



From July, 2018 the vessels loading grain cargoes have had to wait at outer roads for departure much longer than in the past years, in some cases up to 7 days. The situation is the same at all Russian ports.

The reason for the delays is Phytosanitary Certificate. This certificate is required for customs declaration of the export grain cargoes. As soon as the customs formalities are complete the vessel is free to pass the clearance and sail.

Phytosanitary Certificate is issued by Rosselkhoznadzor, Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance www.fsvps.ru.

Phytosanitary quarantine control in Russia is regulated by Federal Law No. 206-FZ 'On plant quarantine' dated July 21, 2014 and Order No. 293 dated July 13, 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

In spite of the apparent protraction of documentation formalities, particularly as compared to the previous years when vessels could sail within one day after completion of loading, from the legal point of view Phytosanitary Certificates are being issued in full accordance with the federal law provisions.

In accordance with Paragraph III, point 12. of Order No. 293 the Phytosanitary Certificate is provided within **3 business days** from date of application.

This 3 day period for issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate counts from providing all the documentation stipulated by the Russian legislation and requirements of the importing country.

Freight forwarders responsible for obtaining the Phytosanitary Certificate can not apply without presenting original cargo documents (Bill of Lading), Fumigation Certificate and results of quality control by Federal State-Funded Institution Federal Centre of Quality and Safety Assurance for Grain and Grain products www.fczerna.ru. In turn, Centre of Quality and Safety Assurance may release the lab test results for the very last parcel loaded onboard in **1-5 days**, subject to the parameters specified by the Importer. For example, lab testing of some parameters for grain shipments to Egypt takes 5 days. For destinations like Turkey and Italy the quality analyses are reportedly available within 1 day after completion of loading.

Note:

Agents dealing with export shipments of grain are mostly imposed by Shippers and tend to prepare Statement of Facts in favor of Shippers, sometimes writing '*awaiting for payment from Buyer to Shipper*' where the actual reason of vessel's delay is purely obtaining the Phytosanitary Certificate.

Recommendations:

- To better understand the likely timeframe of vessel's idle stay after completion of loading and accordingly plan their bunker supply, crew change etc. the Owners are advised to check with Shippers / Charterers the expected period of obtaining phytosanitary certificate for the country of destination.
- Where the content of Statement of Facts is concerned, make sure that correct reason of delay is indicated and items non-related directly to vessel's operations are excluded or the respective remarks are inserted by the Master.