

International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)  
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April 2, 2020

Mr. Arnaud Petit  
Executive Director  
International Grains Council (IGC)  
1 Canada Square  
London  
E14 5AE  
UK

**RE: Avoiding delays in the issuance and acceptance of phytosanitary certificates**

Dear Arnaud,

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) continues to value highly its relationship with IGC and we remain committed to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by both of our organisations in December 2018. As a not-for-profit association bringing together around 8000 businesses in 85 countries, we see that work with you is crucial in achieving a market and regulatory environment supportive of trade that avoids disruptions in international exchanges of grain, oilseeds, pulses and derived products.

During these unprecedented times the grain trade is seeking the support of governments and international organisations now more than ever to help avoid disruptions in the international trade of grain, oilseeds, pulses and derived products. We applaud the efforts of public administrations who have worked rapidly to find temporary solutions to deal with the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic that are beyond their control, including staff shortages, lockdowns, home working and other disruptions.

With current restrictions on air transport and courier services, an urgent emerging issue is the impact on the exchange of documents that are crucial to underpin international trade e.g. phytosanitary, supervision, fumigation and country of origin certificates; bills of lading; and bank custody documentation.

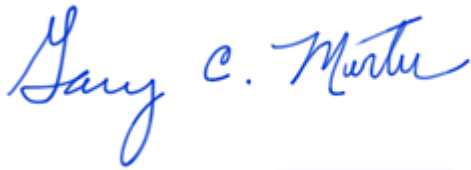
In terms of government-issued documents, the phytosanitary certificate is key and there is the increasing danger that this does not arrive in time for the inspection or in accordance with time limits between inspection and issuance or inspection and export.

IGTC fully supports the recent advice of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for countries "to be as flexible as possible" and we would welcome support of all governments to be open to the following options for contingency measures as appropriate to avoid delays:

1. Maximise use of the IPPC ePhyto Solution for entirely “paperless” exchange of phytos in countries where this is in place
2. Acceptance of scanned copies of documents with the agreement that originals will be supplied as soon as technically feasible
3. e-Validation of documents for example using a Sole Electronic Validation Code or QR code
4. Physically send phytosanitary certificates with the consignments
5. Printing of certificates at destination

For further information IGC and its member governments may contact Katy Lee, Secretariat of IGTC: [Secretariat@igtglobal.org](mailto:Secretariat@igtglobal.org), +41789329618

Yours sincerely,



Gary C. Martin  
President, IGTC

