To whom it may concern,

This letter is to inform you about certain aspects of the international agreement for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.

The Plant Protection Service is the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the Netherlands and is therefore responsible for the issuance and use of phytosanitary certificates in the international trade of plants, plant products and growing media exported from the Netherlands.

Dutch exporters of plants and plant products are sometimes requested by their international customers to present certain information on the phytosanitary certificate which is not in line with the international agreement on the use of phytosanitary certificates. We place a great deal of value on informing you about the policy of the Dutch Plant Protection Service for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.

The Phytosanitary certificate is a document which is described in the text (article V) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the FAO. The text of the certificate is appended to the text of the IPPC. The use of the certificate is described in the International Standard for Phytosanitary Matters (ISPM no. 12).

Regarding the information to be presented on the phytosanitary certificate, the ISPMs state: “The phytosanitary certificate should contain sufficient information to clearly identify the consignment to which it relates. The phytosanitary certificate should not carry other information, of a non phytosanitary nature.”

The NPPO does not therefore issue phytosanitary certificates:

- *with information of a non phytosanitary nature.*
  
  This excludes additional declarations such as ‘fit for human/animal consumption’, ‘free from radiation’, ‘products do not originate from transgenic sources’ etc. (Declarations concerning the aforementioned subjects are not only of a non phytosanitary nature but also not the competency of the Plant Protection Service)
Also excluded is any information on the basis of a Letter of Credit, an Invoice etc. References to such documents on the phytosanitary certificate are allowed.

- **for plants and plant products for which a phytosanitary certificate is not required by the phytosanitary authorities of the country of destination.**
  In general, the term 'plant products' comprises unmanufactured material of plant origin, including seeds (other than those destined for sowing) and those manufactured products which, by their nature or that of their processing, may create a risk for the spread of pests.
  - This excludes, unless otherwise indicated, products such as oils, fats, juices, starch, deep frozen plant products, plant products that have undergone an intensive heat treatment and products from non plant origin etc. from phytosanitary requirements.
  - This also excludes phytosanitary certificates demanded by persons or organizations other than the responsible phytosanitary authorities of the country of destination.

You are advised to request your suppliers to present any required information of a non-phytosanitary nature by means of other documents.

We hope this letters provides you with sufficient information and we appreciate your cooperation.

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