



Progress Update on the CCSBT's Trial eCDS Project

Introduction

This paper provides an update on the progress of the development of a trial eCDS. The indicative costs of developing a trial eCDS using the TUFMAN 2 platform were presented to Members at the First Meeting of the Technical Compliance Working Group (TCWG) in paper CCSBT-TCWG/1910/05. This was discussed further at CC13 and referred to the Extended Commission (EC). At the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission (CCSBT 26), Members supported developing a trial eCDS based on the current CDS Resolution. An eCDS Working Group was formed in early 2021 to assist the Secretariat with decisions concerning the development of the trial eCDS, with a two-day online meeting held in April 2021.

Summary of Progress

Table 1 shows the components of the system to be developed together with the progress achieved. Progress has been good and the development side of the project is expected to be completed during 2022 at a total cost of \$165,000, which is slightly higher than the original approximate cost estimate of \$150,000. The system is functional and has been deployed to the cloud test server. The Secretariat has conducted some testing and revising of components and the eCDS is now ready, as a prototype, for Members to evaluate, noting that it requires more rigorous testing and the addition of a full suite of data quality checks.

At the time of writing the developer has worked on the eCDS for 717 hours, with 414 remaining from the original budget.

Table 1: Development progress of the eCDS

Component Description	Progress
Online form development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch monitoring form (CMF) • Re-export/export after landing of domestic product (REEF) • Farm stocking form (FSF) • Farm transfer form (FTF) 	Completed – Ready for testing
Form validation / certification	Completed – Ready for testing
Form data quality checks	In progress (see text)
User access rules	Completed – Ready for testing
Printable forms (CMF, REEF)	Completed – Ready for testing
User delegation	To be developed

Data Quality Checks:

Data quality checks are an important and complicated component of any software that involves data entry. At present, the eCDS has some very basic checks in place but the final system will need to have a comprehensive set of checks to minimise data entry errors and invalid data. The Secretariat has compiled a comprehensive set of checks but felt it necessary to seek feedback and input from Members before tasking the developer to include these in the software (which will be time consuming). The Secretariat prepared a background paper on data checks for the eCDS Working Group that was distributed in July 2021. Feedback received will be

incorporated into a revised version for consideration at the October TCWG meeting, and it is expected that the eCDS developer will implement the agreed checks soon after the meeting.

Proposed Workplan

The following is an indicative schedule of the work remaining:

2021:

- Confirm the general design and functionality by Members.
- Finalise the specifications of the data quality checks and implement the checks.
- Finalise development of forms, data access rules, delegation, refinements, form correction and re-validation, etc.

2022 (first half):

- Rigorous testing by the Secretariat.
- Rigorous testing by Members (potentially including field testing¹).
- Modifications to the system as required.

2022 (second half):

- Field testing¹ of the eCDS by Members (to include vessels, exporters, importers).
- Development completed.
- **Members decide whether to implement the Trial eCDS as the CCSBT's eCDS.**
 - Adopt a modified CDS Resolution that allows for an eCDS.

If Members decide to implement the Trial eCDS as the CCSBT's eCDS, a budget of approximately \$30,000 will be required in 2023 for bug fixes, enhancements and support for Members who are using the eCDS. A budget of \$20,000 should be allocated in 2024 for any further work and ongoing maintenance in that year.

2023:

- Implementation of the eCDS with a subset of the fleet, including exporters, carrier vessels and importers (other vessels would continue with the paper based CDS). During this implementation phase, exporters, carrier vessels and importers may be dealing with both electronic and paper based CDS forms.
- Modifications to the system as required.

2024:

- Full implementation of the eCDS.
- Maintenance of the system.

Recommendations

The Compliance Committee is invited to consider and comment on the proposed workplan.

Prepared by the Secretariat

¹ Field testing of the Trial eCDS is not a substitute for using the paper CDS (i.e. paper CDS forms still need to be completed).