



MARITIME EXCHANGE
for the Delaware River and Bay

ALERT

October 2, 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 #44293641 - Extended Immediately through December 31, 2020: USDA APHIS Allows Electronic Copies of Veterinary Certificates and Phytosanitary Certificates Due to COVID-19](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has extended the interim guidance for the electronic submission of phytosanitary certificates, PPQ 203 forms and veterinary health certificates for shipment clearance due to COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance is now effective through December 31, 2020.

Please view APHIS's message regarding phytosanitary certificates for imported plants and plants products [here](#).

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.

Please view APHIS's message regarding veterinary certificates for animal products and byproducts [here](#).

Electronic copies of veterinary certificates for animal products and byproducts should be submitted in ACE-DIS. Trade entities are required to provide a reason for submission via DIS in the comments field, as part of the DIS submission email body, or as an additional statement included with document uploads. This reason should address the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to provide the original signed veterinary certificate.

Visit <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus> for more information regarding USDA Coronavirus FAQs and guidance.