

IFIA Agricultural Committee

Bulletin: 12- 01

Subject: “Phytosanitary Certificates”

IFIA members are, from time to time, asked to issue Phytosanitary Certificates for Agricultural Commodities consignments. This is the role of the Phytosanitary Authorities in Countries of Origin. Such documents certify that the goods referred to comply with the sanitary regulations of Destination Countries.

It is therefore recommended that issuance of such certificates for unprocessed agricultural products by IFIA members should be avoided and that clients should be advised to approach the Phytosanitary Authorities of the Country of Origin for such certificates.

However there are certain cases where, for example:

- Re-issuance of certificates is needed when a cargo is split, and it is not practical for these to be obtained from Authorities, because this would be a complicated and lengthy procedure. In this case a Phytosanitary Certificate can be issued, which refers to the initial, official certificate and states that the IFIA Member will retain a copy of the initial certificate. The certificate issued by the IFIA Member will state the number/ date/ content and details of the Authority who issued the original certificate.
- Phytosanitary Authorities in the country of origin may refuse to issue a Certificate because it relates to processed products (e.g. vegoils, sugar, etc) or because, according to their information, there is no official requirement from the competent authorities in the Country of Destination for the issuance of an official Phytosanitary Certificate. If in such a case the IFIA member is requested by his principal to issue a Phytosanitary Certificate for document negotiation purposes (e.g. under the requirements of a Letter of Credit), the IFIA member may



issue a Phytosanitary Certificate only on the basis of the minimum requirements for Fit For Human Consumption testing, as advised in the IFIA bulletin, and without any reference to the destination country's compliance requirements.

In both the above cases, the Certificate issued should state that "This document is not an Official Phytosanitary Certificate as defined by ISPM 12, and is issued only for documentary purposes without any liability in relation to the Phytosanitary aspect of the goods".

Please note: The above list of examples is not exhaustive and other situations may occur which could allow the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate for documentary purposes.

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| Revisions |
| Rev 0 November 2012 |

IFIA Agricultural Committee

1 Paternoster Square

London EC4M 7DX

Tel: +44 (0)20 7653 1604

Email: secretariat@ifia-federation.org

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