Canadian Food Inspection Agency — Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Our vision:
To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.
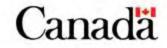
Our mission:
Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Electronic Certification: Building In-Country Support for Implementation

Jamie Richardson

Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Canada

Initial Support

Political

- Clearly defined objectives of ePhytos
- Funding

Management

- Financial commitment
- Involve other business lines (i.e., Animal Health)
- Clearly understand advantages and costs
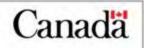
Industry

- Support from industry

Initial Support (continued)

Financial

- **Short Term**
  - Designing, building the system

- **Long Term**
  - Changes / updates (of system and underlying data)
    - o Enhancements to user interface
    - o Updating foreign country import requirements
  - Maintenance

Clearly explain objectives

- What is an electronic certificate?

- What is electronic certification?

- What is NOT considered electronic certification

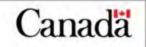- What are the benefits to implementing electronic certification?

Impacts on current system

National legal/regulatory system:

- Does anything need to be adjusted or changed?

- Paper required under legislation?

- Electronic forms acceptable?
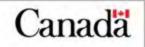
- Electronic signatures?

Impacts on current system (continued)

- Costs vs benefits (adjust expectations)

  - initial expense vs. long term savings

- Long term financial commitment for future IT development and maintenance

Impacts on current system (continued)

- Can your existing system be modified?

- Can you use an existing third-party system?

- Build a new system? (e.g., building new import/export system, add ePhyto)

- Integrated into a "One Window" (WCO) approach?
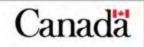
User support

Switch to electronic systems from paper

- Clearly explain advantages to users

- Exporter-entered data
  - Reduces time needed for NPPO staff to enter data

- Facilitates generation of data summaries

- Have both ePhyto and paper

IT Support

Well-defined user requirements and functional specifications

- • Defined by phytosanitary business in consultation with an IT business analyst
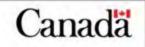
IT Support

Sufficient System Capacity

- Storage, speed

User equipment

- Implementation dependent
- May include laptops, tablets for field use (cell or wi-fi connections)
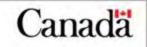
Impact on current phytosanitary programs

- Preclearance agreements

- Third party agreements

- Others

Bilateral agreements

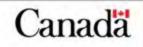- Consider the terms of reference for bilateral agreements

- Who needs access

Final Considerations

- Use business point of view to ensure official phytosanitary assurances are transferred effectively and efficiently (do not go beyond regulations)

Final Considerations (continued)

- Make use of experience of other countries (e.g., study tours, experiential learning, etc.) – don't reinvent

- Make use of FAQs developed by the ePhyto Expert Group

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