

With effective from 1 Apr 2019, the National Park Board (NParks) under the Ministry of National Development will take over the plant related functions of Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) to be the National Plant Protection Organisation of Singapore. I will remain the official contact point for Singapore under IPPC and my email will be changed from yap_mei_lai@ava.gov.sg to yap_mei_lai@nparks.gov.sg on 1 Apr 2019.

2 Due to this reorganization and name change of our national plant protection organisation (NPPO), we have updated the official stamp of the organisation and the phytosanitary certificates. Please find attached the new model of the Phytosanitary Certificate for Singapore as well as the new model for the Phytosanitary Certificate for Re-export to be issued on 1 Apr 2019. The following are the changes made to these Phytosanitary Certificates:

- a. The logo and name of the new NPPO i.e. National Parks Board are located at the upper left hand side of the Phytosanitary Certificate
- b. The updated official stamp of the NPPO is located at the lower left hand side of the phytosanitary certificate.
- c. The visible watermark i.e. NParks logo is located at the centre of the Phytosanitary Certificate.
- d. The name of the new NPPO is reflected at the upper right hand side of the Official Attachment Template.

3 The optical watermark system, applied to phytosanitary certificates issued from Singapore for export and re-export of plants and plant products remains the same. The security watermarks in the Phytosanitary certificate comprised of visible (organisation logo) and non-visible (the word "Copy") watermarks embedded into the document. The original document should only have the visible watermark – organisation logo clearly defined on the PC. Additional security features have been incorporated at the top right hand corner of the certificate i.e. a microprint under the words – National Park Board, and a 2D Barcode with the certificate information embedded into it. *The microprint will appear as a very fine line on the certificate, which can only be viewed under a magnifying glass. The microprint comprises a repeating string of the certificate number.* You just have to scan in the 2D Barcode and upload the scanned image for verification via the following URL: <https://licence1.business.gov.sg/licence1>. Our Online Certificate Verification System (OCVS) will perform image processing on the image uploaded and decode the 2D Barcode. The content of the document will be presented for you to verify the integrity of the document. *The authorized signature on certificates bearing the optical watermark will be an electronic signature, and not signed by hand. There will be no signature on the certificate attachments.*

4 When a copy of the Phytosanitary certificate has been made, the invisible watermark i.e. Copy will clearly appear while the visible organisation logo will appear diminished. The microprint under the National Park Board at the top right hand corner of the certificate will also appear distorted.

5 Authorities from importing countries can continue to tap on an additional avenue to verify the authenticity of the certificate presented to them. The Online Certificate Verification System (OCVS) provides an authentication service for all certificates issued by Singapore using the optical watermark. A user ID and password will be issued to the authority of the importing country upon request which will provide access to the OCVS. By entering the PC number into the OCVS, the system will show the details of the certificate issued by Singapore which can then be compared to the PC presented to the authority. (Note: Certificate attachments cannot be viewed on the OCVS. To verify the attachments, the certificate number and date of issue printed at the top right hand corner of the attachment should match the accompanying certificate.)

5 Should you need any clarification on this matter, please contact me at yap_mei_lai@nparks.gov.sg from 1 Apr 2019. Thank you.



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