

PHIS Export Meeting Transcript – April 2, 2015, Washington, D.C.

Tony: Hello everybody and thank you for joining us today. My name is Tony and I'll be moderating today's call.

I would like to begin today's call and turn the call over to Greg DiNapoli.

Greg: Thank you Tony. Hi, this is Greg DiNapoli. I'm from the Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education at FSIS. Gathered this morning is Al Almanza, Phil Derfler and the rest of some of the Management Council here to listen to your feedback on the PHIS Export Module.

On the call we have members of our consumer advocacy groups and also we have members from- representatives from industry which we regulate. At this point I will turn it over to Rachel Edelstein in the Office of Policy and Program Development.

Rachel: Hi, so FSIS wants input from stakeholders as we plan how to implement the Export Module. We haven't made any final decisions yet. In addition to this meeting we'll post a link on our website to submit written comments on these issues through regulations.gov, and that's the same procedures we use to request comments on rules and other policy documents. We'll provide the link and information on how to submit comments and the Constituent Update tomorrow, and we plan to provide a 30 day comment period on these, just to make comments on these issues. We'll look at all input as we make plans to implement the Export Module, and we also intend to include our final implementation plan in the final export rule, which we hope to publish this calendar year, so the public will be informed.

We've received some input on the questions that we can discuss today. Other input we received just a couple days ago and we're still considering. Just to provide the background that we submitted in writing to everybody, we're considering starting implementation of the Export Module and export final rule with a limited number of countries and then gradually expanding the scope to cover additional countries. For example, we may consider starting with countries that import the highest volume of FSIS regulated products or starting with neighboring countries, Canada, Mexico. Under this approach at the start of implementation, exporters would be able to use the PHIS Export Module to apply for and receive export certificates for products being exported to countries covered in PHIS.

For other countries exporters would need to continue to use the current process. The phased-in implementation would likely benefit FSIS and industry

because it would provide time and flexibility to identify issues that need to be addressed in the PHIS Export Module at start-up.

Now I'll walk through the questions that we previously sent and Bill Smith and Carl Mayes will provide some additional information.

Oh, yeah, and we'll provide time for everybody to discuss after each of the questions.

Greg: Yeah, I just wanted to mention that there'll be time for question and answer and the call will also be recorded as well. I was remiss in saying that at the onset, so it will be recorded, so go forward.

Rachel: Okay, so the first question that we sent; can exporters maintain two systems, one for countries included in the PHIS Export Module, and one for countries not yet included?

Based on preliminary input we've received, we've heard that exporters can maintain two systems, but Bill and Carl were going to clarify a little bit more from what it means to maintain those two systems.

Carl: This is Carl Mayes. Right now the way we plan on designing the batch process for our PHIS Export is we're going to build an XML schema, which means that the company that's going to put in their batch process, and it usually is going to be the 9060, 9080, those are two of the forms right now that'll be batch process. You will submit that data in the XML form to us and we will consume it into our system, and once it's in the system, the system will take over. At certain points when we get that information, we will let you know we've received your file, we process your file successfully, non-successfully, and then at the very end it'll tell you which ones made it through the process in the system.

When we say that you can maintain two systems, basically what we're asking you to do is, when we designate the countries, you're going to be able to say we only send you in the batch file certificates for these countries, and every other certificate will come the normal way that you do business today. That's really when we talk about two systems, that's what we're referring to right now.

Any questions on that?

Greg: Tony, this is Greg. We can open up- queue some questions, open the line.

Tony: All right, no problem guys. Just reminder for the folks joining us on the phone, if you would like to ask a question at any point, you can queue in by dialing star 1 on your phone keypad, which will push you into the question queue. You will

hear a notification when your line is unmuted and we do ask you to please state your name and question.

Guys, at this time, we do not have anyone queued up, but if I see anyone comment, I will let you guys know.

Greg: Perfect, thank you. Thanks, Carl.

Rachel: Okay, I'll go to the next one then. Assuming that FSIS must employ a phased-in approach, which phased-in approach would you think best, two closest neighbors or two high-volume countries, or would you suggest the third approach? If so, what would you suggest?

We did get input that phased-in is good, but recommendations to use the low volume for at least one of the countries.

Greg: We can go ahead, Tony, do we have any questions queued in?

Tony: At this time- oh, actually we did just get a caller to queue in!

Greg: Great! Thank you very much.

Tony: No problem. We're going to go to the line of Lindsey. Lindsey, your line is open.

Paul: Hey, this is Paul [Clayton 00:06:02] with the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Have you all contacted certain countries that are willing to accept the electronic form of the documents? If so, which ones are they?

Rachel: We have not yet. I think what we're planning on doing is once we have a final plan and a final rule, then we would reach out to see what would work best for how they're willing to see- what works for them for receiving electronic information.

Carl: This is Carl; let me add an addition. The way the PHIS Export is being designed, you can do a web signature, you can do a digital, so if they do not accept the digital copy, we'll still provide the web signature on the paper.

Paul: Okay, thank you.

Greg: Thank you, Paul. Any other questions?

Tony: Yeah, it looks like we have another caller that just joined in the queue coming out of Brad Bowman's line.

Brad: Hi, this is Brad Bowman with Smithfield Foods. Have you considered maybe looking at, in the phased-in approach, looking at those countries that have maybe less stringent requirements like just a simple 9060-5, rather than countries with specialized health certificates?

Bill: This is Bill Smith. That'll be a consideration when we're looking- we get your feedback, and we understand that is one of the suggestions to consider start-up as whether, again, you just go with the straight certificate or you have to have letterhead, very specific certificates for each country.

Brad: Okay, thanks.

Greg: Any other questions Tony?

Tony: Guys, at this time, I'm not seeing any further in the queue.

Greg: Okay, we can move ahead then.

Rachel: Okay, so the next one; what issues does this raise for industry that FSIS needs to be aware of in planning? How can FSIS help facilitate exports if two systems are necessary?

We did get some feedback, some questions about how long it would take for FSIS to provide the export certificates under the new system. I think here we were going to- Bill was going to clarify a little bit more about how the timing still is going to depend largely on the inspector availability.

Bill: The system will process- I mean, once entered, 15 to 30 minutes, it'll be within the system and ready to be used by the inspector after it's gone through; first the system will have to check against the library to make sure all requirements are met, and when that is done it'll move on to the inspector's queue. But then that is exactly how we're doing it today. When you approach an inspector for an export certificate, then they factor that into their daily schedule about how to get all their other work done with the export. Same thing with weekend or after hours; those arrangements still have to be made just like they are now through the District[inaudible 00:09:27], through the front-line supervisor for inspector availability, so that process stays exactly the same.

What will change is instead of reaching out having to hand an export application to the inspector to start the process, it'll be queued up in their desktop and they'll be able to get that through PHIS.

Rachel: Just to follow-up, one of the questions was how will the system handle the two exceptions, avian influenza, and that's where you were saying the Export Library will ...?

Bill: That's like in the Export Library today, if something changes and that changes in the hour, what product is applicable or what product can go or not go, that'll be updated in an automated process in the system. That's that first check that I talked about. The Export Library will be fully automated and that change that we made, that'll be one of the things when you submit your application the system will check against.

Greg: Tony, any statements or questions in the queue?

Tony: Guys, I'm not seeing any. We just would like to remind all the callers, if you would like to queue up, make a comment live or ask a question, you can do so by dialing star 1 on your phone keypad.

Greg: Thank you.

Rachel: Okay, so the last one we had sent out was to note that FSIS is pursuing providing for batching capabilities for industry in the PHIS Export Module. We asked, will this capability help address exporter needs? If FSIS provides for batching capability can industry still maintain two systems for export, one for countries included in the PHIS Export Module and one for other countries?

We did get some input that batching is just for some countries, but not all, and a request for a little more information on how we intended to handle batching. I don't know if Carl addressed some in the beginning.

Male: Yeah, so the only other piece I can think of is when batching goes live, you have a choice of either using batching or not using batching. You go right to the system. We're going to request the same information when you go into the system or use the batch process, so it doesn't change any there. It's just that if you're going to process 50 to 100 certificates at a time, it might be easier for you to do batching. Because one of the fields in the batch process will be "what country" you can do multiple countries in your batch. We're not going to make you separate out by country; the batch process will allow you to submit one file with multiple countries in it and the system itself will designate what certificates are going to be created.

You will also be able to put in the supplemental information. It'll be in a file that we will consume by our system, so that will also be available. That's really it, so like I said, if it doesn't help you to use the batching, then just go right into PHIS and do it.

Greg: Anything queued up?

Tony: Guys, it looks like we do have a couple callers in the queue. We're going to go to our first caller.

Rachel D.: Hi, this is Rachel DeRosier from Johnsonville Sausage. Does the system remember data or do you have to enter it in every time?

Carl: You will have to enter in the data every time, because it's looking for specific information, and then we do a quality check on that information to make sure it's correct.

Rachel D.: Is there going to be an opportunity either now or in the future for company's ERT system to connect up with PHIS to receive that information electronically?

Carl: I didn't hear the full question. What ...?

Rachel D.: Is there going to be an opportunity now or in the future to have a company's ERT system connect up with PHIS to receive the data so you don't have to enter it manually?

Carl: Well, that's where the batch process comes in. Some companies have told us that they have systems that create the certificates. What we're going to do when we come with XML schema, we're going to tell our companies, "This is the data we're looking for." Then that data will be consumed, but you'll send that file to us, we'll consume the data, and you won't have to manually enter it into the system. Then you'll go into the system and you'll be able to see the different-where it's at via process and what has been processed, and certificates will be in there, and that data will be kept.

If you also have an account in the system, your account information will be in the system. You will only be able to see your information, no one else's, depending on what role you have. There is no direct connect to outside systems; we don't plan that at this time.

Rachel D.: Okay.

Greg: Do we have another one, Rachel?

Tony: We do have another caller in the queue. We're going to move on now to our next caller, the line of Andrea Perkins.

Andrea: Hi, good morning. My question was we presented the, I guess, the PHIS Working Group with a list of questions and concerns that we had; will those questions be

addressed at this meeting? One of the questions was regarding the printing, how printing will be done for in lieu of certificates. There's a lot of questions that we wanted to have addressed. Will that be addressed at this forum or at a later time? Have you had an opportunity to review the questions?

Bill: This is Bill Smith, and then I'll defer to Carl on the automated electronic piece. The system will duplicate or will do the same thing that we're doing today with in lieu of certificates, so the process won't change, but it'll be an automated process. You will be able to request an in lieu of certificate by making an export application into PHIS. You will need to know what the original export certification certificates are in order to process it, but you won't be able to do that in an automated fashion. I don't know if I'm answering your question or not?

Andrea: Will we be allowed to print the certificates at our location based on security paper or will it be printing at the District Office, or what's the printing process of that? Is it going to be printing back at the freezers, because I understand when we originally discussed this that there were options on how the certificate would be able to be printed, particularly for people that's requesting in lieu of certificates.

Bill: Okay, so our plans right now are to print on security paper, so the inspector will issue the cert, whether it's on the original export application or an in lieu of. Then they'll make that available to you. What the security paper does is if you make a copy, it'll state on there that it's a copy, so you'll be able to make copies, but the ...

Andrea: No, will we be allowed to print actual original certificates?

Bill: No. Only the inspectors will be able to do that.

Andrea: That would mean that for AJC being in the district of Atlanta, if that country requires an original certificate, but everything be done electronically through the system, then that certificate would print down at the District Office in Atlanta?

Bill: No, it'll print at the site. So when the inspector hits the button, when they sign it, whether it be digitally, as Carl said earlier, or wet signature, that's what'll be printed on the security paper, that's what'll be handed to the person on site as the export certificate. Just like if you get an export certificate today at that site, you don't get that from the District Office.

Andrea: Well, right now all of our renewals are signed by Dr. Green at the District Office. We don't send our renewals back to the freezer to be reprinted. We go down to the District Office and have our certificates signed at the District Office.

Bill: I understand, but it's still being signed by an FSIS official and being issued by a FSIS official, correct?

Andrea: Correct. My question, again, is now that- I'm just saying if it electronically goes through the system and some I understand will be electronically submitted to a country, whichever one you all designate as the country for the system, but some of them will require original certificates, so that would have to be actually physically printed out. For in lieu of Dr. Green is our designated export veterinarian, that I'm assuming that certificate would have to print at her location in order for her to sign it?

Bill: That is correct, and that's what you will do is you'll have to print it, sign it. That's how you'll get it, just like you would see export certificates today.

Andrea: Okay. The only reason I'm asking ...

Bill: I'm sorry; I just want to clarify. The process doesn't change the system; it's just an automation of the process.

Andrea: But it isn't real strict because I don't think you realize that the exporters in Atlanta, we print out our only certificates. We print them here. We have to sign out for original certificates that are on form. Every exporter prints them at their location. Then we take the original certificates that we printed to return, submit, the prepared in lieu of certificates. We said we'd take those down to Dr. Green to physically sign for these certificates. The original plus the triplicate certificate is surrendered to us and we get the original back. We no longer print at that location. We used to, but the District Office said we can no longer print at their location, so every exporter prints at their own location and we take those certificates back down for her to sign them.

Now this whole premise of how this is being done is you're saying that the exporters will not be given the security paper in order to print originals, so all the originals will now have to be printed by that vet. Is there going to be something set up at the District Office in Atlanta for people to print?

Bill: If you would just send me your specific issues to me ...

Greg: On the website.

Bill: ... to our website, and that's why I'm not completely clear. You should not be getting an export certificate unless an inspector hands it to you, because that's an accountable item.

Andrea: You probably need to discuss this with the District Office in Atlanta and with the District Deputy Director at that location, because this is an export office and how it's handled. That was the premise ...

Bill: I understand there's special arrangements, because 80 percent of the in lieu of certificates go through Atlanta. I understand that. We will definitely look into that and if you had asked some questions on the website and identified, we'll specifically get back to you on that.

Andrea: Okay, thank you.

Carl: I'd just like to add also; when we talk about electronic signatures for countries, the countries will have a role. They will be able to come into the system and they will see all certificates that have been issued to them, so we're not going to send them an electronic copy. They're going to come into the system and be able to see everything that's been issued to them, so they'll be able to know whether it's valid or not by coming into the system. If it's not in the system they're going to consider it it's not a valid certificate, so that's why everything flows through the system.

If they don't have an account in the system and they want the web signature, then you would be able to hand that to them, or we could still print one out that has an electronic signature and you can still hand that to them.

Andrea: Okay.

Rachel: Just to go back to your original, we did get- Tuesday, I think these comments and some others that we're still considering.

Andrea: Okay, thank you.

Tony: Hi, guys. Actually we do have another caller in the queue, if you'd like to move onto our next caller. We'll be going to the line of Carol Mesenbrink.

Carol: This is Carol from Greater Omaha Packing and as I'm listening I just had a couple questions in reference to turnaround time of applications. Sometimes we may have an order placed in the morning that is scheduled to ship that day, so we have to kind of rush to get our FSIS application and get that process completed. In listening I'm not sure what the time frame is going to be from when we would submit that electronically and be able to know that our inspector now has it in their queue to print off and tell us it's good to go and we can do our processes of scanning and letting him look at those items. I know you mentioned three hours somewhere earlier in the call, but is there a way to really identify that and are we still going to be able to do those last minute exports?

Bill: This is Bill Smith again. What I can tell you is that, as an example, when we get a seed from the A type, the VS system, it's entered into an export, that means an import, that comes over in usually 30 minutes or less. That is my understanding that once you enter it'll be available to the inspector in that time frame. Now the inspector's still going to have to go in and then pull that out, but that, again, is why I said earlier is just like you do today, you present an application to the inspector. Now whether the inspector drops everything and acts on that right away or puts that in the queue as part of one of their food safety verifications, that process remains in effect.

The system is certainly not going to hold off your ability to put in changes that you need done. If it puts it off in the morning, it'll be there in the afternoon. Now, when the inspector can work with it, that's just like you do every day today.

Carol: Will the company receive a notice when it's been sent to the inspector or available for the inspector to see?

Bill: That's not my understanding at this- it'll show up on an inspector's desktop. The company will know if it's rejected, if the application were not in the requirements, so we'll know that right away.

Carol: Okay, but we won't know if it went into his queue yet. Okay, I was just thinking that might be a good notice for us also. Okay, that's all I had.

Bill: We'll confirm whether you can be able to log in and see that or not. We'll confirm and get that answer on the website.

Carol: Okay, thank you Bill.

Greg: Anymore questions in the queue?

Tony: Guys, we do have one more caller in the queue. Going now to the line of Tony Corbo.

Tony K.: Hi, this is Tony [Corbo 00:26:52] from Food & Water Watch. I have a question; has the software for the Export Module gone through user testing? Who's been involved in that user testing? What's the feedback that you're getting from those who are using the software in terms of the ease of using the system?

Bill: This is Bill Smith. We're still in the development phase, and so as in our early system, we did have an initial test of the system back in- I believe at the end of January, early February. We had 50 people from across the United States did come in and they did a full user acceptance test on it. Based on that they went

back, any issues that came up were identified back to the contractor. They're now in the process of adjusting anything needed based on that testing. Then we will then be testing again. This thing will be... one, it's not finalized; two, it will undergo rigorous user acceptance testing, integration testing, and security testing at each step of the way.

Tony K.: The testing has not been finalized? Based on the feedback that you've already gotten you're revising some of the software?

Bill: As we do to any enhancement to PHIS, yeah. We develop it, we test it first at headquarters, then in the field, then it goes back to the contractor if we need any adjustments made. Then those adjustments are made, then it's tested again, and usually in a lesser enhancement that brings and then we deploy it. Given this system we will be doing several testings, so we'll be on our second or third set of testing very soon. Right, but it's not finalized yet, because we want this extreme testing to be done.

Greg: Thank you Tony. Other Tony, are there any more questions?

Tony: Guys, we did have another caller join in the queue. We're going now to Brad Bowman.

Brad: Hi, guys. I know you've done a really good job of explaining some of the steps of the process of roll-out. I actually was- just years ago we were a part of I guess a big team and I had jumped in on it at the late time, and we were able to under Rick Harries have a meeting in Washington, D.C. to look at what the screens and the systems and the application was going to look like. Of course then after that everything kind of was put on hold. My concern has always been, is that the industry and the proteins in and of itself, each organization has a different vision and organization around its exports and its international.

My concern, even years ago, was that the creation of this was based upon the establishment for the loading facility, rather than some security maybe around a central company that maybe wanted to centralize this. Since it's been years ago that we really seen this, I'm still really- I'm excited about this in the first place, because this looks like some great stuff going on here, but more from my standpoint is when can guys like me begin to look at those screens again and look at how organizationally and structure-wise that we could begin to build ourselves around this tool that could save us a lot of time and improve our accuracy and speed to those certificates, but yet have it structured such that in an organization like maybe ours we might have multiple people in on one application. How does that come together and what's that timetable look like, or is there a timetable on it?

Carl: This is Carl. Some of the feedback we got already was the batch processing, and it talks to what you're describing. Multiple parts of the organization do different things and they submit it to a mainframe, and then that mainframe generates information. As Bill mentioned earlier, we're still in the development phase of PHIS exports. We've done internal testing; that's what he's talking about with the UAT and stuff. Eventually when we get to a certain level when we believe the software's ready, we will start doing outreach to bring in the industry, to start looking at what's been put together. We will do a pilot to make sure that what we think and what the industry thinks is going to work before we actually go live. Those dates haven't been established yet.

I think probably within the next three to six months we will start doing some of that effort, but until we get the system developed to a certain level, it really doesn't do any good to say this is the way it's going to go, and then change it. We know for the batching we have to put the XML schema out there if the companies wanted to update their systems to be able to generate that information, so we know we have to go out there and let you know what's going on with that. We know that PHIS screens may be a little different to some people, so they need to learn that. All that education will be coming as we get ready to roll this out in the future, but until then when we finish the internal testing, then we'll go to the next phase of testing, and then you'll get to see some of that stuff. That hasn't been decided, what dates.

Bill: This is Bill Smith. I just want to- we committed to early on and [inaudible 00:33:21] there will be a corporate capability. If you have, like you said, some group like the headquarters group, let's say you're in Minnesota where you're shipping from is Washington state, you're billing is let's say Louisiana, that all people will be able to touch it at the same time. Now the corporate roles will be controlled by the corporate, so you will have to manage those who has them and who doesn't, how you take them away, but there will be a corporate role. That will not only be for export, but also for domestic, so for domestic plant re-portion. That same corporate will be available. When the export is rolled out, that will be in corporate capability.

Brad: Great! Thank you guys.

Greg: No, thank you Brad! Do we have another question in the queue?

Tony: Hey guys, we actually do have a couple more callers in the queue. We're going to move on to our next caller, to the line of Patricia Buck.

Patricia: Hello, this is Patricia Buck from the Center for Foodborne Illness. My question really goes back to #2, and maybe I'm just curious because I want to make sure that your system has the type of information that would give us the best food

protections. Is there any anticipation of bringing PHIS into a system where it can look at what's going on with foodborne disease surveillance? We do have systems such as PulseNet international and I think it would be really important for the exporters to know if there had been clusters or incidents of disease in various sections of the world so that they could have sort of like a heads up that there might be some problems that they need to check in those areas to make sure they're not importing products that could be contaminated.

Bill: A couple things; thank you for that question. One is, and again, if you would submit that to the website, we'll make sure it's fully answered for everybody. I think to get a little bit of what you're talking about, the Export Library is where those kinds of issues I believe are taken care of. If there's a restriction for product that has been sent out, that will be addressed in the Export Library and that's what we talked about. When an application is submitted, if something changes like you can't submit- ship certain product from a certain part of the country, that'll be in the Export Library. At that point when the application comes in, if those conditions are met they'll be rejected, is that the application would be rejected and the exporter would be notified of that rejection.

I can also tell you the system there are several checks and balances, so if it gets through that and the inspector then does re-inspection and they find the export cert- prior to them signing the export cert if the inspector does the inspection and it goes into the system, it'll go back for another check. So if something changed while that was being done, then the system will pick it up. It'll be real-time and rejected on that basis. The exporter will always know the reasons that something gets rejected, whether it be for countries, requirements, whether it be for distributions based on something that's going on in the country, but all of that will be managed through the Export Library.

Male: This is Phil Derfler. The other part of it is that I think your question's really about products that we'd be importing, and what we're talking about today is really products that we'll be exporting. I mean, we're designing other parts of what we do to address your concern, but this is really about exports.

Patricia: I'm sorry; I guess in the discussion as it's evolved- it triggered a lot of other thoughts in my mind. I realized it was on exports, but you're right; that is an import question.

Greg: Thank you, Pat. Next question?

Tony: Hi, guys. It looks like we do have another call in the queue. We're going now to the line of Randy [Straight 00:38:27].

Tyson: Yeah, this is Tyson. My boss [inaudible 00:38:32] here has a question.

Male: One of the parties we met earlier of the Working Group that submitted a number of questions under the four points that you had sent out, is there going to be a specific written response to those?

Rachel: We're going to take all of the information we've received in account, and generally, like I said, we would discuss our file implementation plans in the preamble to the final rule. If there are specific issues that we see that we need to address on a timely basis, we can do that.

Male: Well, there were probably 15 or 20 different points under Point #3 that were brought up.

Rachel: Right.

Male: One of the key things that is a concern of mine is that it seems like we've got the cart before the horse a bit here, that a lot of these countries may not necessarily be as willing to accept that process and the electronic signatures and so forth as we might think. I think that goes back to questions that were asked earlier in this call as to what countries actually have agreed to participate or accept this type of a process for communicating health certificates. While that process is going on, there will probably be some countries presumably that will think it's a great idea, possibly just to enter some of the others, but there may be some other third-world type countries that frankly barely have computers.

I guess my point would simply be you're going to have to maintain two different types of issuance of health certificates, otherwise we're going to have problems exporting to some of these countries that really aren't willing to accept or aren't in a position to deal with the more sophisticated electronic documentation. Will there be a dual system?

Bill: This is Bill Smith. There will not be a dual system, but I think, as we said earlier, there will be three ways we're envisioning of issuing this certificate. One would be electronic, one would be digital and one would be wet signature. Those countries are accepting wet signature today on an export certificate, so the only thing that's changing is the export certificate is now printed out onto a secure paper, instead of on a numbered export certificate, which is accountable property being inspected, so that's going to change. For those countries that want a web signature on a piece of paper, that's what they'll get. The inspector will be handing that to the exporter and that will be their record, just like the export certificate is today, and that'll be used for those countries that want a wet signature. That's how they'll get it.

Male: Okay.

Bill: I'm hoping I'm answering your question there.

Male: Yeah, that was my key is if they don't buy into the whole process of going onto a system and trying to review documents that are coming in from the U.S. on exports, they still require a physical hard copy, original that's been signed, or by some unfortunate chance we still have to give original health certificates on a letter of credit to a bank, that we'll still have the ability to get those kinds of hard copy documents with original signatures without having to rely on just doing it computer to computer.

Bill: Yeah, you'll be able to do that. Now, again, and just like the original, you'll have the original. They'll be on secure paper now. For purposes, you just said in your accounting system, once you make a copy of it, the word "copy" will show up because that's what security paper does. People then know it's a copy of the original and not the original.

Male: Okay.

Bill: But the country which you need, that will not be on there.

Male: Okay, one other question ...

Bill: Each security paper will be numbered, so just like each certificate has a unique number, each security will have a number also. It'll identify that on that particular application and certificate.

Male: Okay, one other question; as it related to- I thought I heard in one of the earlier discussions that there was the effort to go to a single document that would incorporate some of the things that are on letterhead certificates? Has that been addressed? Is there any buy-in from any of the countries that require that type of ...?

Rachel: Yeah, I mean, I think what we were talking about earlier, there are some countries already that don't have special letterhead requirements and additional, so we were talking about, possibly, when implementing starting with a country like that.

Bill: My understanding is, again, the Export Library drives all this. If there was a required letterhead attachment that needs to go, the system will know that and that'll all be printed as part- so when you say go to one document, it'll all be printed as one file, for lack of better word. There might be two documents, but everything will be attached to that single export certificate that's needed to get that product into a country that requires a special letterhead. Those things are being loaded into the- that's part of the Export Library. I mean, right now we

have those kinds of things being added to the database as we speak, so we're ready to go when we need to go.

Male: Thank you.

Greg: No, thank you. Do we have any more in the queue?

Tony: Guys, at this time I'm not seeing any more in the queue.

Rachel: We have one more set of questions that came up when we were meeting about planning for this meeting, and we didn't submit this in writing. If what we're interested in is how difficult will it be for exporters to add a country and how much advance notice will they need from FSIS to add countries? Also what would be the best way for FSIS to notify exporters that the agency will be adding additional countries in the PHIS Export Module?

Greg: Again, this call will be recorded and you'll be able to see all of the transcript of this call. I want to thank everybody for calling in. If there are no more questions- Tony, any final questions or comments?

Tony: Guys, I am not seeing any at this time.

Greg: Okay, Bill Smith ...

Bill: I just want to add one other thing, because that is one of the important questions that came up in #3. You need to know we are looking at a back-up system, so we understand that the system if for whatever reason there's an issue, whether it's [inaudible 00:46:29] or whatever, and we know we have to have a back-up system in place and we're working on that also.

Greg: Thank you. Any more comments?

Bill: No.

Greg: Okay.

Rachel: I'll just say, again, so for people to submit the comments we'll have information in the Constituent Update tomorrow and a link to where to submit, and we can add the questions that I just raised today that wasn't in what we submitted. We can include that in the online version, so people can respond to that one too.

Greg: Okay. Great! Thank you very much for calling. We appreciate the feedback and we'll talk to you soon.

