SINGAPORE CUSTOMS

Circular No: 11/2023
28 June 2023

Traders and Declaring Agents

Dear Sir/Madam

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE (E-SPS) ENQUIRY SERVICE ON NETWORKED TRADE PLATFORM (NTP)

Singapore Customs has worked with the National Parks Board (NParks) and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) to implement an <u>electronic</u> Sanitary[1] and Phytosanitary certificate (e-SPS) enquiry service on the Networked Trade Platform (NTP). With effect from 28 Jun 2023, traders and their authorised declaring agents (DAs) can retrieve the e-SPS issued by overseas competent authorities electronically via the e-SPS enquiry service. The e-SPS Enquiry Service will be rolled out progressively and will commence with the following country and product[2]:

    a) **For imports from Australia:** meat and meat products for human consumption

2   The e-SPS Enquiry Service allows traders and their authorised DAs who import the relevant goods from overseas to retrieve the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Certificates issued by the competent authorities via the Networked Trade Platform (NTP). Traders no longer need to wait for the hardcopy of the SPS to be couriered to them from overseas. This minimises the risk of delayed or missing certificates, and fraudulent certificates.

3   To allow their Declaring Agent(s) to retrieve their e-SPS details, traders must inform Singapore Customs of their Declaring Agent(s). Traders can do so by logging in to www.ntp.gov.sg > Business Account > Manage Consent & Authorisation for NTP Services > Choose your International Connectivity Services & Authorise your Declaring Agent.

4   To retrieve their e-SPS details, traders and their authorised DAs will have to log in to www.ntp.gov.sg > Government Services > International Connectivity Management > Electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary (e-SPS) Enquiry Service. To perform the query, traders and their authorised DAs will require the Certificate Reference Number and indicate the exporting country (i.e. Australia).

5   Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions in **Annex A** for more details.

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[1] Includes veterinary health certificate.
[2] Traders will be updated via circulars should more countries and products be included.

6   Thank you.

Issued by:

Singapore Customs
Singapore Food Agency

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: Do I need an NTP account to use the e-SPS Enquiry Service?

A1: Yes, you will need an NTP account to use the service. Information on how to set up your NTP account can be found at www.ntp.gov.sg (Get Started > Accessing NTP > Sign in with Singpass).

Q2: What happens if other traders happen to perform the query using my Certificate Reference Number? Will they be able to view my consignment details?

A2: Only e-SPSs relevant to the trader/DA will be displayed. DAs need to be authorised by traders before they are able to view the e-SPS details.

Q3: Are we able to retrieve e-SPS relating to imports of other products from Australia?

A3: No. The current scope of the e-SPS Enquiry Service only covers imports of meat and meat products for human consumption from Australia. There are plans to expand the Service to include other products in future.

Q4: What is the benefit of e-SPS certificates to traders?

A4: Traders no longer need to wait for the hardcopy of the SPS to be couriered to them prior to making an import declaration. With the new service, traders can retrieve the eSPS via the NTP within the same day as it is issued by Australia. This minimises the risk of delayed or missing certificates, and fraudulent certificates.

Q5: Will Australia authorities continue to issue hardcopy SPS certificates when electronic certification is implemented?

A5: Australian authorities intend to issue only eSPS in the near future. To allow for a smooth transition to the e-SPS certification, the Australia authorities will concurrently issue the hardcopy SPS certificates with the electronic ones at the initial stage for a period of time (usually 6 months from roll out date). Thereafter, issuance of SPS by Australian authorities will be fully digital.

Q6: How do I remove declaring agent that I no longer want to authorise?

A6: Trader can log in to www.ntp.gov.sg > Business Account > Manage Consent & Authorisation for NTP Services > Choose your International Connectivity Services & Authorise your Declaring Agent to remove the authorisation.

Q7: Who do we contact should we have further enquiries?

A7: For matters related to onboarding to NTP, please contact NTP Helpdesk at ntp_helpdesk@ncs.com.sg. For matters related to e-SPS exchange (food), please contact SFA at https://csp.sfa.gov.sg/feedback