Electronic Phytosanitary Certificate Integration in ACE
Last updated: September 4, 2020

On September 26, 2020, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will deploy functionality to integrate the use of Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates (ePhyto) into the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). This enhancement is in support of the ongoing Secure Flows Initiative.

This capability streamlines the current process for submission of phytosanitary certificates by creating a channel for ePhytos to be transmitted electronically to ACE via the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Further enabling CBP Agriculture Specialists (CBPAS) who review ePhytos, this enhancement creates efficiencies for shipments arriving at the border and reduces vulnerability to fraud.

What will change for trade users?
- **ePhyto transmission directly to ACE**

  Once an ePhyto number is filed as part of the APHIS Core PGA message set, the "original" certificate will be automatically available to CBP ACE Users without the need for the importer to submit a copy of the certificate.

  Please note that ePhytos originate from participating foreign National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO), are sent electronically to APHIS, and are tracked through the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking System (PCIT). This enhancement does not apply to affected shipments originating in countries who do not participate in ePhyto.

What additional resources are available?
- **Deployment Support Call**
  - The Trade Transformation Office (TTO) will conduct Deployment Support Calls for Trade users from 2 to 3 p.m. ET on the following date(s):
    - October 13, 2020
  - Participants are encouraged to join at the start of the call, when TTO will provide a brief deployment status update. The Question and Answer segment will follow. Calls may end early if all questions have been addressed.

    *Calls may extend through October 14, if demand warrants. Additional calls will be announced on the October 13 support call and via a CSMS message.

Whom do I contact if I have issues?
Submit questions about ePhytos to PCITHelpDesk@usda.gov. For technical issues, contact the CBP Technology Service Desk (TSD) at 1-800-927-8729 or cbp.technology.service.desk@cbp.dhs.gov.