



**NOTIFICATION**

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>AUSTRALIA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved:</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
<b>3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Imports of goods lodged under Schedule 3, Sections 2 and 9 of Australia's tariff system: horticultural fresh produce, cut flowers, plants and other plant-based commodities, animals, biological and animal-based goods.
<b>4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>All trading partners</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Specific regions or countries:</b>
<b>5. Title of the notified document:</b> Extended: temporary changes to import certificate requirements for a range of imported plant-based, animal, biological and animal-based goods. <b>Language(s):</b> English. <b>Number of pages:</b>
<b>6. Description of content:</b> Describes alternative arrangements to the use of original paper phytosanitary certificates and health certificates due the impacts of COVID-19 on airfreight and courier mail.  This temporary arrangement has been extended until 1 October 2020. Stakeholders will be notified of any further extension to this arrangement closer to this date.
<b>7. Objective and rationale:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. The objective of this policy is to promote safe trade under the impacts of COVID-19.  The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the movement of airfreight and courier mail globally. This has led some exporting country National Plant Protection Organisations and Veterinary Authorities to advise Australia that they are unable to provide original paper-based phytosanitary and health certificates with import consignments of a range of imported plant-based, animal, biological and animal-based goods.  While international standards require exporting countries to issue original phytosanitary and health certificates, it is up to importing countries how they are processed. Australia's interim arrangements require the exporting country to provide a mechanism to verify copies if required by our inspecting officers.

<p><b>8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</b> Chapter 5.2</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):</b> ISPM 07, ISPM 12, ISPM 20 and ISPM 23.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</b></p>
<p><b>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</b> Import industry advice notice 95-2020 - 24 June 2020</p> <p>Import industry advice notice 97-2020 - 25 June 2020 (available in English)</p>
<p><b>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy):</b> 1 July 2020</p> <p><b>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy):</b> 26 June 2020</p>
<p><b>11. Proposed date of entry into force:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): 1 July 2020</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p><b>12. Final date for comments:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy):</p> <p><b>Agency or authority designated to handle comments:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. <b>Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Authority GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia E-mail: <a href="mailto:sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au">sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</a></p>
<p><b>13. Text(s) available from:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. <b>Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</b></p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Authority GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia E-mail: <a href="mailto:sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au">sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</a></p>