

BUSINESS DIALOGUE: THE INFLUENCE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION ON THE B2G ENVIRONMENT

**28 JUNE 2016, WTO- ROOM W,
13:45-15:00**

Facilitating trade in the agricultural sector is an important means to support sustainable development by contributing to food security and wealth generation. A key component of trade facilitation is a shift to paperless trade: faster and more efficient processing of documents increases security and transparency and reduces the cost of doing business.

The business community is gradually adopting electronic documentation. Shipments of goods are increasingly completed using electronic bills of lading (eB/L); data from eB/L is successfully integrated into electronic Letters of Credit (L/C) and Bank Payment Obligations (BPO), accelerating their surrender at destination. Chambers of Commerce in various parts of the world are adopting systems for online services for certificates of origin (eCO). eCO systems ensure a higher level of transparency, reduce costs and save time for importers, exporters, banks and customs authorities, thereby streamlining business to government (B2G) processes. Single windows at the borders are today at the heart of B2G processes, driving efficiency gains and facilitating safe and unencumbered trade around the world.

However, efficiency gains would not translate into net benefits if clearance of goods is delayed by lengthy, paper-based government to government (G2G) procedures, including SPS certification. Governments are progressively recognizing electronic documentation, such as e-cert, as the basis for international trade procedures and are establishing systems to produce, transfer and receive such documents. Yet, while business-led initiatives have been spurred by the objective of consolidating processes and simplifying operational structures, risk management and law enforcement have been the main drivers for governments to move to electronic procedures such as eCustoms. This divergence in motivation and lack of common vision led to inadequate consideration of compatibility between government systems and local and global business practices.

Streamlining both government and business operations and ensuring their compatibility would benefit consumers and the economy as a whole. As governments and business transit to paperless documentation, greater co-operation between these two core groups is fundamental to ensure that data flows between B2G, G2G and B2B are harmonized and implemented in a coordinated manner.

To contribute to building a common understanding of how digital trade should operate across these two core groups, the International Plant Protection Convention is pleased to organize a lunchtime session on the margins of the STDF eCert seminar to explain the

linkages between B2B and G2G processes in international trade and how advances in B2B processes can be conducive to breakthroughs in SPS electronic certification.

Objective of the session

This session aims to provide an opportunity for industry and regulators to discuss the needs and challenges associated with implementation of paperless trade procedures. In particular, it will:

- present industry initiatives (including coordination efforts) related to B2B and B2G electronic processes and the drivers behind these initiatives.
- gather industry's insights and perspectives on the way forward for a global adoption of electronic SPS certification; and
- disseminate good practice and discuss ways in which regulators and the industry may partner to better implement e-document initiatives that facilitate trade and trigger a real change in the way of doing business.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

13:45-13:50

Opening remarks and objectives of the Session

[Craig Fedchock](#), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

13:50 - 14:00

Electronic Documentation in the grain trade: A Promising Innovation Opportunity

[Vincent Minna](#), International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)

14:00 - 14:10

Impacts of phytosanitary certification on the flower trade

Sylvie Mamias, Union Fleurs

14:15 - 14:25

Streamlining meat trade through electronic certification

[Suzanne Sabourin](#), Canadian Meat Council (CMC)

14:30 - 15:00

Open discussion
