

Main Topic	Export Certification Workgroup – Meeting
Date:	June 11, 2014
Time	2:30 PM EST
Facilitator:	Maggie Smither
Scribe	Julie Clapp
Location:	Conference Call Number: 888.844.9904; Code: 3774032

MEMBERS:

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Agenda:

No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	<p>PCIT/PExD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p><u>PCIT/PExD General Information</u></p> <p>New contractor has been selected and we are in a transition phase.</p> <p><i>The new contractor is on board. Binary Information Technology (BIT) started last week. HP personnel that used to work on PCIT will be subcontractors to BIT so there will be some continuity. We need to work out budget plans. Hope to extend the help desk hours back out. All of this month, both HP and BIT will be operating during the transition phase. Next month the new contractor will take over. About 5 people moving over from the old team.</i></p> <p><u>PCIT Electronic Exchange</u></p> <p>Provide any update related to Electronic Exchange</p> <p><i>Still receiving phytos from NZL and AUS. The Netherlands started pulling some of our phytos this week.</i></p> <p><i>MEX and CHL will be the next countries. They seem to have well developed systems. CAN is interested but they're a year or two away from having a robust system.</i></p> <p><i>We hope to be able to convert incoming PCs into re-export PCs.</i></p> <p><u>PCIT Signature Image Use</u></p> <p>Reminder to ACOs- Submit signature images for use with PCIT if desired; the use of signature images is voluntary.</p> <p>The following link provides the document needed to submit a physical signature to be converted to a signature image in PCIT: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/PCIT_signature_image_form.pdf</p> <p><i>Signature images seem to be well received by ACOs and</i></p> 	

	<p>industry. The biggest problem is still getting ACOs to sign within the box on the signature form. Signatures outside the box need to be redone and slows the process down.</p> <p>There has been no progress in getting countries that have refused signature images to accept them. Apparently the import staff is telling countries that the US won't accept digital signature images.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Request to Expand PCIT Function</u> <p>Can PCIT be used for additional transactions?</p> <p>For example, charging hourly rate billings using PCIT (billing through PCIT for the non phyto services we perform, such as fumigations, cull cuts and orchard surveys).</p> <p>Marilyn expressed an interest in being able to charge for non-phyto services performed. ES advised that other offices are addressing her issue by issuing State PCs and then you can bill what you want. (Collecting fees that the States charge for certification).</p> <p>Once the new developer is in place, we may be able to address this issue with them. PCIT links transactions to a certificate only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>PCIT Availability</u> <p>PCIT has intermittent down time.</p> <p>If you note that PCIT is down, please send a note to the Help Desk and Export Services.</p> <p>The PCIT system is hosted at the National Information Technology Center (NITC). Once a month they shut down for scheduled maintenance (usually an eight hour window). If we're aware of upcoming outages, a message will be added to PCIT homepage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Aglearn Training – Initial & Reaccreditation</u> <p>Provide any update related to Aglearn Training</p> <p>State and county ACOs can't register for Ag Learn at this time. APHIS was removed from the drop down menu.</p>	<p>Marilyn Kinoshita</p> <p>Marilyn Kinoshita</p> <p>Marcus McElvaine</p>
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	<p><i>Users have to go through the “People model” = human resource for USDA. APHIS is working with AgLearn to get APHIS back on the drop down menu. If we know if a state person needs to get on soon, let us know and we can extend their deadline.</i></p>	
2.	<p>Lumber Certification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Peru: New Regulations for Pressure-treated/impregnated wood & lumber</u> <p>Now a PC is required for the material. Historically the material was unrestricted (no PC was required for import into Peru). PIM Trade Director has submitted comments to SENASA. The new publication is named Resolution No. 0012-2014-MINAGRI-SENASA-DSV and may be found at: http://www.senasa.gob.pe/0/sanidad_vegetal.aspx</p> <p><i>PC required for impregnated or pressure treated lumber to Peru. ES has been notified of holdups at the ports in Peru because this rule is affecting all countries.</i></p>	Maggie Smither
3.	<p>Potato Export to Mexico</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update regarding workplans that are in effect <p><i>Temporary suspension on new certification for potatoes. Anything certified prior to June 9, we are working to have them recertified to meet the requirements of the old workplan.</i></p>	Terrance Wells
4.	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Certifying frozen commodities</i> <p><i>APHIS got a letter a few months ago from PNW requesting that we start certifying frozen products.</i></p> <p><i>People seem to be shipping with AMS documents.</i></p> <p><i>There is concern that this change in policy might create a workload issue.</i></p> <p><i>How would the commodity be inspected or would this just be a paper inspection? Craig has talked to OR and they’re inspecting prior freezing.</i></p>	All Christian Dellis

	<p><i>Concern that if we do it for frozen, where do we draw the line? Tractors, tee-shirts.... Don't want the PC to mean less to the world which would possibly lead to a higher inspection (and scrutiny since the credibility of the export program could be diminished)</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the people who are shipping now with AMS documents with no problems would now have to get PCs if we change our policy.</i></p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Next ECW Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled for Wednesday August 13th • Is that date OK for the group? • How about the upcoming dates? <p>Wednesday, October 8th Wednesday, December 10th</p>	<p>Maggie Smither</p>