



OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

September 14, 2009

New Federal User Fee for International Shipments

Dear Exporter:

We wish to inform you of a ***new federal user fee effective October 1, 2009***, for exporters who obtain federal phytosanitary certificates from state or county cooperators for international shipments. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be imposing the new user fee. These federal fees are separate and in addition to any local fees that may be charged. There will be an additional \$6 federal fee for each traditional paper certificate issued, which will be collected by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and remitted to APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program to properly recover federal administrative costs for providing export certification services for plants and plant products.

APHIS/PPQ has an interactive web-based system, the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) system, which enables U.S. exporters to apply for certificates online. As an incentive for transitioning to the electronic system, APHIS will reduce the \$6 administrative user fee to \$3 for all phytosanitary certificates issued through the PCIT system. Beginning October 1, 2010, the user fee will increase to \$12 for traditional paper certificates and \$6 for certificates issued through the PCIT system.

Learn more about PCIT and/or get started using this system by contacting our office by email at sonomaag@sonoma-county.org or by phone at (707) 565-2371.

Additional information can be found at the following websites:

<https://pcit-training.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/support> PCIT training website

<https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/> PCIT log-in page

We appreciate your cooperation and hope you are able to participate in this new program which will help keep your costs down. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact our office, or APHIS PCIT helpdesk for technical assistance Monday – Friday from 5:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. PST at (888) HLP-PCIT or email at pcithelpdesk@aphis.usda.gov .

Sincerely,

Cathy V. Neville
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer