



E-cert Transmission Protocols – Electronic Certification Plain English Technical Facts

What is E-cert?

E-cert is an electronic system designed to generate export certificates for traded food and agricultural commodities. Certificates provide assurances to importing countries concerning food safety and animal and plant health.

What does E-cert do?

The system generates an electronic certificate in place of the current paper certificate issued for the clearance of product.

What do I need to receive E-cert?

A computer with access to the internet and permission to access the system.

A country's level of comfort and readiness to adopt electronic certification will vary depending on their existing IT infrastructure. With this in mind, AQIS have developed various ways for trading partners to participate in the many benefits to be derived from electronic certification.

Data Standard

A design document is available to interested parties. AQIS development is based on the E-cert Data Standard Version 2.6 which is currently at UNCEFACT for ratification of an international standard. The data elements and message structure are essential for those countries seeking to develop similar systems to receive or send data. This ensures that both systems are conforming to the same design standards for the exchange of data.

Data Technical Language

The IT language utilised by E-cert is the Extensible Markup Language, or XML as it is commonly known. XML is a plain English text language most suitable for web based applications.

Data Transfer Method

AQIS data transfer uses synchronous transfer methods and provides access to the data through an interface using the Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) standard.

Secure Transfer

The transfer of data is supported by Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTPS).

Data Security

A 128-bit secure certificate is used for encryption.

