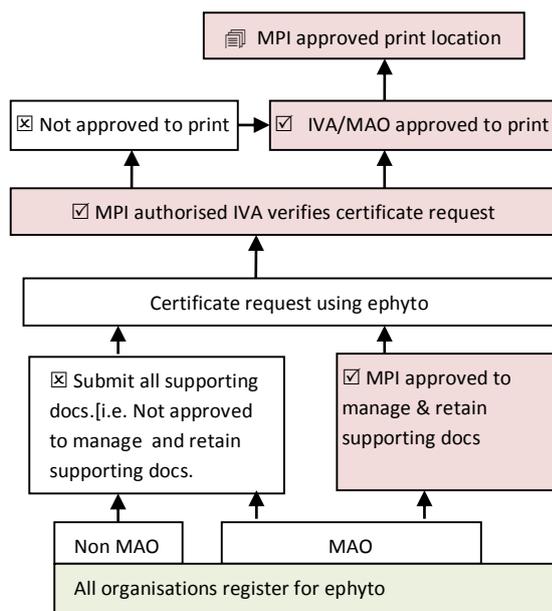## Background

The Phytosanitary Certificate standard was previously known as the 'Phytosanitary Documentation (Phyto ecert)' standard. The change in name ensures the focus is on the production of the phytosanitary certificate itself (rather than the ePhyto system) and the steps needed to gain approval to print it.

The Phytosanitary Certificate standard defines how MPI expects certificate requesters to manage phytosanitary related documentation resulting from MPI approved phytosanitary inspections, treatments, surveys and tests and the criteria to gain approval to print the certificate.

There has been ongoing confusion on what supporting documentation was needed to be sent with certificate requests, who can collate and maintain supporting information and the difference between an approved MAO making a request and a non-approved MAO. To provide greater clarity the pathways for printing a phytosanitary certificate were explored during the review as follows;

Key: ☐ MPI authorised/approved activity

What have we changed?

To improve clarity in MPI requirements key changes in this standard include:

- A revamped standard layout
- Moved away from specifying the ePhyto operational requirements
- Makes it clear all organisations (IVA's, non-MAOs or MAOs) are required to register with MPI to access and participate on ePhyto.
- Focuses on the steps required to gain MPI approval to manage and retain supporting documentation and/or print certificates at approved locations.
- Clarified the requirements for procedures in relation to staff competencies, and records that need to be maintained.
- Clarified that IVA's providing a certificate request service for organisations also need to meet the requirements of this standard.
- Specified what is recognised as 'supporting documentation' and when different types of documents should be used.
- Clarified the basis upon which phytosanitary certificates for re-export may be obtained and the responsibility for obtaining final destination country phytosanitary import requirements.

How will this impact you?

This new approach should result in:
- Greater clarity around which MAOs can manage and retain their 'supporting documentation'.
- Only require 'supporting documentation' be submitted to the IVA if the Organisation isn't approved to manage it themselves.
- Greater flexibility for MAOs wanting to gain either MPI approval to 'manage and retain supporting documentation' or 'print certificates' or both.
- A better focus for the IVA audits of MAOs.

Note: This document only reflects the significant changes please refer to the applicable MPI Standard for all changes

Detailed description of changes to Phytosanitary certificate Standard

Change		Why?	Impact on existing systems
All	Reformatted into a 'MPI standards' template.	Consistency of format will provide greater clarity for industry longer term.	IVA's/ MAO's may want to adjust their documentation sequencing and numbering to suit.
All	Re-ordered the sections.	Re-ordered to better suit the reader of the standard.	
Part (P) Intro.	A concise overview of who this Standard applies to and why it is important to understand the requirements.	Provides a simplified introduction to the requirements contained in the standard.	No significant impact. The introduction indicates the standards general effect.
P 1	New section outlining MPI principles for phytosanitary certificates.	Builds on the principles contained in the Framework standard and outlined in ISPM 12 and how these translate into the MPI production of phytosanitary certificates.	No direct impact. Provides a benchmark for the rest of the standard.
P 2	Outlines the various options for organisations to attain phytosanitary certificates.	To make it clear for readers that there are various options.	Improved clarity should reduce the duplication of efforts between IVA's and MAO's
P 2.1	Clarifies the need for all ePhyto participating organisations to be registered.	MPI need to be able to trace all phytosanitary certificates back to the requestor consequently need all MAO and non-MAO organisations to register.	No impact. Currently required
P 2.2	New section describing the process for becoming approved to manage and retain supporting documentation.	To ensure the supporting documentation for ePhyto requests is correctly managed and the product has been sourced through MPI approved pathways.	IVA/MAO's may need to review the content of their procedures to align to the new requirements. This should reduce the duplication of effort by IVAs and MAOs.
P 2.2.1	New section on staff competency for managing and retaining supporting documentation as well as certificate printing.	The competencies for the management of supporting documentation are different to those staff that print the certificates. Enables the MAO to differentiate between staff performing the different certificate request tasks.	IVA/MAO's may need to review their current competency assessments to align to the new criteria.
P 2.3	New section on completion of the data fields for the phytosanitary certificate.	To make it clear in the standard the information required for each field in the phytosanitary certificate.	The requirements have remained the same. It has been relocated to the standard so it is clear for all approved ePhyto users.
P 2.4	Describes the process for becoming approved to 'print certificates' including the process for wet signatures.	To ensure the certificate printing is correctly undertaken.	IVA/MAO's may need to review the content of their procedures to align to the requirements
P 2.5	Specifies the requirements when replacement certificates are requested.	Provide clarity of what needs to be done or arranged to support a request for a replacement certificate	No procedures required but the IVA/MAO should consider how this may impact them and provide guidance to staff.
P 2.6	Specifies the conditions for MPI to revoke a certificate.	Clarifies when a phytosanitary certificate should be revoked.	
P 2.7	Specifies the requirements when re-export certificates are requested.	To make it clear what the requestor needs to be able to provide when requesting a re-export certificate.	

Note: This document only reflects the significant changes please refer to the applicable MPI Standard for <u>all</u> changes