Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority

(NVWA)

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The “Why” of Electronic Certification
Flow of goods in Europe
Figures Agri-Food Import
(from the certificates we receive)

- Annual turn over € 63 billion
- 250,000 import certificates
- ± 100 countries
Figures Agri-Food Export
(from the certificates we issue)

• Annual supported turnover € 16 billion
  (€ 93 billion incl. EU common market)
• 600,000 certificates
• ± 180 countries
Benefits

Private Sector

• Faster border clearance
• Reduction of transaction costs
• Less administrative burdens
  – One-stop shop
  – Re-use of data

Government

• More efficient certification process
• Contributes to Risk based enforcement
• Contributes to Food Security
• Reduced fraud (CODEX)
• Transparancy
Figures

• 14,000 certificates a week
• 1800 economic operators
• 7 inspectorates
• 450 certifying officers
e-Certification (Multilateral)

- IPPC - ePhyto (March ’15), e-Phyto (running)
- OIE - Encouraging e-Certification as standard for Veterinary Certification
- CODEX - e-Certification work group (chaired by NL)
- UNCTAD - Enabling Developing Countries to use E-cert
- UN/CEFACT - Using the Trade library at implementation at IPPC, OIE and CODEX
e-Certification

- Australia
- Belarus
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Indonesia
- Hong Kong
- Kenya
- Peru
- Russia
- South Korea
- USA
- Argentina
- Ecuador
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Mexico
- South Africa
- Dubai
- India
- Japan
- Kazachstan
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Vietnam
Key success factors

• Common interest / benefits
• Importance
  • For the Netherlands
  • In the region
• Technical Capacity on E-cert
• Available resources (at both sides)
• Communication at technical level
• High level commitment
Health certificate

Exporter

Certificate

Authority exporting country

Certificate

Pre arrival notice
Certificate

Authority importing country

Notification of interception

Document control

Identity Check

Health check
SPS certificate

Exporter

Certificate number

Certificate number

Pre arrival notice

Certificate number

Importer

Authority exporting country

Certificate number

Electronic certificate

Result of import inspection

Authority importing country

Electronic Document control

Electronic Identity Check

Health check
Sino – Dutch cooperation on e-Certification

– Data exchange and e-Certification in The Netherlands.

– Results Sino – Dutch cooperation

– What information is exchanged with China?

– Paperless
Sino-Dutch cooperation: Results

• Access to China E-cert system for verification of Chinese veterinary export certificates in China E-cert database (December 2010)

• Launching of the digital exchange of Netherlands veterinary export certificates for dairy with China e-Cert by Minister Zhi Shuping and Vice Prime Minister Verhagen. (May 2011)

• Online verification of Netherlands electronic veterinary export certificates (October 2011 until October 2013)

• Trial paperless certification of dairy products Shanghai (2014)
  • Operational procedures

• Launch paperless certification for dairy (January 2015)
• Extend to other commodities (like meat and meat products) under negotiation

Explanatory note: The online verification of the electronic certificate for pork replaces for The Netherlands the obligatory pre-notification for pork
The road to paperless

- Introduction of the International Standard on Signing (XMLDsиг) (MoU 2012)
- Provision for a legal document for legal issues in China accepted by AQSIQ (MoU 2012)
- Operational procedures (MoU 2013)
- Extension to other commodities like Meat (MoU 2018)
Changes for Paperless

• The original paper certificate is eliminated, the exporter receives a statement by mail from NVWA, NVWA issues a signed electronic (XML) certificate only.

• The exporter uses this statement to inform the importer in China on the details of the Electronic Certificate

• The importer uses this information at his application for the border inspection at the local CIQ

• The exporter receives status updates (ACKNOWLEDGED, ACCEPTED, REJECTED, REQUEST_REPLACEMENT ) by e-mail

• Emergency & Recovery procedures at disasters
Co-operation with China, result: paperless certification!
KEPHIS ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEM (ECS) AMONG THE THREE BEST INNOVATIONS NATIONALLY

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) is the state Corporation whose responsibility is to protect Kenya’s agriculture from pests and diseases, and assure on the quality of agricultural inputs and produce to prevent adverse impact on the environment, the economy and human health.

Development of ICT to enhance service delivery has received major emphasis by the government and is recognized as a key pillar to achieving Kenya Vision 2030. KEPHIS has as a result invested in ICT processes and systems with the objective of enhancing customer service efficiency. These efforts were recognized by the Government during the recently concluded Public the European Union (EU). The EU takes up approximately 98% of the export market for Kenya’s horticultural produce. The ECS system is therefore an important milestone in facilitating Kenya’s exports internationally.

Why Electronic Certification?
To improve on the time spent in service delivery.
- Situations such as flight delays, change of entry points, cargo space and splitting of consignments are some of the reasons why alteration of consignment details is done. Paper certificates represent permanent records that cannot be corrected in the event a mistake is done. ECS system
- Paper certificates are prepared manually and account for a significant portion of time spent by plant health inspectors in their daily work. KEPHIS issues about 146,000 certificates annually hence the time spent in their manual writing and signing is significant and causes delays. At an average of 400 certificates issued daily, (each certificate takes 10 minutes) one would need 4000 minutes per day or 8 officers working fulltime for 12 hours each day!

Benefits to Kenya’s Horticulture Industry
- Horticulture is Kenya’s major foreign exchange earner, ranking third after tourism and tea. Hence, prior information

"The ECS system..."
Joint United Nations Regional Commissions
Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation Survey 2015

*The Netherlands stands out as the best overall performer ......*

The Future

• Promote paperless certification

• Make a better use of electronic certification data (Virtual Inspector)

• Design & Promote Standards (OIE, CODEX, UN/CEFACT)
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