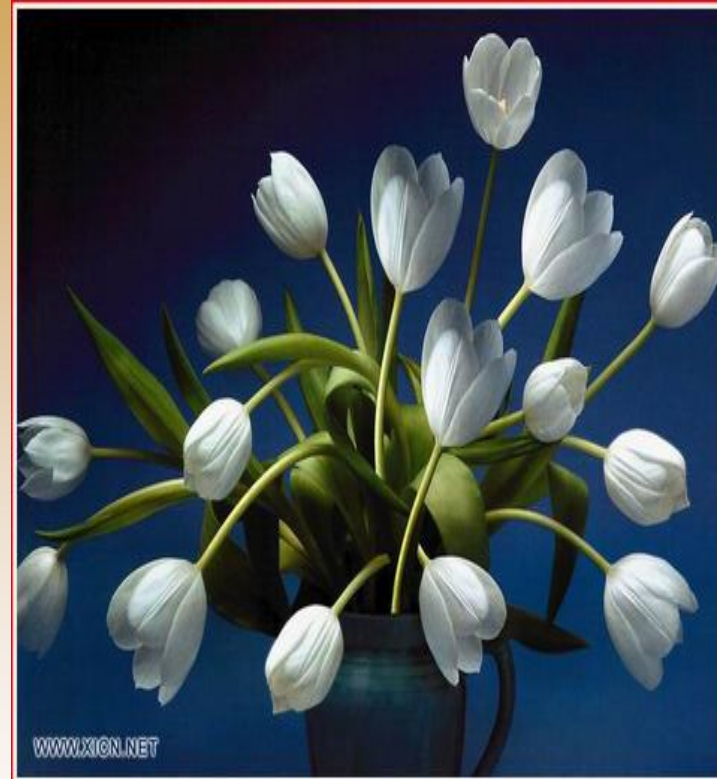
**B.** The certificate has a non-visible serial number located adjacent to the printed red serial number, and immediately above the signature block. The serial number will become visible under ultraviolet light.

**C.** The background of the certificate is printed with heat-sensitive blue ink which will momentarily fade when rubbed lightly, then reappear.

**D.** The certificate is imprinted with the North American Plant Protection Organization "NAPPO" logo in the Additional Declaration block.

# Importing country requirements

- language
- period of validity
- legibility
- Units (quantity and description)





# Guidelines for preparation

- should contain only phytosanitary information
- should be complete (“none” inserted where no entry is made and then blocked)
- documents e.g. bill of lading, letters of credit may be cross-referenced but not considered part of the PC
- Should not include statement that requirements have been met, as well as references to human /animal health, pesticides or residue limits etc



# Section I. Description of Consignment

- Name and address of exporter:
- Declared name and address of consignee:
- Number and description of packages:
- Distinguishing marks:
- Place of origin:
- Declared means of conveyance:
- Declared point of entry:
- Name of produce and quantity declared:
- Botanical name of plants:



# Certifying statement

*This is to certify that the plants, plant products and other regulated articles described herein and have been inspected and /or tested according to official procedures and considered to be free from the quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party and to confirm with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests*

*They are deemed to be practically free of other pests  
(optional clause)*



## Section II: Additional declaration

- ❖ should respond only to that required by the importing contracting party
- ❖ text of such declarations may be specified in e.g. regulations, bilateral agreements, import permits



# Section III: Disinfestation

Indicate only those acceptable to the importing country, performed in the country of origin or in transit.



## Stamp of Organization

- official stamp, seal or mark identifying the issuing NPPO

## Name of Authorized Officer, Date, Signature

- legible
- abbreviations for months to avoid confusion
- *11/08/05 vs 08/11/05*



# Guidelines for preparing certificates of re-export

- ❖ Same as PC except for section covering certification where *ticks* indicate actions taken;
- ❖ For consignments split up and exported separately, a re-export certificate should be issued along with a certified copy of the original PC;
- ❖ Consignments imported, then re-exported require a re-export certificate;
- ❖ Loss of integrity, exposure to infestation, processing-PC should be issued but with country of origin indicated.



# Requirements for Implementation of ISPM

- National legislation
- Administrative provisions
- Procedures for certification
- Internet, computer
- Phytosanitary certificate format
- Consignment identification
- Official seals
- Control over issuance
- Collaboration with the registered third parties, companies, exporting and importing countries
- Record keeping for traceability and validation

