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# Introduction

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The Export Program Manual (XPM) is a reference to use when inspecting commodities and issuing export certificates.

Unless specified otherwise, all references to “export certificate(s)” in the XPM refer to the following:

- PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate
- PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products
- PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport

Phytosanitary Issues Management (PIM), Export Services (ES) is the headquarters unit within the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA–APHIS–PPQ), that maintains the export program for U.S. applicants for export certification of U.S. and foreign-origin agricultural commodities.

The Export Certification Program does not require certification of any exports, but does provide certification of plants and plant products as a service to exporters. After assessing the phytosanitary condition of the plants or plant products intended for export, relative to a foreign country’s import regulations, an Authorized Certification Official (ACO) issues an internationally recognized phytosanitary certificate (PPQ Form 577), a phytosanitary certificate for reexport (PPQ Form 579), or an export certificate for processed plant products (PPQ Form 578), if warranted. USDA–APHIS–PPQ also enters into written agreements with industry to allow the issuance of industry-issued certificates giving assurance that a plant product has been handled, processed, or inspected in a manner required by a foreign government. An example of an industry-issued certificate includes the ISPM 15 treatment mark.

NOTICE
USDA–APHIS–PPQ does not regulated the exportation of commodities.
Scope

The information in the XPM is based on international standards, PPQ policy, and regulations providing procedures for certifying commodities offered for export. The XPM also covers information about PPQ’s Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD), an electronic database that provides current information on the plant import requirements of foreign countries. The Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking System (PCIT) automates the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate, including the collection and tracking of its related information.

This manual is divided into the following chapters:
◆ Introduction on page 1-1-1
◆ Policy on page 2-1-1
◆ General Procedures on page 3-1-1
◆ Special Procedures on page 4-1-1

The manual also includes Appendixes, a Glossary on page Glossary-1-1, and an Index on page Index-1-1.

The Policy chapter provides the framework needed to coordinate and execute activity throughout the export program. Policy statements help focus attention and resources on high-priority issues—aligning and merging efforts to achieve program goals.

The General Procedures chapter explains the operational processes required to implement program policy and how ACOs carry out their responsibilities.

The Special Procedures chapter is subdivided into two groups:
◆ Commodity—covers the special procedures for certifying specific commodities
◆ Special Programs—covers the special procedures for certifying commodities associated with special programs

The Appendixes contain the following topics:
◆ Supplementary information not considered procedural
◆ Explanations and elaborations not essential to the manual but helpful to the user
◆ Information that interrupts the main flow of the procedures, making the procedures more difficult to follow
The Glossary defines specialized words, abbreviations, and acronyms associated with certifying commodities for export.

The Index contains topics with links and page numbers for quick reference.

Although the XPM does mention and give some direction for using PExD as related to the procedures, the XPM does not comprehensively cover the use of databases related to export certification. Related databases include PExD and Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT).

Users

Federal, State, and California County ACOs use the XPM as a reference for inspecting commodities and issuing export certificates.

The experience of users will vary, but ACOs should have a working knowledge of the following:

- PPQ policy
- PCIT
- PExD

Enabling Legislation

Plant Protection Act
To enable PPQ to help applicants meet the plant quarantine import requirements of foreign countries, Section 418, CERTIFICATION FOR EXPORTS, of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) provides the authority for issuing export certificates for the export of commodities. The regulations for enforcing the Plant Protection Act are 7 CFR Part 353 and 7 CFR Part 354.

7 CFR Part 353—Export Certification
7 CFR Part 353 provides export certification authorities.

7 CFR Part 354.3—User Fees for Certain International Services
7 CFR Part 354.3 provides information on the collection of export certification user fees.
Program Standards

The U.S. export program is based on standards established by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). The U.S. export program has an obligation and responsibility to meet the standards developed by the IPPC and the NAPPO. The primary standards on which the U.S. export program is based are the following:

**IPPC Standards**
The IPPC standards consist of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

**NAPPO Standards**
The NAPPO standards consist of Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPMs).

PPQ is delegated as the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and assumes the responsibilities for ensuring the U.S. export program meets international standards. To facilitate the export of commodities for our stakeholders and have a credible export program that is respected by our trading partners, our program will follow the policies and procedures in this manual. Our policies and procedures are designed to be consistent with IPPC and NAPPO standards.

The primary roles related to export certification and their responsibilities are outlined in Appendix D on page D-1-1.

Conventions

Conventions are established by custom and are widely recognized and accepted. Major conventions used in the XPM follow.

**Advisories**
Advisories are used throughout the XPM to bring important information to the user’s attention. Please carefully review each advisory. The definitions coincide with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and are in the format shown below.

⚠️ **DANGER**

DANGER indicates imminent risk of death or serious injury.
**Introduction**

**Conventions**

⚠ **WARNING**

WARNING indicates possible risk of serious injury.

⚠ **CAUTION**

CAUTION indicates minor to moderate risk of injury.

**NOTICE**

NOTICE alerts readers of important information or Agency policy.

**SAFETY**

SAFETY indicates general instructions or reminders related to safety.

**Boldfacing**

Boldfaced type is used to emphasize important words throughout the XPM. These words include: *always, cannot, do not, does not, except, must, never, no, not, only, other than.*

**Bulleted Lists**

Bulleted lists indicate that there is no order to the information listed.

**Chapters**

This manual contains the following chapters: Introduction, Policy, General Procedures, and Special Procedures.

**Contents**

Most chapters and sections of a chapter have a table of contents listing the heading titles and is located at the beginning to help find information.

**Control Data**

Control data are the numbers located at the bottom of most pages, opposite the page number, which can be used to track revisions. At the top of the page is the chapter, section, and first-level heading. At the bottom of the page is the month, year, manual transmittal number, manual title, and page number.

**EXAMPLE**

The numbers at the bottom of the page are 3/2023-29.

- 3/2023 is the month and year when the manual page was issued
- -29 is the transmittal number
**Decision Tables**

Decision tables are used throughout the XPM. The first and middle columns in each table represent conditions, and the last column represents the action to take after all conditions listed for that row are considered. Begin with the column headings and move left to right, if the condition does **not** apply, continue one row at a time until you find the condition that does apply. Refer to Table 1-1-1 for guidance on using decision tables.

**Table 1-1-1  How to Use Decision Tables**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you: Read this column cell and row first</th>
<th>And if the condition applies: Continue in this cell</th>
<th>Then: TAKE the action listed in this cell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find the previous condition did <strong>not</strong> apply, read this column cell</td>
<td>Continue in this cell</td>
<td>TAKE the action listed in this cell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Examples**

Examples are used to clarify a point by applying to a real-world situation. Examples **always** appear in boxes as a means of visually separating them from the other information contained on the page.

**EXAMPLE**

Examples are graphically placed boxes within the text as a means of visually separating information from other information contained on the page. Examples will **always** appear in a box.

**Footnotes**

Footnotes are usually placed at the bottom of a page that comment on or cite a reference from a designated part of the text. The following types of footnotes are used in the XPM.

- General text footnotes located at the bottom of the page, which are consecutively numbered throughout the manual
- Table or figure footnotes located directly below the associated table or figure (if a table or figure continues beyond one page, the associated footnotes will appear on the last page)

**Heading Levels**

Within each chapter and section there are three heading levels. The first-level heading is indicated by a horizontal line across both left and right columns with the heading language across the left and right columns directly underneath. The body text after a first-level heading is located **inside** the margined text area, one line after the heading language. The second- and third-level headings are inside the margined text area with the body text following underneath.
Hypertext Links (Highlighting) to Tables, Figures, and Headings
Tables, figures, and headings are cross-referenced in the body of the manual. These appear in blue hypertext in the online manual.

EXAMPLE Refer to Table 1-1-2 on page 1-1-9 to determine how to report problems with the XPM.

Indentions
Entry requirements summarized from CFRs, import permits (IPs), or policies are indented on the page.

Italics
The following items are italicized throughout this manual.

◆ Cross-references to headings
◆ Publication names
◆ Scientific names of commodities

Numbering Scheme
A three-level numbering scheme is used in this manual for pages, tables, and figures. The first number represents the chapter. The second number represents the section. The third number represents the page, table, or figure. This numbering scheme allows for easier updating and adding pages without having to reprint an entire chapter. Dashes are used in page numbering to differentiate page numbers from decimal points.

Section
Some of the chapters in this manual are broken down into sections. Each section begins on a new, right-hand page. Sections are identified by the second number in the numbering scheme used for this manual. The manual chapters General Procedures and Special Procedures are divided into sections.

Revisions to Manuals
Export Services (ES) issues transmittals for advance notices, immediate updates, and new editions of manuals.

Immediate Updates
Immediate updates are issued when the revisions are urgently needed and cover six pages or less.
Transmittals for immediate updates usually contain the following information:

- List of the updated pages
- Purpose of the immediate update
- Supersede statement
- Transmittal number (used to track revisions)

**New Editions**
For new editions to online manuals, transmittal e-mails are issued.

**Supersede Statements**
Supersede statements identify existing official documents that are no longer valid or accurate because they have been incorporated into the manual. Supersede statements are included in transmittals.

ES is obligated to identify all existing official documents that are superseded. If manual users accessed outdated information that was not formally superseded, the agency may be liable. Therefore, supersede statements are critical from a legal standpoint.

**Transmittals**
Transmittals are the correspondence accompanying immediate updates and new editions. Transmittals explain the manual revision. Each transmittal has a unique number usually identified in the subject line, which can be used to track revisions. New editions always start with the transmittal number of -01 and the number increases by one for each revision made during the life of the edition.

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**Using the Manual**
Review the Table of Contents (TOC) of this manual to get a feel for the scope of covered material. Use the TOC in each chapter (mini TOC) to find the needed information. If the TOC or mini TOC is not specific enough, turn to the Index to find the topic and corresponding page number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◆ Are unable to access the online manual</td>
<td>CONTACT the Export Services Manuals Unit Liaison at 301-851-2279 or via email at <a href="mailto:michael.j.perry@usda.gov">michael.j.perry@usda.gov</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◆ Have a suggestion for improving the formatting (layout, spelling, etc.)</td>
<td>CONTACT someone for assistance (refer to Appendix A on page A-1-1 for the established contact protocol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◆ Disagree with policy procedure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◆ Have an urgent situation requirement an immediate response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 2

Policy

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Accreditation

ACO Accreditation
Authorized Certification Official (ACO) accreditation is in accordance with 7 CFR 353 and the NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) No. 8. Also refer to Reaccreditation of ACOs on page 5-1-3 and PPQ’s Accreditation Systems and Programs website.

Seed Health Accreditation
PPQ’s National Seed Health System (NSHS) provides accreditation to non-government entities to perform the following testing and inspections required for an ACO to issue a PPQ Form 577 or 579. Each nongovernment entity is audited and evaluated by the NSHS under the direct supervision of the Accreditation Manager for PPQ.

◆ Laboratory testing for plant pathogens using the standardized methods approved by the NSHS
◆ Growing season inspections of seed-producing fields, nurseries, or greenhouses for disease freedom using standardized methods approved by the NSHS
◆ Sampling of seeds using standardized methods and procedures approved by the NSHS
◆ Visual inspections of seeds for phytosanitary certification using PPQ-approved methods at the applicant’s facility for insects, weed seeds, soil, and other contaminants

It is against PPQ policy to issue certificates for commodities:
◆ That underwent testing or inspection by a non-accredited entity
◆ Based on results of an activity conducted before the entity was accredited

ACOs may accept results from accredited entities for accredited phytosanitary procedures. These documented results serve to determine eligibility to issue PPQ Forms 577 or 579 for seeds intended for propagation.

The most current information about the accredited entities and the functions they are allowed to perform can be found on the PPQ website.
Additional Declarations (ADs)

ADs are official government assurances regarding the phytosanitary status of a plant or plant product.

Authority for Entering Additional Declarations

ADs can be included only on PPQ Forms 577 or 579. ADs must be, based on activities performed in the U.S., verified by an ACO and supported by documentation such as field inspection results, lab testing results, etc. If a required AD is prohibited by PPQ policy, certification cannot be provided.

If an applicant is an Authorized Entity (AE) and is authorized by the local State or County duty station to enter ADs, then the ACO should provide the necessary AD(s) to the applicant and the ACO must verify that the information on the phytosanitary certificate is correct before signing.

Additional Official Phytosanitary Information

Additional official phytosanitary information, such as inspection, testing, etc., conducted in the United States and verified by an ACO, can be included on a phytosanitary certificate at the request of exporters to facilitate future re-exports from a foreign country. This information is separated from the first country import requirements, and is listed in the AD block, under a heading titled: Additional Official Phytosanitary Information.

Certification Eligibility Review

Occasionally applicants request review of a commodity deemed ineligible for certification. Export Services (ES) cannot consider any request until the applicant provides all necessary information to ES.

Listed below is the information that ES must have to review the request.

- Destination country
- Date the applicant wishes to ship
- Description of commodity and, if processed, a detailed description of the process. The description must include the following information: ingredients, origin of each ingredient, process applied to each ingredient and the botanical name of each ingredient. All information will be held in strict confidence. The process must be described in detail.
- How the commodity is packaged
- Intended use
- Name of applicant with contact information
Commercial Information

Based on ISPM 12, phytosanitary certificates are not commercial documents. Commercial information cannot be referenced on phytosanitary certificates and is not to be used as the basis for phytosanitary certification. The most common forms of commercial information requested are the following:

- Letters of credit
- Trade names, sizes, or other commercial terms
- Tariff numbers
- Purchase contract or booking numbers
- Tax ID numbers

Confidentiality

Records containing privileged or confidential trade information and commercial or financial information (obtained from a person) is exempt from mandatory release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). (Refer to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(b)(4).) However, FOIA applies only to agency records in the possession of a federal agency at the time the FOIA request is made.

If someone requests a completed or partially completed certificate, a State record that provided the basis for a certificate, or any information in these documents, the request must be forwarded to the Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) Officer for PPQ at the following address:

Legislative and Public Affairs Staff, APHIS, USDA
4700 River Road, Unit 50
Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1232
Phone: 301-851-4102

NOTICE

If the import requirements are available and you cannot verify that the requirements have been met, the remaining phytosanitary conditions must occur in the United States under the supervision of an ACO.
Certificates and State records that provide the basis for issued certificates maintained by State cooperating agencies are not subject to the Federal FOIA. However, many States have open government laws that may require the release of records maintained by State agencies. Therefore, if someone requests a completed or partially completed certificate, a State document that provided the basis for a certificate, or any information in these documents, the State or County employee should not release any information unless appropriate State officials determine that release of the information is required by State law.

Export Certificates

Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form 577) and Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport (PPQ Form 579)

Phytosanitary certification for exports is not a requirement of the USDA. Phytosanitary certification is provided as a service to U.S. applicants based on the phytosanitary requirements of foreign countries. After assessing the phytosanitary condition of the commodities intended for export, an ACO issues these internationally recognized phytosanitary certificates:

- PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate on page 3-5-4
- PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport on page 3-5-8

No liability is attached to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or to any of its representatives with respect to phytosanitary certificates.

PPQ Forms 577 and 579 conform with the model certificates in ISPM 12 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and are used to document the phytosanitary condition of exported commodities. Before issuing PPQ Form 577 or 579, the Authorized Certification Official (ACO) signing the form must officially verify the consignment has been inspected and all the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country have been met. Anytime a PPQ Form 577 or 579 is issued, the preprinted certification statement assures the importing country that the shipment conforms to its requirements regarding freedom from regulated pests. In addition, it is PPQ policy that all shipments certified are practically free from all non-regulated pests. This policy allows for no more than a 2 percent infestation level of any nonregulated pest.

NOTICE

For reexports, if the importing country requirements are available and you cannot verify that the requirements have been met in the country of origin, then any required phytosanitary conditions of the importing country must occur in the United States according to PPQ Policy.
Export Certificate for Processed Plant Products (PPQ Form 578)

PPQ Form 578 was created to assist U.S. exporters of processed products whose shipments may be placed in jeopardy if an official document is not issued. PPQ Form 578 can only be issued for items listed in the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD). Some commodities found in the Processed Products (PPQ Form 578) list are designated as eligible for either a PPQ Form 577 or 578. Items listed only for a PPQ Form 578 may not be issued a PPQ Form 577 even at the exporter’s request.

Even though a PPQ Form 578 is not a phytosanitary certificate, there is a similar statement preprinted in the signature block regarding freedom from injurious plant pests due to the processed nature of the shipment.

Export Certification Violations

Unauthorized changes to an export certificate are in violation of 7 CFR 353 and may be prosecuted under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) (7 USC 7701) and other applicable laws. Any unauthorized changes can result in a foreign government rejecting a shipment. If a violation is discovered, the State Plant Health Director (SPHD) should consider the circumstances surrounding the violation and determine the next course of action, which may entail an Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) investigation.

Export Treatments

PPQ does not have the authority to require more restrictive phytosanitary measures than the importing country. When verifying an export treatment, ensure that the basic components of the treatment are met. Importing countries’ treatment requirements are provided through published regulations, import permits, and/or other official communication. Quality assurance should be maintained at the local level to ensure that all treatments are conducted according to the importing country’s requirements. PPQ accepts treatments by State, County and AMS-FGIS cooperators for inclusion on phytosanitary certificates. All treatments included on PPQ Forms 577 and 579 must be based on the following:

1. The foreign country’s import requirements
2. The registered pesticide label
3. The safety of employees

Verify and record details of the treatment in the appropriate section of the certificate. Examples of the verification of treatments not witnessed by the ACO follow:
Treatments conducted by a licensed pest control operator under compliance are acceptable as long as they provide documentation proving the foreign country’s requirements were met.

**EXAMPLE**
- Evidence of seed treatment, such as the presence of a powder coating on seeds
- Evidence of kiln drying by “KD” marks on lumber, checking moisture content, and inspecting kiln charge chart
- Evidence of compression of cotton bales, such as presence of Permanent Bale Identification (PBI) tags and bale weight(s)

Verifying Seed Treatments
It may not be necessary to be physically present to witness the treatment when verifying a seed treatment on an export certificate. If a treatment is indicated on the label of the seed, it is monitored by the State personnel to ensure Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) compliance. In such cases it is acceptable to attest to seed treatments based on the information contained on the seed label.

**NOTICE**
Do not list treatments recorded on foreign phytosanitary certificates in the treatment section of PPQ Form 579 since these treatments did not occur in the United States.

**NOTICE**
Do not attest to treatments listed on foreign seed labels on a reexport certificate since these treatments did not occur in the United States.

Field Inspections
States, Counties, and entities accredited under the National Seed Health System (NSHS) conduct field inspections to meet foreign import requirements for various U.S. commodities. Often, foreign countries require a growing season inspection by an official certifying agency in the country of origin, and the results of the inspection may need to be recorded on a phytosanitary certificate as an additional declaration. For the purpose of export certification, USDA–APHIS–PPQ recognizes all State and county field inspection reports as well as those issued by entities accredited under the NSHS. Those with a question pertaining to a field inspection report should contact the issuing State or county for clarification.

Genetically Modified Organisms
Export certificates cannot be used to certify the Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) status of a commodity. If a country requires that an export certificate attest to GMO status, then the export certificate cannot be issued.
If the importing country has GMO requirements that are not tied to phytosanitary certification, various other Federal agencies may be able to assist an applicant to meet foreign GMO requirements.

The Agricultural Marketing Service Federal Grain Inspection Service (AMS-FGIS) is a source for GMO certification or letterhead statements for grain. These letterhead statements may or may not meet an importing country’s requirements. ACOs can refer applicants to the AMS–FGIS International Affairs Division (202-690-3368) for assistance on GMO inquiries for grain. For more information, refer to AMS-FGIS Directive 9180.67.

Grain

When certifying grain, it is PPQ policy to only attest to the freedom of insects and weed seeds when required by an additional declaration. By definition grain is intended for processing or consumption and is generally recognized as low risk for the introduction of weeds. This policy applies, whether the requirement is stated in an export summary or official communication.

The reason for this policy is that it is impractical to:

◆ Inspect parent plants during active growth in the field
◆ Identify and preserve the grain produced from those fields due to normal movement and commingling
◆ Adequately inspect grain for disease organisms once harvested

**NOTICE**

When certifying grain, ACOs must never attest to freedom or apparent freedom from plant disease causing organisms such as bacteria, fungi, nematodes, viruses, etc.

Laboratory testing cannot be used as a basis for certification because a methodology for representative sampling and testing for disease causing organisms in grain has never been developed.

Exceptions to this policy are the following:

◆ When the pathogen is not known to occur in the U.S.
◆ When there is an ongoing national survey for the pathogen (currently only Karnal bunt of wheat, *Tilletia indica*)
◆ Special programs approved by ES
◆ Unique exceptions for special crops with unique handling and marketing (pulses and rice) as documented in PExD
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Inspection Authority

USDA–APHIS and AMS–FGIS have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on page 4-3-9 setting forth the policies and procedures by which AMS–FGIS and USDA–APHIS will collaborate on issuing phytosanitary certificates. If AMS–FGIS conducts the phytosanitary inspection for grain, an FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain on page F-1-11 is required for certification.

In addition to inspecting grain (milled or not), AMS–FGIS is authorized to provide phytosanitary inspections for the commodities listed under the heading Species that FGIS Can Inspect on page 4-3-4 if they are derived from grain.

Official Samples, Inspection, and Testing

It is PPQ policy that all sampling, inspection, and testing for PPQ Form 577 and PPQ Form 579 be officially conducted by government officials or accredited entities. Adhering to this policy further ensures shipment integrity and program credibility. Under no circumstances can an applicant provide their own sample for these phytosanitary certificates.

**NOTICE**

The sampling and inspection of commodities for the issuance of a PPQ Form 578 do not have to be official samples; they may be submitted by the applicant.

**NOTICE**

Inspections should be conducted on the entire shipment. The preferred method of certifying a commodity for export is to inspect the commodity before it is containerized.

**NOTICE**

There is no method for inspecting or obtaining representative samples for commodities in retail packaging.

The shipment must remain unadulterated after sampling has taken place. No additions can be made to the total count or weight of the shipment after sampling.

If a PPQ Form 577 or 579 is issued based on laboratory testing, keep documentation supporting the decision.
The above policy does not:

- Supersede specific instructions in an export summary in PExD, work plans, or other official communication with respect to laboratory tests and time limits
- Change the policy with respect to inspection and time limits; inspections must be conducted within specified time limits

### NOTICE

ACOs must caution applicants that shipments cannot be certified until all inspection results have been finalized. The applicant is responsible for maintaining the identity and integrity of the consignment and for safeguarding the commodity after inspection from infestation or infection from harmful organisms.

Official sampling and inspecting may be conducted by:

- Federal, State, or county officials
- Cooperating agencies such as the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for grain and grain products (refer to Commodity • Grain (Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS)) on page 4-3-1) for specific commodities
- Nongovernment entities accredited for seed sampling and inspection (refer to Seed Health Accreditation on page 2-1-2)
- Personnel at cotton compliant warehouses

### Seed Sampling and Testing

Federal laboratories, State laboratories, university laboratories, and companies accredited under the USDA–APHIS–PPQ Accreditation Program may test and sample seed.

- Seed must be sampled and inspected prior to encapsulation (pelletized seed) or embedding into other media (e.g., seed mats).
- Should the seed be treated with a fungicide or pelletized after the laboratory analysis or test, the increase in weight must match the amount of product applied to the seed.
- Some laboratory analyses cannot be conducted on treated seeds. The ACO must check with the laboratory first before submitting a sample(s).
- The lot number cannot change after the laboratory analysis or test has taken place.
- Accredited entities are authorized only to perform those specific phytosanitary functions for which accreditation is held and listed and does not negate the need for a phytosanitary inspection.
Pest Free Area (PFA) or Pest Free Place of Production (PFPP)

A country may require that a commodity originate from a PFA or a PFPP. In order to qualify for this requirement, PFAs and PFPPs must be demonstrated by scientific evidence as described below.

Establishing a PFA

1. A written plan outlining how the proposed PFA would satisfy the requirements found in ISPM 4 and ISPM 8 must be developed. The requirements for establishing and maintaining the PFA will vary according to the biology of the pest, the size and nature of the area, and the available information pertaining to the pest. The methods used to achieve the PFA may include:
   A. General surveillance supported by data (historical records)
   B. Surveys (include survey type and proposed methods)—all survey data must be entered into an appropriate record keeping system (e.g., National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS), Integrated Plant Health Information System (IPHIS), etc.)
   C. Regulatory controls (buffer zones, restrictions on movement of regulated articles, routine monitoring, etc.)
   D. Auditing of records (review and evaluation)
   E. Documentation (reports and work plans)
2. If a survey was conducted, the negative survey data must be entered into the appropriate record keeping system.
3. Periodic checks to verify that pest freedom has been maintained must be carried out and entered into the record keeping system as outlined in the accepted PFA plan.

Establishing a PFPP

1. A written plan outlining how the purposed PFPP would satisfy the requirements found in ISPM 10 and ISPM 8 must be developed. The requirements for establishing and maintaining the PFPP will vary according to the biology of the pest, the size and nature of the area, and the available information pertaining to the pest. The methods used to achieve the PFPP may include:
   A. A system to establish pest freedom including official surveys for one or more years as appropriate
   B. A system to maintain pest freedom
      a. Preventive measures (e.g., elimination of other host material)
      b. Exclusion measures (e.g., physical barriers, screens, controls)
Policy

Pest Free Area (PFA) or Pest Free Place of Production (PFPP)

c. Pest control measures (e.g., cultural methods, treatments and resistant cultivars)

C. Verification that pest freedom has been attained or maintained (e.g., growing season inspections, compliance agreements, sampling, etc.)

D. A system to maintain product identity, consignment integrity and phytosanitary security (labeling)

E. The establishment and maintenance of an appropriate buffer zone

2. Surveys and/or growing season inspections can be conducted.

3. Periodic checks to verify freedom has been maintained must be carried out and entered into a record keeping system. These records must be maintained at the PFPP and be available for review.

A country may state that a commodity is prohibited from:

- Areas in which a specific pest occurs (they do not specify the area)
- Areas considered infected/infested with a pest

Conversely, some countries may specify the areas in the U.S. that they recognize as free from a specific pest, but not always. If PExD does not specify which areas of the U.S. are considered free of a pest, the ACO must make that determination before deciding whether a commodity is prohibited. For guidance and clarification on this topic, follow the approved contact protocol listed in Appendix A on page A-1-1.

Resources for Determining PFAs or PFPPs

Use the following resources for additional information:

- APHIS Plant Pests and Diseases
- Area identifiers, PPQ
- Cooperative extension services
- Crop Protection Compendium (CABI)

NOTICE

The information in CABI is based on voluntary reports; if CABI does not list a pest as occurring in the United States, the pest may occur, but no one has sent a report to CABI.

- State or county officials
- Universities
Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD)

The Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) is the repository of foreign countries phytosanitary import requirements for U.S. origin commodities. PExD enhances APHIS–PPQ’s ability to maintain the export program for U.S. exporters. PExD supports Export Services (ES) with the task of entering export summaries for foreign countries. PExD provides reusable text to facilitate uniform and consistent entry of export summaries. PExD also provides PPQ, State, and county cooperators, and industry user’s easy access to export summaries via direct user queries. PExD interfaces with the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking System (PCIT) application processing. During application processing users are provided with pertinent export summaries based on the importing country, commodity, and other data contained in PExD. This information may be retrieved by users with access to PCIT or for those without access to PCIT, via the PExD link at the bottom of the PCIT home page.

Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT)

PCIT tracks the inspection of agricultural products and certifies compliance with plant health standards of importing countries. This capability provides USDA–APHIS–PPQ with greater fraud prevention, reporting functions, and monitoring capabilities for exported commodities.

PCIT was first released in December 2005. PCIT use is mandatory for all Federal ACOs. Use and acceptance of PCIT continues to increase among State and County ACOs as well as industry. PPQ employees involved with the export program are required to support and facilitate the use of PCIT by industry and cooperators.

Federal ACOs

◆ All PPQ employees involved with the export program should know how to log in and use PCIT
◆ All PPQ Forms 577, 578, and 579 must be issued through PCIT
◆ Paper PPQ Forms 577, 578, and 579 should be retained for backup in case PCIT is down for more than 4 hours
◆ All applications for certification should either be entered by the applicant through PCIT or be entered by the PPQ duty station. Ideally, industry will enter these applications; therefore, PPQ employees should encourage industry to use PCIT to submit applications.
◆ PPQ employees should work with industry contacts by educating them about PCIT and its advantages
Industry or cooperators may access PCIT directly. Industry users can register their own organizations and submit applications to any duty station. Cooperators should contact their local Export Certification Specialist (ECS) for a PIN.

PCIT currently allows users to generate the following forms:

- PPQ Form 572, Application for Inspection and Certification of Plants and Plant Products for Export\(^1\)
- PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate\(^1\)
- PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products\(^1\)
- PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport\(^1\)

PCIT enables PPQ managers to obtain real-time information in order to respond to foreign notices of non-compliance and generate reports concerning certified commodities.

**State and County ACOs**

PCIT use by State and county ACOs is strongly recommended.

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**Prohibited Information on an Export Certificate**

ACOs **must never** enter or authenticate the following information on an export certificate:

- Advice number
- Aflatoxins or other mycotoxins
- Authorization number (**not** same as letter of authorization for European Union (EU))
- Fitness for human consumption
- Freedom from animal diseases and statements about animal health concerns
- Freedom from plant disease-causing organisms for any grain, when the disease occurs in the United States
- Genetic composition and/or disease resistance
- Grade and/or quality
- Import reference number
- Import tariff item number

---

1 A copy can be printed by an applicant, while the original can be printed **only** by authorized entities and ACOs.
◆ Intended use (such as for scientific purposes)
◆ Letter of commitment number
◆ Letter of credit number or requirements
◆ Levels of radioactivity, nuclear radiation, or radionuclides associated with a commodity
◆ Official verification listed in an export summary or an import permit
◆ Pesticides or other chemical residues
◆ Purchase contract number
◆ References pertaining to a permit or a permit number issued by the Division of Management Authority (DMA) for protected plant species
◆ References to genetically modified organism (GMO) status
◆ References to trade names, sizes, or other commercial terms
◆ References to wild collected plants
◆ Requested statements that are not of a phytosanitary nature, such as economic permits, quantity or quality restrictions, or methods of packaging
◆ Tax identification numbers
◆ Unofficial requests from applicants and consignees

**Recordkeeping**

PPQ policy on retention of documents is as follows:

◆ PCIT generated certificates and documentation attached in PCIT are automatically archived
◆ PPQ Forms 577, 578, and 579 and all supporting documentation: retain for 3 years
◆ All CITES/ESA and supporting documentation: retain for 5 years
◆ Any documents associated with USDA user fees: retain for 3 years

**Replacement**

**PPQ Forms 577 or 579 for Commodities in a Foreign Country**

If a consignment has been exported from the United States, has not officially entered the commerce of the importing country, and is being stored in a foreign country, you can replace a PPQ Form 577 or 579 to change the country name to a different country.
NOTICE

The storage or repackaging of a consignment in another country may result in a change of the phytosanitary status of the consignment and the exporter will need to request a reexport certificate from the country in which the commodity is being stored or repackaged.

Return of Foreign Origin Commodities to the Country of Origin

Foreign origin commodities that have entered U.S. commerce, been safeguarded, or remain sealed in original packaging, which are being returned to the country of origin, can be certified without official communication from the country of origin. Exporters should verify if there are additional phytosanitary requirements from the country of origin prior to exportation.

Safeguarding

Regulated pests of concern cannot infest or infect the shipment after official sampling, inspection, testing, or treatment has taken place. Exporters must ensure that the shipment is safeguarded. ACOs should confer with an entomologist, pathologist, nematologist, etc. if they have concerns about safeguarding.

Safety

PPQ Field Operations Safety & Health Managers
Debra A. Shambaugh (Fort Collins, Colorado)
Occupational Safety and Health Manager
Office: 970-494-7560
Cell: 970-218-8228
(Alt): 307-649-2461 (alternate phone)
Email: Debra.A.Shambaugh@usda.gov
Time Limits

“Time limits” refer to the amount of time that is allowed between inspections and certificate issuance. PPQ’s policy on time limits is that an export certificate must be issued within 30 days of the phytosanitary inspection.

NOTICE

If a consignment leaves the country within the PPQ 30-day time limit, then a phytosanitary certificate may still be issued upon request up to 60 days post-inspection, unless the importing country time limit is more restrictive.¹

¹ Documentation such as a bill of lading or airway bill must be provided for verification.

It is preferred that exporters request certificates before the shipment leaves the country. Once the product leaves the United States, options such as reinspection and treatment are no longer available. In addition to PPQ’s policy on time limits, each importing country may specify its own time limit requirements. PPQ policy must be met even if a country’s time limits refers to the time period between certificate issuance and exportation. Exporters must meet the importing country’s time limits. If an importing country’s time limit is more restrictive than PPQ’s policy, the importing country’s time limit requirement will take precedence.

In order to ensure time limits are met, it is important to understand the difference between each type of date.

♦ Inspection date: The date an Authorized Certification Official (ACO) or other authorized entity conducts the phytosanitary inspection

♦ Issuance date: The date a certificate is signed

While the dates of issuance and inspection can be the same, they are two different actions.

**Time Limits for Field Inspections and Laboratory Testing**

If a country requires a laboratory test and the regulated pests of concern cannot infest the commodity post-harvest, the laboratory test does not have to be conducted within the time limits specified either by the country or PPQ’s general policy on time limits, if the following conditions are met:
1. The commodity was harvested and was put into storage;
2. The commodity has remained unadulterated since the laboratory test was conducted.

In addition, field inspections do not have to meet time limits if the regulated pests of concern cannot infest the commodity post-harvest.

**NOTICE**

There is no time limit or expiration on the validity of commodity testing if a shipment’s integrity (for example, a hermetically sealed container) has been maintained and verified.

If a PPQ Form 577 or 579 is issued based on laboratory testing, keep documentation supporting the decision. This policy does not:

- supersede specific instructions in an export summary in PExD, work plans, or other official communication with respect to laboratory tests and time limits
- change the policy with respect to inspection and time limits; inspections must be conducted within specified time limits

**Replacing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 Outside PPQ’s Time Limit Policy**

Replacing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 is acceptable outside the 30 day time limit. The quantity previously certified cannot increase.

---

**USDA Letterhead Statements**

On some occasions, applicants request certification for commodities that are not eligible for any type of export certification from USDA–APHIS. In these cases, USDA–APHIS may issue a letterhead document to facilitate applicants’ shipments. These documents are issued only by PPQ personnel. If needed, State, or County ACOs must request this document from the appropriate ECS, SPHD or PPQ regional office personnel.

**User Fees**

It is PPQ policy to collect user fees for export certificates. PPQ has the authority to collect user fees through 7 CFR 354.3. State or county cooperators can establish their own fees for issuing Federal export certificates, based on 7 CFR 354.3.
Chapter 3

General Procedures

The Process of Export Certification

Contents

Introduction  3-1-1
Steps for Certifying a Commodity  3-1-3

Introduction

Export certification is a service provided to assist U.S. applicants in meeting the import requirements of foreign countries. Refer to Figure 3-1-1 on page 3-1-2 for an overview of the steps for certifying commodities offered for export. The overview is followed by a brief summary of each step.
**General Procedures: The Process of Export Certification**

**Introduction**

---

**Figure 3-1-1 Schematic of the Process of Export Certification**

---

**Step 1**
Review Application for Certification (PPQ Form 572)

---

**Step 2**
Determine Eligibility and Import Requirements for Certification

---

**Step 3**
Verify That Import Requirements are Satisfied

---

**Step 4**
Complete Export Certificate (PPQ Form 577 and 579)

---

**Step 5**
Collect User Fee (7 CFR 354)

---

**Figure 3-1-1 Schematic of the Process of Export Certification**
General Procedures: The Process of Export Certification
Steps for Certifying a Commodity

Steps for Certifying a Commodity

Step 1: Review Application for Certification
The application may be a PCIT application (PPQ Form 572), Paper PPQ Form 572, or other application (refer to Completing Application for Export Certification (PPQ Form 572) on page 3-2-1).

Step 2: Determine Eligibility and Import Requirements for Certification
ACOs must determine whether the commodity is eligible for an export certificate. Their assessment is based on the commodity type, the commodity’s origin and destination, and the commodity’s protected status.

After determining eligibility, ACOs then determine the importing country’s phytosanitary requirements before conducting an inspection or issuing a certificate. The import requirements of a country may be provided by either the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) or official communication from the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the importing country.

If a third party country will not provide an import permit or other official communication, but has published import requirements, the exporter must provide a highlighted copy of those requirements that pertain to the commodity being certified.

NOTICE
Official communication from a foreign country’s NPPO supersedes information found in the country’s summary in PExD.

Based on whether the commodity can meet the import requirements, ACOs then determine whether they can issue a certificate (refer to Determining Eligibility and Import Requirements for Certification on page 3-3-1).

Step 3: Verify That Import Requirements Are Satisfied
Once the eligibility and import requirements have been identified, the import requirements must be verified (refer to Verifying Import Requirements on page 3-4-1).

Step 4: Complete Export Certificate
ACOs must prepare the appropriate export certificate as listed and described below. Refer to Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 on page 3-5-1 and Completing PPQ Form 578 on page 3-6-1 for further information.

◆ PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate
◆ PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products
◆ PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport
Step 5: Collect User Fee
PPQ has established user fees that applicants **must** pay for export certificates. Refer to User Fees on page 3-7-1 for further information.
Chapter 3

General Procedures

Completing Application for Export Certification (PPQ Form 572)

Contents

Introduction 3-2-1
Creating an Application (PPQ Form 572) in PCIT 3-2-3
Completion of a Paper PPQ Form 572 3-2-3
  Application Data (to be completed by applicants) 3-2-3
  Export Inspection Data (to be completed by ACOs) 3-2-4
Distribution 3-2-4
  PCIT Generated PPQ Form 572 3-2-4
  Non-PCIT Generated PPQ Form 572 3-2-5

Introduction

PPQ Form 572, Application for Inspection and Certification of Plants and Plant Products for Export, provides the information needed to determine a commodity’s eligibility and import requirements.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit a request for an export certificate in a timely manner. The preferred method for applying is with Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT). For further information on PCIT, refer to Appendix C on page C-1-1. Applicants can download PPQ Form 572 from the APHIS Electronic Forms Library website. Refer to Figure 3-2-1 on page 3-2-2 for an example of PPQ Form 572.

NOTICE

ACOs are responsible for holding in strict confidence any information provided by industry.

This section provides instructions for completing PPQ Form 572 using PCIT or the paper equivalent.
No Phytosanitary Export Certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 353).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0052. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .25 minutes/hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE
APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

APPLICANT - Forward original to the Officer in Charge where inspections, treatment, and certification will be given (item 4).

Complete items 1 thru 11. OFFICER - Complete items 12 thru 17.

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER

2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FOREIGN CONSIGNEE

3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (or exporters agent)

4. PLACE WHERE ARTICLES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AND/OR TREATMENT AND CERTIFICATION (Port and location)

5. APPROX. DATE OF DEPARTURE

6. PORT OF EXPORT

7. DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES TO BE CERTIFIED

   a. QUANTITY AND NAME OF PRODUCE AND BOTANICAL NAME

   b. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES

   c. DISTINGUISHING MARKS

   d. CERTIFIED ORIGIN

8. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE

   I certify that the origin (place where grown) of the articles listed is as represented.

9. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY

10. SIGNATURE (applicant or exporters agents)

11. DATE

EXPORT INSPECTION DATA - (To be filled in by Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer)

12. LOCATION OF ARTICLES

13. % OF MATERIALS EXAMINED

14. % OF MATERIALS INFESTED

15. FINDINGS AND/OR TREATMENT GIVEN (Use reverse if necessary)

16. SIGNATURE

17. DATE AND TIME INSPECTED

PPQ FORM 572
(APR 2005)

Figure 3-2-1 Example of PPQ Form 572, Application for Inspection and Certification of Plants and Plant Products for Exports
Creating an Application (PPQ Form 572) in PCIT

To create an application in PCIT, visit the PCIT Quick Reference Guides website and the Industry Users Quick Reference Guide to create an application.

Completion of a Paper PPQ Form 572

Application Data (to be completed by applicants)
Refer to Table 3-2-1 for instructions on completing blocks 1 through 11 of PPQ Form 572.

Table 3-2-1 Instructions for Applicants to Complete PPQ Form 572 (page 1 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the block is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NAME and ADDRESS of EXPORTER</td>
<td>Enter the complete name and mailing address of the applicant of record. The applicant’s address must be in the United States or affiliated islands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NAME and ADDRESS of FOREIGN CONSIGNEE</td>
<td>Enter the complete name and physical address of the ultimate consignee of record. The country listed in this block must be the same country as that listed in Block 9: Declared Point of Entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. NAME and ADDRESS of APPLICANT (or EXPORTER’S AGENT)</td>
<td>Enter the complete name, mailing address, and phone number of the applicant. Only U.S. addresses will be accepted. If this is the same as Block 1 state “same as Block 1”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. PLACE WHERE ARTICLES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE for INSPECTION and/or TREATMENT and CERTIFICATION (Port and Location)</td>
<td>Enter the complete address where the shipment will be available for inspection and/or treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. APPROX. DATE of DEPARTURE</td>
<td>Enter the expected date of departure from the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. PORT of DEPARTURE</td>
<td>Enter the port or location the shipment will be exported from.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. DESCRIPTION of ARTICLES to BE CERTIFIED.</td>
<td>a. <strong>Quantity and Name of Produce and Botanical Name:</strong> Enter the quantity, common name and scientific name for each commodity. It is the applicant’s responsibility to enter the scientific name for all commodities. Indicate the intended end use of the commodity, e.g. animal feed, consumption, processing, plants for planting, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. <strong>Number and Description of Packages:</strong> Enter the number and types of shipping containers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. <strong>Distinguishing Marks:</strong> Enter the markings exactly as they appear on the containers, cartons, bags, bales, boxes, products, truck licenses, or railway cars. If there are no distinguishing marks, enter “NONE”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. <strong>Certified Origin:</strong> Enter where the product was grown or cultivated by State, County, district, or other geographical or political subdivision as necessary by the phytosanitary regulations of the importing country. Documentation supporting origin of the commodity may be required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### General Procedures: Completing Application for Export Certification (PPQ Form 572)

**Distribution**

**Table 3-2-1 Instructions for Applicants to Complete PPQ Form 572 (page 2 of 2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the block is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. DECLARED MEANS of CONVEYANCE</td>
<td>Enter the name of the airline or name of the vessel. If the means of conveyance is unknown, enter, as appropriate, &quot;airfreight&quot;, &quot;ocean vessel,&quot; &quot;railroad,&quot; or &quot;truck line.&quot; For rail or truck shipments to Canada or Mexico, enter the name of the railroad or truck line, if known. For mail shipments, enter “air mail,” “surface mail,” “express mail,” or the carrier name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. DECLARED POINT of ENTRY</td>
<td>Enter the point(s) of entry. Enter the approved country name if the specific point of entry is unknown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. SIGNATURE (applicant or exporter’s agent)</td>
<td>By signing the application the applicant attests that “I certify that the origin (place where grown) of the articles listed is as represented.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. DATE</td>
<td>Enter the date the application is signed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Export Inspection Data (to be completed by ACOs)**

Refer to **Table 3-2-2** for instructions on completing blocks 12 through 17 of PPQ Form 572.

**Table 3-2-2 Instructions for ACOs to Complete PPQ Form 572**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the block is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. LOCATION OF ARTICLES</td>
<td>LIST the place where you inspected the commodities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. % OF MATERIALS EXAMINED</td>
<td>LIST the percentage (how much) of commodities that were inspected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. % OF MATERIALS INFESTED</td>
<td>LIST the percentage of commodities that were infested or infected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. FINDINGS AND/OR TREATMENT GIVEN (use reverse if necessary)</td>
<td>LIST all findings and/or treatments given as a result of your inspection, which may include the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Pest or disease if infested or infected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Details of the treatment if treated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Applicant actions to meet the phytosanitary import requirements (e.g., repackaging, reconditioning, or debarking)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Unique or unusual situation about the shipment such as additional declarations to be entered on the export certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Supporting documents provided by the applicant such as an import permit, inspection certificate, State phytosanitary certificate, or treatment information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Intended use of commodity if needed to determine the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country (e.g., wheat grain or wheat seeds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. SIGNATURE</td>
<td>SIGN your name (ACO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. DATE AND TIME INSPECTED</td>
<td>ENTER the date and time the commodities were inspected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Distribution**

**PCIT Generated PPQ Form 572**

No further distribution, submission, or filing is required, since distribution is automated within PCIT.
Non-PCIT Generated PPQ Form 572
If the applicant uses a PPQ Form 572, attach it with the inspection results to the “Issuing Office Copy” of the multipart form and file according to retention guidelines.
General Procedures: Completing Application for Export Certification (PPQ Form 572)
Distribution
Introduction

Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) use a variety of factors to determine if a commodity is eligible for export certification. This section enables an ACO to determine if a commodity is eligible for an export certificate and provides guidance on how to determine the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.

Determining Eligibility

The following tables will help the ACO determine eligibility based on commodity type, degree of processing, origin, destination, and protected status.

Eligibility Based on Commodity

Refer to Table 3-3-1 to decide if you can certify the commodity.
**General Procedures:** Determining Eligibility and Import Requirements for Certification

### Determining Eligibility

**Determining Eligibility and Import Requirements for Certification**

#### Table 3-3-1 Determine Eligibility for Certification Based on Commodity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the commodities are:</th>
<th>And they are:</th>
<th>And they are:</th>
<th>Then based on what the articles are:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plants, parts of plants, or derived from plants (including edible mushrooms)</td>
<td>Processed products</td>
<td>Listed in the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) Processed Products (PPQ Form 578)</td>
<td>1. CONSIDER <strong>eligible</strong> for PPQ Form 578 2. REFER to Eligibility Based on Origin and Destination on page 3-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Listed in PExD under <strong>Ineligible Commodities</strong>¹</td>
<td>1. CONSIDER <strong>ineligible</strong> for a certificate 2. EXIT this manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Listed in PExD as eligible for certification and all conditions can be met</td>
<td>1. CONSIDER <strong>eligible</strong> for a certificate 2. REFER to Eligibility Based on Origin and Destination on page 3-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unprocessed products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used agricultural machinery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. CONSIDER <strong>eligible</strong> for PPQ Form 577 only 2. REFER to Commodity • Used Agricultural Machinery on page 4-6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushroom spawn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. CONSIDER <strong>eligible</strong> for PPQ Form 577 only 2. REFER to Table 3-3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neither</strong> plants nor anything derived from plants nor used agricultural machinery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. CONSIDER <strong>ineligible</strong> for a certificate 2. EXIT this manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixture or combination of plant and non-plant materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>REFER to the contact protocol in Internal Communication on page A-1-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The Ineligible Commodities list is not all inclusive. **Do not** use this list to determine if a commodity is **ELIGIBLE** for certification – **only** that a commodity is **INELIGIBLE**.

**Table 3-3-2 Determine Action to Take on Mushroom Spawn**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the mushroom spawn facility:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Provides the following documentation verifying treatment of the substrate:  
◆ Date the substrate¹ is sterilized  
◆ Means used to sterilize the substrate  
◆ Duration and temperature of the sterilization process  
◆ The scientific name of the spawn | 1. INSPECT the shipment  
2. COMPLETE PPQ Form 577 (refer to Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 on page 3-5-1)  
❖ In Block 9, Name of Produce, enter "Spawn"  
❖ In Block 10, enter scientific name |
| **Does not** provide the above documentation verifying treatment of the substrate | 1. CONSIDER ineligible for an export certificate  
2. EXIT this manual |

¹ A substrate is any plant or plant product on which the mycelium will grow.
General Procedures: Determining Eligibility and Import Requirements for Certification

Determining Eligibility

Eligibility Based on Origin and Destination

Refer to Table 3-3-3 to decide if you can certify a commodity based on its origin and destination.

Table 3-3-3 Determine Eligibility for Certification Based on Origin and Destination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the commodities are from:</th>
<th>And are being exported:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The U.S. or affiliated islands¹ | To a foreign country | 1. CONSIDER eligible for PPQ Form 577 or PPQ Form 578  
2. REFER to Eligibility Based on Protected Status on page 3-3-3 |
| Interstate via Canada | | |
| To the U.S. or affiliated islands | | 1. CONSIDER ineligible for a certificate  
2. REFER applicant to the State or affiliated island’s plant regulatory agency for certification using a State export certificate  
3. EXIT this manual |
| A foreign country²,³ | To a foreign country | 1. CONSIDER eligible for PPQ Form 577, PPQ Form 578, or PPQ Form 579  
2. REFER to Eligibility Based on Protected Status on page 3-3-3 |
| Interstate via Canada | | |
| To the U.S. or affiliated islands | | 1. CONSIDER ineligible for a certificate  
2. REFER applicant to the State, country, or affiliated island’s plant regulatory agency for certification using a State export certificate  
3. EXIT this manual |

¹ Islands associated with the United States but not fully integrated as a State (i.e., American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Puerto Rico (PR), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)).

² Only foreign origin commodities that have entered U.S. commerce are eligible for reexport certification. Commodities transiting the U.S. are ineligible.

³ If the commodity is of foreign origin but did not require a phytosanitary certificate to make entry into the United States, if eligible for phytosanitary certification, and all foreign import requirements have been met, a PPQ 577 should be issued with country of origin listed in block 13, Place of Origin.

Eligibility Based on Protected Status

Commodities may be protected by either the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or the Endangered Species Act (ESA). To determine if a commodity is protected, visit the CITES website or the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) website.

Refer to Table 3-3-4 to decide if you can certify the commodity based on its protected status.
Determining Eligibility and Import Requirements for Certification

Determining Import Requirements

Table 3-3-4 Determine Eligibility for Certification Based on CITES and ESA Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the commodities being exported are:</th>
<th>And you are:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neither protected by CITES nor ESA</td>
<td></td>
<td>REFER to Determining Import Requirements on page 3-3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected by CITES or ESA</td>
<td>Located at a CITES or ESA port</td>
<td>REFER to Determining Import Requirements on page 3-3-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                                        | Not at a CITES or ESA port | 1. CONTACT the nearest CITES port or PPQ regional botanist or Export Certification Specialist (ECS) for guidance on moving the shipment to a designated port (at the owner’s expense). Some CITES ports have established procedures for ACOs at interstate locations and non-CITES ports to assist in inspecting and processing shipments of protected plants.¹   
2. EXIT this manual.                  |

¹ Some CITES ports have established procedures that allow State or county cooperators to attest that the plants are artificially propagated and to complete a State export certificate. The applicant sends the State export certificate, the invoice, and specified copies of the CITES or ESA documents to the designated CITES port for validation and endorsement. At some CITES ports, a blank export certificate must be obtained and partially completed by the applicant and sent back to the CITES port, along with the other paperwork.

Procedures have been established to allow PPQ Plant Health Safeguarding Specialists (PHSSs) at non-CITES ports to confirm the applicant has PPQ Form 622, USDA General Permit, and proper CITES or ESA documents. The PHSS confirms all the paperwork matches and the applicant completes PPQ Form 572 and sends it along with specified copies of the invoice and CITES or ESA documents to the designated CITES port for validation and endorsement. If there’s a concern about the shipment’s validity, the shipment may be required to go through a CITES port.

Refer to Chapter 5, Designated CITES Ports, in the *CITES I-II-III Timber Species Manual* to determine the nearest location for CITES certification.

Determining Import Requirements

ACOs determine import requirements for eligible commodities from either PExD or official communication.

Import requirements vary by country, commodity, and plant part. Reviewing PExD or official communication allows the ACO to determine the import requirements and activities necessary for certification.

When an applicant presents import requirements differing from those in PExD, the information must be in the form of official communication, and will supersede PExD.

For reexport commodities, the applicant must provide the third country’s import requirements from the country of destination by means of official communication. On occasion, the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of an importing country may not issue an import permit (IP) to facilitate reexports. ACOs should allow the exporter to provide a copy of the
import requirements and highlight the area of the requirements that pertains to the commodity being certified.

Table 3-3-5 lists the common types of import requirements. Refer to Verifying Import Requirements on page 3-4-1 for further information on meeting those requirements.

**Table 3-3-5  Common Import Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the import requirement is:</th>
<th>Then countries may require that commodities be:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pest freedom</td>
<td>Free of specific pests. The method for determining pest freedom may be specified by the foreign country. If the country does not specify the procedure, the ACO must determine which method to use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>Treated prior to importation, or treatments may be necessary based on the results of an inspection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>Imported into specified ports, during specified times, packaged in specific ways, or compliant with ISPM 15.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTICE**

ACOs must refuse to issue an export certificate if either:
- The commodity does not meet the import requirements
- The import requirements violate PPQ policy (disease freedom statements for grain, quality related statements, fiduciary information, etc.)

**Official Communication**

Official communication\(^1\) contains the phytosanitary requirements from an NPPO that must be met for importation of a commodity. Official communication in the form of an IP, Letter of Authorization, etc. replaces or supplements information contained in PExD. In most cases, ACOs will be dealing with import permits (IPs) presented by an applicant. Since there are no international standards for official communication, ACOs need to carefully review any document to ensure that it is from the NPPO of the importing country.

The name and contact information for NPPOs can be found in PExD under Foreign Points of Contact. The following information pertains specifically to IPs, but can be applied to any type of official communication.

**NOTICE**

Once official communication has been presented, the ACO must meet the requirements that were presented. If the requirements on official communication are not allowed by PPQ policy, refuse to certify and recommend that new official communication be obtained.

---

\(^1\) Applicants must present the original official communication and the English translation. Applicants are responsible for the accuracy of translations. If questionable, forward the official communication to your ECS using the contact protocol (refer to Internal Communication on page A-1-1).
**Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD)**

PExD contains the published phytosanitary requirements for commodities from the United States. Each country has its own summary within PExD. ACOs should review all sections of PExD for any commodity to be certified.

**Commodity Information within PExD**

PExD presents information for commodities in the following ways:

1. **Phytosanitary Certificate (PC) is required.**
   - Follow all requirements listed in the export summary when issuing a PC.
   - If an IP is presented, all conditions of the IP **must** be met. Enter the AD: “Import permit number _______ was presented.”

2. **Phytosanitary Certificate and Import Permit (IP) are required.**
   - If an IP is presented, all conditions of the IP **must** be met. Enter the AD: “Import permit number _______ was presented.”
   - A PC may be issued without an IP. If no IP is presented, enter the additional declaration: “No import permit presented.” Then follow all requirements listed in the export summary when issuing a PC.

3. **Phytosanitary Certificate and Import Permit (IP) are required. Do not certify unless an IP is presented.**
   - If an IP is presented, all conditions of the IP **must** be met. Enter the AD: “Import permit number _______ was presented.”
   - If no IP is presented, refuse to certify.

4. **Commodity is Unrestricted.**
   - No PC is required, but an ACO may issue a certificate if the commodity is eligible.

5. **Commodity is Unrestricted. Import Permit is required.**
   - No PC is required, but an ACO may issue a certificate if the IP is presented.

6. **Commodity is Prohibited. Do not certify unless an IP is presented.**
   - If an IP is presented, all conditions of the IP **must** be met. Enter the AD: “Import permit number _______ was presented.”
   - If no IP is presented, refuse to certify.
Chapter 3

General Procedures

Verifying Import Requirements

Contents

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Introduction

This section assists ACOs in verifying that foreign import requirements have been met and aids in obtaining all pertinent information necessary for completing export certificates. For procedures to inspect specific commodities covered under a workplan or other protocol, refer to the export summary in the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD).

How to Verify Import Requirements

Step 1: Examine Acceptable Documentation
In some cases, inspections conducted by other government agencies or accredited entities are acceptable for federal phytosanitary certification. Refer to Table 3-4-1 to determine if an inspection is necessary.

Table 3-4-1  Documentation Presented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the documentation is:</th>
<th>And:</th>
<th>And you decide:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable(^1)</td>
<td>All phytosanitary requirements have been met</td>
<td>No inspection is necessary</td>
<td>REFER to Step 6: Record Inspection Results on page 3-4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not all phytosanitary requirements have been met</td>
<td>Inspection is necessary</td>
<td>REFER to Step 2: Determine the Sample Size on page 3-4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) For acceptable documents, refer to Table 3-4-2 on page 3-4-2.
If the applicant presents one of the certificates or documents listed in Table 3-4-2, and all the import requirements have been met, an additional inspection may not be necessary.

**Table 3-4-2  Acceptable Inspection Certificates and Documents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issuing Agency/Organization</th>
<th>Form Number</th>
<th>Form Title and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)</td>
<td>SC-146E</td>
<td>Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SC-147CS</td>
<td>Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Quality Assurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SC-149CS</td>
<td>Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Continuous Inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SC 294</td>
<td>Report on Sanitary Inspection (issued for apples, pears, emperor grapes, and some vegetables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SC-489e</td>
<td>Memorandum Report of Inspection for Processed Raisins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS)</td>
<td>FGIS 921-21.1 (01-07)</td>
<td>Inspection Report—Insects in Grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>FV 185-C</td>
<td>Florida Export Citrus Fruit Inspection Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various States</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Any State Phytosanitary Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various States/Counties</td>
<td>State/County Inspection Report</td>
<td>Any State/County Inspection Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign NPPOs3</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Phytosanitary certificates and phytosanitary certificates for reexport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited entities</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Various forms4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. When FGIS Form 921-2 is used as the basis for issuing an export certificate, the applicant or GIPSA inspector must contact a local ACO to identify the phytosanitary import requirements in preparation for the GIPSA inspection.

2. Contact the FGIS field office responsible for the geographic area in which the service will be provided. For further information on FGIS Form 921-2, contact Branch Chief, Policies and Procedures Branch, Field Management Division, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 2409 N, Washington, DC 20250-3630, Telephone: (202) 720-0224, Fax: (202) 720-1015, Email: robert.s.lijewski@usda.gov.

3. Forms issued by foreign NPPOs are only applicable to PPQ Form 579. Additional inspection may be necessary if the commodity has not been safeguarded. If the exporter has the original or a photocopy of the foreign phytosanitary certificate, enter the number of the foreign certificate, check whether the certificate is the original or a certified true copy, stamp the foreign phytosanitary certificate with an ink stamp that references your affiliation (“USDA,” “County of _____,” or “State of _____”), and sign and date the foreign phytosanitary certificate next to your stamp. Refer to PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport on page 3-5-8.

4. ACOs must ensure the company’s accreditation is recognized by PPQ for that activity.

**NOTICE**

In some instances, documentation from other agencies can serve as acceptable inspection certificates or documents. Verify any document not listed in Table 3-4-2 above through the contact protocol specified in Appendix A on page A-1-1.
**Step 2: Determine the Sample Size**

Sampling **must not** begin until the applicant has presented the entire consignment, clearly marked and labeled. Samples that are used for certification **must** be large enough and **must** accurately represent the entire shipment. For policy about who may draw official samples, refer to *Official Samples, Inspection, and Testing* on page 2-1-9.

Sampling levels can depend on the size of the shipment, the determined risk associated with the commodity, or if the commodity is seed.

**Two Percent Level**

The minimum inspection level for commodities that are **not** high risk is 2% of the shipment’s inspectional unit (i.e., boxes, units, bags, tray packs, etc.).

**EXAMPLE**  A shipment of 400 boxes of fruits would require 100% inspection of 8 boxes (.02 x 400 boxes = 8 boxes). 2% is a minimal level.

Commodities shipped in bulk (grain or potatoes) will require sampling techniques appropriate to the levels of pest risk and industry standards, which may be less than 2%. Consult the appropriate State or Federal officials for these inspection levels.

**Hypergeometric Table**

You may use the hypergeometric table for inspecting large consignments where it is impracticable to inspect two percent. Determine the number of units by using the hypergeometric table illustrated in *Table 3-4-3* on page 3-4-4. Inspect each of these units.
General Procedures: Verifying Import Requirements
How to Verify Import Requirements

Nursery Stock
The inspection level for nursery stock should be 100% or as close to 100% as practical.

Seed
Special procedures for sampling seed have been developed to ensure confidence in detecting pathogens. Refer to Commodity • Seed on page 4-4-1 for guidance.

**NOTICE**

Items listed in PExD as eligible only for PPQ Form 578 do not require an inspection. In this case, REFER to Step 7: Decide Which Export Certificate to Issue on page 3-4-10.

Once you have determined the appropriate sample size and drawn the samples, go to Step 3: Inspect the Commodity on page 3-4-5.
Step 3: Inspect the Commodity
ACOs must visually inspect all shipments for pests (weed seeds, insects, signs and symptoms of disease, soil, etc.). In addition to a visual inspection, the importing country may specify that pest freedom be determined by a laboratory test, growing season inspection, area freedom, and/or production area freedom. Refer to Table 3-4-4 to take the appropriate action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the country requires:</th>
<th>And the supporting documents show that:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area or production area freedom¹</td>
<td>The commodity does not originate from an area with a specific pest</td>
<td>CONTINUE to Table 3-4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The commodity originates from an area with a specific pest</td>
<td>REFUSE to certify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EXIT this manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing season inspection²</td>
<td>An inspection was not satisfactorily conducted</td>
<td>REFUSE to certify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EXIT this manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An inspection was satisfactorily conducted</td>
<td>CONTINUE to Table 3-4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory test</td>
<td>The commodity was laboratory tested³</td>
<td>REFUSE to certify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EXIT this manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The commodity was not laboratory tested</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A country may or may not specify area freedom or production area freedom and/or infestation (refer to Establishing a PFPP on page 2-1-11).
2 Accredited entities, ACOs, universities, or State plant health agency employees may conduct growing season inspections.
3 Testing must be conducted by the USDA, a State laboratory, or a private facility accredited by the USDA. For information on USDA accredited entities, refer to APHIS Entities Accredited Under the National Seed Health System document.

After you review supporting documents (field inspection reports, laboratory testing documents, etc.) and complete the visual inspection, continue to Table 3-4-5.
General Procedures: Verifying Import Requirements
How to Verify Import Requirements

### Step 4: Verify Treatments
Any commodity for export requiring treatment, either because of the importing country’s requirement, detection of a pest, or at the request of the exporter, **must** be treated according to the label instructions.

#### Table 3-4-5  Action to Take When a Commodity Must be Free from Pests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you determine that the commodity:</th>
<th>And the pest or disease:</th>
<th>And the commodity is:</th>
<th>And a treatment is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is free of pests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>REFER to Step 4: Verify Treatments on page 3-4-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Has pests¹, ²                         | Does not have phytosanitary significance to the importing country | Practically free of pests³ | Unavailable or the applicant refuses to treat⁴ | 1. REFUSE to certify  
                                         |                          | Not practically free of pests |                     | 2. EXIT this manual |
| Has phytosanitary significance to the importing country | Unavailable⁴ | 1. REFUSE to certify  
                                         |                          |                         | 2. EXIT this manual |
|                                      | Available⁴               | REFER to Step 4: Verify Treatments on page 3-4-6 |

1. Any intercepted pest must be identified by the nearest PPQ or State Identifier unless you have identification release authority.
2. If you detect multiple pests, evaluate each pest using this table. Follow the **most** restrictive action in the “Then” column.
3. For export certification purposes, the working definition of practically free is **not** to exceed a 2% infestation level unless otherwise stated by the importing country. When FGIS inspection certificates are used as supporting documentation for certifying grain, practically free refers to FGIS’ acceptance standards for insects found in grain.
4. If the applicant elects to recondition the commodity, REFER to Step 2: Determine the Sample Size on page 3-4-3.

**NOTICE**
Treatments **do not** preclude or substitute for a phytosanitary inspection. If there was no opportunity to inspect prior to treatment, then an inspection would still need to be conducted after the treatment. The treatment may **not** have been efficacious against all regulated pests.

**WARNING**
Do **not** certify any commodity that has exceeded the label requirements set by the EPA. All treatments **must** strictly conform to all label requirements.

**NOTICE**
Treatments conducted by the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) are acceptable to put on an export certificate as long as the treatment is indicated on FGIS Form 921-2. Refer to Step 1: Examine Acceptable Documentation on page 3-4-1.
General Procedures: Verifying Import Requirements

How to Verify Import Requirements

Verifying Import Requirements

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Treatments recorded on certificates must be included in the Treatment section of PPQ Form 577 or 579 or on an attachment sheet in the case of multiple treatments. Refer to Table 3-4-6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the commodity:</th>
<th>And:</th>
<th>And the applicant:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Requires treatment | Is willing to arrange for treatment | 1. VERIFY treatment  
2. RECORD details of all treatments on PPQ Form 577 or 579  
3. REFER to Step 6: Record Inspection Results on page 3-4-9 |
| Does not require treatment | | Is not willing to arrange for treatment | 1. REFUSE to certify  
2. EXIT this manual |
| Does not require treatment, but was treated | The treatment is acceptable and verified by a Federal, State, or County plant quarantine official | Wants the treatment on the certificate | 1. RECORD details of the treatment on PPQ Form 577 or 579  
2. REFER to Step 6: Record Inspection Results on page 3-4-9 |
| Does not want the treatment on the certificate | The treatment is not acceptable or was not verified by a Federal, State, or County plant quarantine official | Wants the treatment on the certificate | 1. ALLOW the applicant to apply an acceptable treatment  
2. VERIFY treatment  
3. RECORD details of the treatment on PPQ Form 577 or 579  
4. REFER to Step 6: Record Inspection Results on page 3-4-9 |
| Does not want the treatment on the certificate | | | REFER to Step 6: Record Inspection Results on page 3-4-9 |

**Step 5: Verify Miscellaneous Requirements**

There may be additional requirements that have to be met, including, but not limited to the following:

**Time Restrictions**

ACOs must advise the exporters about a country’s restrictions on when a commodity may be imported.
General Procedures: Verifying Import Requirements
How to Verify Import Requirements

Time Limits
For general information on time limits pertaining to inspections and certificate issuance, refer to Time Limits on page 2-1-17.

NOTICE
The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the importing country may impose specific requirements on when an export certificate may be issued regarding inspection or exportation. Consignments must meet the importing country’s time limits. If an importing country’s time limit is more restrictive than PPQ’s policy, the country’s time limit requirement will take precedence.

Packaging Requirements
Packaging or other material that may be associated with the shipment such as wood packaging material (ISPM 15), bagging, containers, etc., must meet the importing country’s requirements.

During inspection the ACO must ensure any packaging requirements (new containers, pest proof boxes, etc.) by the importing country have been met. Advise the applicant of any packaging requirements and discrepancies. If necessary, the applicant should recondition the shipment to meet packaging requirements, but do not refuse to certify the shipment if packaging requirements have not been met at the time of inspection.

Specified Ports
Importing countries may require that shipments enter at specific ports. Refer to Table 3-4-8 to determine the correct action.

---

Table 3-4-7  Action to Take When Commodities May Enter Only During Specific Periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the export summary or import permit (IP):</th>
<th>And you determine that the specified time period:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lists a specific time period when the commodities are admissible</td>
<td>Cannot be met</td>
<td>1. REFUSE to issue an export certificate 2. EXIT this manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Can be met</td>
<td>REFER to Time Limits on page 3-4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not list specific time periods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---
Table 3-4-8  Action to Take When a Commodity May Enter Only Specified Ports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the exporter has designated:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A port other than specified in the export summary</td>
<td>1. WARN the exporter that the shipment may be refused or delayed if entering a port other than specified in the export summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOTICE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do not refuse to issue an export certificate if this is the only requirement that is not met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. REFER to <strong>Step 6: Record Inspection Results</strong> on page 3-4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of the specified ports</td>
<td>REFER to <strong>Step 6: Record Inspection Results</strong> on page 3-4-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 6: Record Inspection Results**

**PCIT Users**
PCIT users must enter inspection results on the Inspection Details screen.

**Multipart Paper Users**
Multipart paper users must record results of their inspection and additional information about the shipment that will support their decision to certify or not to certify the commodity. Inspection results may be recorded at the bottom of PPQ Form 572; on the reverse side of PPQ Form 577, Issuing Office Copy; or on the reverse side of PPQ Form 579, Issuing Office Copy. Refer to Table 3-4-9.
### General Procedures: Verifying Import Requirements

#### How to Verify Import Requirements

**Step 7: Decide Which Export Certificate to Issue**

Refer to Table 3-4-10 to determine the action to take.

---

### Table 3-4-9  Recording Inspection Results on Multipart Paper Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are recording inspection results on:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PPQ Form 572, Application for Certification | 1. RECORD the inspection results in blocks 12 - 17, under Export Inspection Data as follows:  
   - LIST in Block 12, place (port and location) where the commodity was inspected  
   - LIST in Block 13, percentage (how much) of material was inspected  
   - LIST in Block 14, percentage of material infested or infected  
   - LIST in Block 15, pests intercepted and treatments given, actions taken by the applicant and ACO (as a result of the inspection) to make the commodity eligible for certification (such as repackaging, reconditioning, debarking, intended use, notation of AD, pest or disease freedom, presence or absence of IP, foreign export certificate, or other import requirements and unusual situations concerning the shipment)  
   - SIGN your name in Block 16  
   - LIST in Block 17, date and time of inspection  
   2. ATTACH PPQ Form 572 to the Issuing Office Copy of PPQ Form 577 or PPQ Form 579, if applicable  
   3. GO to Step 7: Decide Which Export Certificate to Issue on page 3-4-10, if applicable |
| PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate | RECORD the inspection results on the reverse side of the Issuing Office Copy as follows:  
   - LIST in Block 1, place (port and location) where the commodity was inspected  
   - LIST in Block 2, percentage (how much) of material was inspected  
   - LIST in Block 3, percentage of material infested or infected  
   - LIST in Block 4, pests intercepted and treatments given, actions taken by the applicant and ACO (as a result of the inspection) to make the commodity eligible for certification (such as repackaging, reconditioning, debarking, intended use, notation of AD, pest or disease freedom, presence or absence of IP, foreign export certificate, or other import requirements and unusual situations concerning the shipment)  
   - SIGN your name in Block 5  
   - LIST in Block 6, date and time of inspection |
| PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport |  

---
### Table 3-4-10  Deciding When to Issue PPQ Form 577 or 579

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the origin is:</th>
<th>And a foreign PC is:</th>
<th>And the requirements are:</th>
<th>And the requirements:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td></td>
<td>Can be met</td>
<td></td>
<td>ISSUE PPQ Form 577; refer to <a href="#">PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate</a> on page 3-5-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                  |                      | **Cannot be met**         |                      | 1. REFUSE to certify  
|                  |                      |                           |                      | 2. EXIT this manual |
| Foreign          | Present              | Can be met by the foreign PC and/or activities conducted in the United States |                      | ISSUE PPQ Form 579; refer to [PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport](#) on page 3-5-8 |
|                  | Unknown              | **Cannot be met**         |                      | 1. REFUSE to certify  
|                  |                      |                           |                      | 2. EXIT this manual |
|                  | Known                | Can be met by activities conducted in the U.S. |                      | ISSUE PPQ Form 577; refer to [PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate](#) on page 3-5-4 |
|                  | Unknown              | **Cannot be met**         |                      | 1. REFUSE to certify  
|                  |                      |                           |                      | 2. EXIT this manual |
| Domestic and foreign (blended) | Present | Known | Can be met by the foreign PC and/or activities conducted in the U.S. | ISSUE PPQ Form 577; refer to [PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate](#) on page 3-5-4 |
|                  | Unknown              | **Cannot be met**         |                      | 1. REFUSE to certify  
|                  |                      |                           |                      | 2. EXIT this manual |
| Absent           | Known                | Can be met by activities conducted in the U.S. | ISSUE PPQ Form 577; refer to [PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate](#) on page 3-5-4 |
|                  | Unknown              | **Cannot be met**         |                      | 1. REFUSE to certify  
|                  |                      |                           |                      | 2. EXIT this manual |
| Absent           | Known                | Can be met by activities conducted in the U.S. | ISSUE PPQ Form 577; refer to [PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate](#) on page 3-5-4 |
|                  | Unknown              | **Cannot be met**         |                      | 1. REFUSE to certify  
|                  |                      |                           |                      | 2. EXIT this manual |

---

Note: For the sake of clarity, the reference links to PPQ Forms 577 and 579 have been embedded within the context.
General Procedures: Verifying Import Requirements
How to Verify Import Requirements
Chapter 3

General Procedures

Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579

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Introduction

This section contains information and instructions for completing the following certificates

◆ PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate on page 3-5-4
◆ PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport on page 3-5-8

NOTICE

Hold all information in strict confidence to protect buyers and applicants. Disclosure of confidential information may reveal trade secrets or may cause financial harm to buyers and applicants.
Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) may issue a PPQ Form 577 for those commodities listed in an export summary as unrestricted products if they are eligible for certification. PPQ Form 579 may be issued for commodities that are unrestricted products as indicated by official communication from a foreign country if they are eligible for certification.

Guidelines for Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 (PCIT or Multipart paper)

- Attest only to the phytosanitary condition of plants or plant products.
- Enter the same country name in the TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF: block as the country identified in Block 8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE.¹
- Prepare all export certificates in English.
- List only U.S. addresses in the NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER block. Affiliated island addresses are acceptable.
- Type or handwrite export certificates (if handwritten, do so only in all upper case or capital letters)
- Spell out dates in the month/day/year format (example: July 17, 2023).
- Enter the actual dates of inspection. If there is not enough space to list all dates in the DATE INSPECTED block, list the dates in the ADDITIONAL DECLARATION (AD) block.¹
- Enter abbreviations of scientific units of measure, based on United States customary units, or the metric system, only in the Treatment block.¹
- Do not correct errors or add extraneous marks (i.e. tick marks, check marks, etc.) on an export certificate. Never use correction fluid or correction tape. If an ACO makes an error, the ACO must complete a new certificate.
- Never abbreviate the following: Calendar months, city names, State names, country names, or any other entry unless it is part of a business name (example: A.B.C. Distributing Inc. LLC).
- Never enter dates of a field or growing season inspection or laboratory tests.
- Never enter a grade, intended use, a commercial term, or a trade name.
- Never enter phone or facsimile numbers.
- Never enter statements such as “In-care-of,” (c/o), “Attention to,” “Agent for,” or “Notify.”

¹ PCIT performs this function automatically.
General Procedures: Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579
Guidelines for Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 (PCIT or Multipart paper)

◆ Never enter titles to signatures or names.
◆ Do not record ADs from foreign phytosanitary certificates on PPQ Form 579.
◆ Attest to additional official phytosanitary information only after all foreign import requirements of the first country of import have been addressed.
◆ Never enter a variety unless it is required in the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) or is listed in an import permit (IP) and all the conditions can be met.
◆ Check the export summary to see if the declared point of entry is authorized; if the point of entry is not authorized, warn the exporter that the shipment may be delayed or refused entry.

Attachment Sheets
Refer to PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport when there is insufficient space on PPQ Form 577 or 579 (refer to PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport on page F-1-18).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPQ Form 576 can only be used with a multi-part paper Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form 577) or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport (PPQ Form 579). Do not list “Refer to attachment” or a similar statement in a block on an export certificate before filling in as much information in the block as possible. Enter “Refer to attachment” at the end of the information in the block before completing an attachment sheet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCIT automatically generates attachment sheets as necessary.

Lining Out Unused Space
PCIT will automatically line out unused space. Line out unused space in all blocks on multi-part paper forms, with the exception of the following blocks:

PPQ Form 577
◆ To: The Plant Protection Organization of:
◆ Place of issue
◆ Certificate Number
◆ Date inspected
◆ Blocks 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18
**General Procedures: Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579**

**PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate**

PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate is an accountable certificate used to certify domestic plants and unprocessed plant products for export. Refer to Figure 3-5-2 for an example. This certificate follows the format of the international model established by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and is used to document the phytosanitary condition of exported commodities.

---

**PPQ Form 579**

- To: The Plant Protection Organization of:
- Place of issue
- Certificate Number
- Certification
- Blocks 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18

Refer to Figure 3-5-1 for examples of lining out unused space.

---

**Figure 3-5-1 Examples of Lining Out Unused Space**
**Purpose**

The purpose of PPQ Form 577 is to certify to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the importing country that the domestic plants or plant products meet that country’s phytosanitary requirements. ACOs certify that based on inspection, the domestic commodity conforms with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.
**General Procedures: Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579**

**PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate**

### Example

No phytosanitary certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 353)

| UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE |
| ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE |
| PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE |
| **PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE** |
| **TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF** |
| **SAMPLE** |
| **PLACE OF ISSUE** |
| **SAMPLE** |
| **NO.** |
| **FPC XXXXXXX** |
| **DATE INSPECTED** |

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.

**DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT**

1. **DATE**
2. **TREATMENT**
3. **CHEMICAL (active ingredient)**
4. **DURATION AND TEMPERATURE**
5. **CONCENTRATION**
6. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

7. **NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER**
8. **DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE**
9. **NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED**
10. **BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS**
11. **NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES**
12. **DISTINGUISHING MARKS**
13. **PLACE OF ORIGIN**
14. **DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE**
15. **DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY**

**WARNING:** Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to $250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than $10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

**ADDITIONAL DECLARATION**

16. **DATE ISSUED**
17. **NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print)**
18. **SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER**

No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

---

**Figure 3-5-2 Example of PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate (blank)**
**General Procedures:** Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579

**PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate**

### Processing an Application in PCIT

Refer to the [PCIT Quick Reference Guides](#) to process an application in PCIT.

### Completing Multipart Paper PPQ Form 577

Table 3-5-1 Instructions to Complete PPQ Form 577 (page 1 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF</td>
<td>Enter the approved country name used in the PExD summary for entry on 4-part paper certificates. The correct approved country name is populated automatically by PCIT when processing a phytosanitary certificate. The approved name of the country found in the PExD summary drop down list is based on ISO Standard 3166-2. Add any transiting countries only when required by the export summary in PExD or official communication by placing each country within parenthesis, for example, (Bolivia).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLACE OF ISSUE</td>
<td>Enter the complete name of the city and state of the issuing office. Enter only the issuing office name for each PPQ Form 577.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO.: FPC</td>
<td>Do not write in this space; all PPQ 577 forms are prenumbered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE INSPECTED</td>
<td>Enter the date(s) the commodity was inspected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTICE</strong></td>
<td>Never enter dates of a field or growing season inspection or laboratory tests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **NOTICE** | • When calculating how many days have passed since the date of inspection, count the date of inspection as day one.  
  • When calculating how many days have passed since the date of inspection when a consignment has multiple dates of inspection, the 30-day time limit begins on the first (earliest) date of inspection. |
| CERTIFICATION: DO NOT WRITE in this space. |

**DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT**

Complete this section (Blocks 1-6) only if an acceptable treatment was conducted.

1. DATE | Enter the date(s) the commodity was treated. |
2. TREATMENT | Enter description of the treatment method (e.g., fumigation, cold treatment, dip, spray). |
3. [chemical (active ingredient)] | Enter the common name of the active ingredient. Trade names are not acceptable. |
4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE | Enter the duration of the treatment and temperature (if applicable). |
5. CONCENTRATION | Enter the chemical concentration. |
6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | Enter information that further identifies the treatment (e.g., slurry, dusted, sprayed). |

**DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER | Enter the complete name and U.S. address of the exporter. |
Table 3-5-1 Instructions to Complete PPQ Form 577 (page 2 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE</td>
<td>Enter only one complete name and address of the person or company taking delivery of the commodity. This block must include a name, city, and approved country name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED</td>
<td>Enter the common name and quantity of the commodity. For seed for consumption, enter the specific grain; for seeds for planting, enter seeds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS</td>
<td>Enter the scientific name including genus and specific epithet (species classification). Botanical names are mandatory for all commodities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES</td>
<td>Enter the number and type of shipping containers (e.g., 50 wooden crates, 150 cardboard boxes, 500 burlap bags, 10 containers, and “bulk” for bulk shipments).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. DISTINGUISHING MARKS</td>
<td>Enter the markings as they appear on the containers, cartons, bags, etc. If there are no distinguishing marks, enter “NONE”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. PLACE OF ORIGIN</td>
<td>Enter where the commodity was grown by state, county, or as otherwise required in the country summary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE</td>
<td>Enter the specific name of the conveyance, if known. If unknown, enter airfreight, ocean vessel, railroad, truck line, air mail, surface mail, or express mail, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY</td>
<td>This should be the first point of arrival in the country of destination, or if not known, the country name. If the consignment transits through another country, you may need to record this only if the country of transit has specific requirements for transiting consignments in PExD or if you have official communication from the NPPO. Note in brackets [] the entry point of the country of transit, or if not known, the country name. The point of entry is declared by the exporter at the time of issuance of the phytosanitary certificate. When the summary in PExD specifies that a point of entry must be listed in its phytosanitary import requirements, then one of the specific points of entry must be declared and the consignment should enter through that point.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WARNING: This warning alerts all parties that any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of PPQ Form 577 is subject to civil penalties or punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

ADDITIONAL DECLARATION (AD) | All ADs and additional official phytosanitary information must follow PPQ policy as listed in the Policy section for Additional Declarations (ADs) and Additional Official Phytosanitary Information on page 2-1-3 in this manual. |
| 16. DATE ISSUED | Enter the date certificate was signed. Do not pre- or post-date. |
| 17. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print) | Enter the name of the ACO that will sign the form. |
| 18. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER | Sign the form. The signature must match the name entered in Block 17. |

PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport

PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport, is an accountable certificate used to certify unprocessed foreign plants and plant products as well as blended commodities of U.S. and foreign origin for reexport. Refer to Figure 3-5-3 for an example of a blank PPQ Form 579.
Purpose
The purpose of PPQ Form 579 is to certify to the NPPO of the importing country that the foreign origin plants or plant products meet its phytosanitary requirements. ACOs certify that, based on an original foreign export certificate and/or additional inspections or tests that the foreign commodity:

- Has been safeguarded against the risk of infestation or infection while in the U.S.
- Conforms to the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country
No phytosanitary certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 353).

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

**Plant Protection and Quarantine**

**Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport**

**TO:** The Plant Protection Organization(s) of

**SAMPLE**

**No:** FPC XXXXXXX -R

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the plants or plant products described below were imported into the United States from (Country of origin) ----------------------------- covered by Phytosanitary Certificate --------------------- original certified true copy of which is attached to this certificate. That they are unpacked in original or in new containers, that based on the original Phytosanitary Certificate and additional inspection, they are considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country, and that during storage in the United States, the consignment has not been subjected to the risk of infestation or infection.

**Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment**

1. **DATE**
2. **TREATMENT**
3. **CHEMICAL** (active ingredient)
4. **DURATION AND TEMPERATURE**
5. **CONCENTRATION**
6. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Description of the Consignment**

7. **NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER**
8. **DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE**
9. **NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED**
10. **BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS**
11. **NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES**
12. **DISTINGUISHING MARKS**
13. **PLACE OF ORIGIN**
14. **DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE**
15. **DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY**

**WARNING:** Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to $250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than $10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

**Additional Declaration**

16. **DATE ISSUED**
17. **NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER**
18. **SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER**

No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

**Figure 3-5-3 Example of PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport (blank)**
**General Procedures:** Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579

**PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport**

**Processing an Application in PCIT**
Refer to the [PCIT Quick Reference Guides](#) to process an application in PCIT.

**Completing Multipart Paper PPQ Form 579**

Table 3-5-2 **Instructions to Complete PPQ Form 579** (page 1 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF</td>
<td>Enter the approved country name used in the PExD summary for entry on 4-part paper certificates. The correct approved country name is populated automatically by PCIT when processing a phytosanitary certificate. The approved name of the country found in the PExD summary drop down list is based on ISO Standard 3166-2. Add any transiting countries <strong>only</strong> when required by the export summary in PExD or official communication by placing each country within parenthesis, e.g., (Bolivia).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLACE OF ISSUE</td>
<td>Enter the complete name of the city and state of the issuing office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERTIFICATION</td>
<td>Enter the name of the country (ies) from which the commodity originated. Enter the number of the foreign export certificate, if available, and check whether the certificate is an original or certified true copy. Check whether the commodity is packed in the original containers or was repacked into new containers. Check whether the conformance with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country is based on the foreign export certificate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT**
Complete this section (Blocks 1-6) **only** if an acceptable treatment was conducted.

1. DATE | Enter the date(s) the commodity was treated. |
2. TREATMENT | Enter description of the treatment (e.g., fumigation, cold treatment, dip, spray). |
3. CHEMICAL **(active ingredient)** | Enter the common name of the active ingredient. **Do not** use trade names. |
4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE | Enter the duration of the treatment and temperature (if applicable). |
5. CONCENTRATION | Enter the concentration of chemicals. |
6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | Enter information that further identifies the treatment (e.g., slurry, dusted, sprayed). |

**DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER | Enter **only** one complete name and U.S. address of the exporter. |
8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE | Enter **only** one complete name and address of the person or company taking delivery of the commodity. Include a name, city, and the approved country name. The approved country name must be the same as listed in TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF block. |
9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED | Enter the common name of the commodity. For seed for consumption, enter the specific grain; for seeds for planting, enter seeds. |
10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS | Enter the scientific name including genus and specific epithet (species classification). Botanical names are mandatory for all commodities. |
11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES | Enter the number and type of shipping containers (e.g., 50 wooden crates, 150 cardboard boxes, 500 burlap bags, 10 containers, and “bulk” for bulk shipments). |
12. DISTINGUISHING MARKS | Enter the markings as they appear on the containers, cartons, bags, etc. If there are **no** distinguishing marks, enter "NONE." |
**General Procedures:** Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579

**Recordkeeping**

**PCIT Users**
A certificate generated in PCIT, along with any electronic attachments, will be archived indefinitely. If you do **not** use the attachment feature in PCIT, then you **must** maintain the supporting documents in a paper file in the issuing office. The issuing office does **not** need to send paper copies to the ECS office unless the issuing office is **not** using the attachment feature in PCIT.

**Non-PCIT Users**
Issuing offices **must** retain the multi-part paper Issuing Office Copy of export certificates for 3 years. After 3 years, destroy these copies by incinerating or shredding. If the certificate lists protected commodities, maintain the paper certificates and accompanying documentation for 5 years.

---

**Table 3-5-2 Instructions to Complete PPQ Form 579 (page 2 of 2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13. PLACE OF ORIGIN</td>
<td>Enter the name of the country of origin. For blended commodities list all countries of origin, including the U.S. if appropriate. <strong>Do not</strong> abbreviate city, county, or state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE</td>
<td>Enter specific name of the airline, rail line, truck line or vessel, if known. If unknown, enter airfreight, ocean vessel, railroad, truck line, air mail, surface mail, or express mail, as appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY</td>
<td>This should be the first point of arrival in the country of destination, or if <strong>not</strong> known, the country name. If the consignment transits through another country, you may need to record this only if the country of transit has specific requirements for transiting consignments in PExD or if you have official communication from the NPPO. Note in brackets [] the entry point of the country of transit, or if <strong>not</strong> known, the country name. The point of entry is declared by the exporter at the time of issuance of the phytosanitary certificate. When the summary in PExD specifies that a point of entry <strong>must</strong> be listed in its phytosanitary import requirements, then one of the specific points of entry <strong>must</strong> be declared and the consignment should enter through that point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL DECLARATION (AD)</td>
<td>All ADs and additional official phytosanitary information <strong>must</strong> follow PPQ policy as listed in the Policy section for Additional Declarations (ADs) and Additional Official Phytosanitary Information on page 2-1-3 in this manual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. DATE ISSUED</td>
<td>Enter the date certificate was signed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print)</td>
<td>Enter the name of the Authorized Certification Official that will sign the form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER</td>
<td>Sign the form. The signature <strong>must</strong> match the name entered in Block 17.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Procedures: Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579

Distribution

File and maintain the multi-part paper issuing office copies of export certificates and any attachments according to local procedures for storing accountable certificates. For more information, refer to Recordkeeping on page 2-1-15.

Distribution

PCIT-Generated PPQ Forms 577 and 579
Distribute PCIT-generated copies of PPQ Forms 577 and 579 as indicated in Table 3-5-3.

Table 3-5-3  Distribution of PCIT Generated Copies of PPQ Forms 577 and 579

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the certificate is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shipper’s Original (white with blue microprint background)</td>
<td>Generate only one original certificate for the applicant, exporter, or broker, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NOTICE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use the PCIT security paper for <strong>only</strong> the original certificate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional copies</td>
<td>PRINT additional copies as needed on plain paper (additional copies on security paper are not authorized)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PPQ Form 577 Issued on Multi-part Paper Forms
Distribute copies of PPQ Form 577 as indicated in Table 3-5-4.

Table 3-5-4  Distribution of PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the copy is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Part 1—Shipper’s Original (white with blue microprint background) | 1. ATTACH PPQ Form 576 if appropriate  
2. GIVE the copies to the applicant |
| Part 2—Shipper’s Copy (pink)                  | 1. ATTACH any pertinent information for that specific shipment¹  
2. SEND the record copy to your supervisor, ECS, or State Plant Health Director (SPHD) (to whom and when to send record copies is established by the ECS and SPHD. A rule-of-thumb is gather and send forward copies of issued certificates on a weekly basis) |
| Part 3—Record Copy (yellow)                   | 1. ATTACH any pertinent information for that specific shipment¹  
2. RECORD issuance on the Export Certification Record (refer to User Fees on page 3-7-1)  
3. FILE at the issuing office |
| Part 4—Issuing Office Copy (blue)              | 1. ATTACH any pertinent information for that specific shipment¹  
2. RECORD issuance on the Export Certification Record (refer to User Fees on page 3-7-1)  
3. FILE at the issuing office |

¹ Such as a copy of an import permit (IP), translations, application with inspection results, acceptable inspection certificate, State export certificate, treatment information, PPQ 576 Attachment.
General Procedures: Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579
Replacing PPQ Forms 577 and 579

**PPQ Form 579 Issued on Multipart Paper Forms**

Distribute copies of PPQ Form 579 as indicated in Table 3-5-5.

**Table 3-5-5 Distribution of PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the copy is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1—Shipper’s Original</td>
<td>1. ATTACH the original or certified true copy of the foreign export</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(white w/blue microprint background)</td>
<td>certificate, if available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2—Shippers’ Copy (white)</td>
<td>2. ATTACH PPQ Form 576, if appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. GIVE copies to the applicant, shipper, or broker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3—Record Copy (white)</td>
<td>1. ATTACH any pertinent information for that specific shipment¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. SEND the record copy to your supervisor, Export Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specialist (ECS), or State Plant Health Director (SPHD) (to whom and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>when to send record copies is established by the ECS and SPHD; a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rule-of-thumb is gather and send forward copies of issued certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on a weekly basis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4—Issuing Office Copy</td>
<td>1. ATTACH any pertinent information for that specific shipment¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(white)</td>
<td>2. RECORD issuance on the Export Certification Record (refer to User</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fees on page 3-7-1¹)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. FILE at the issuing office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Such as a copy of an IP, translations, application with inspection results, acceptable inspection certificate, State export certificate, treatment information, PPQ 576 Attachment.

**Replacing PPQ Forms 577 and 579**

The term “replace” refers to issuing new PPQ Form(s) 577 or 579 to substitute for a previously issued certificate.

Replaced certificates are based on the same inspection date(s) and results of the original certificates. If a new inspection is required the certificate needs to be issued according to Table 3-5-6 or Table 3-5-7. The date of issuance must always be the actual date the ACO signs the certificate. When replacing a certificate, review the time limits for the country to ensure the original PPQ Form(s) 577 or 579 was issued according to the country’s time limits. If the replacement occurs outside of the country’s time limit, include an AD referring to the original certificate and the original date of issuance.

Refer to Table Table 3-5-6 or Table 3-5-7 to help decide whether to replace PPQ Form 577 or 579.
### Table 3-5-6 Decide Whether to Replace a PCIT issued PPQ Form 577 or 579 Based on Original Issuance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the original PPQ Form 577 or 579 is:</th>
<th>And:</th>
<th>And the replacement date is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surrendered to the ACO</td>
<td>The consignment is reinspected</td>
<td></td>
<td>ISSUE a new PPQ Form 577 or 579 at any duty station¹ based on the new inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The consignment is <strong>not</strong> reinspected</td>
<td>Within 30 days of inspection or specific country requirements</td>
<td>REPLACE the original PPQ Form 577 or 579 at any duty station, with no AD referencing the replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Not</strong> within 30 days of inspection or specific country requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td>REPLACE the original PPQ Form 577 or 579 at any duty station, with an AD “This certificate replaces Phytosanitary certificate (or Phytosanitary certificate for reexport) [number], issued on [date], at [issuing office], because [reason for issuing new PPQ Form 577 or 579].”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not surrendered</td>
<td>The document was already mailed</td>
<td></td>
<td>REPLACE the PPQ Form 577 or 579 with an AD “This certificate replaces Phytosanitary certificate (or Phytosanitary certificate for reexport) [number], issued on [date], at [issuing office], because [reason for issuing new PPQ Form 577 or 579].”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The document was lost</td>
<td></td>
<td>REPLACE the PPQ Form 577 or 579 with an AD “This certificate replaces the applicant’s lost original of Phytosanitary certificate (or Phytosanitary certificate for reexport) [number], issued on [date], at [issuing office].”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ACOs may have to contact the originating office for supporting documents if the documents are **not** attached within PCIT.
2. The original export certificate was issued according to PPQ policy concerning time limits.
Table 3-5-7 Decide Whether to Replace a Non-PCIT, 4–Part PPQ Form 577 or 579 Based on Original Issuance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the original PPQ Form 577 or 579 is:</th>
<th>And:</th>
<th>And the replacement date is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surrendered to the ACO</td>
<td>The consignent is reinspected</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. VOID the original PPQ Form 577 or 579 (refer to Recordkeeping on page 3-5-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. RETURN all voided certificates (including those ruined while typing or preparing) to the issuing office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. ISSUE a new PPQ Form 577 (Table 3-5-1 on page 3-5-7) or 579 (Table 3-5-2 on page 3-5-11) at any duty station¹ based on the new inspection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The consignment is <strong>not</strong> reinspected</td>
<td>Within 30 days of inspection or specific country requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. VOID the original PPQ Form 577 or 579 (refer to Recordkeeping on page 3-5-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. RETURN all voided certificates (including those ruined while typing or preparing) to the issuing office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. CHANGE the appropriate entries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. REPLACE the PPQ Form 577 or 579 at any duty station,¹ with <strong>no</strong> AD referencing the replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. ATTACH the original or a copy (if the original is returned to the originating office) to the file copy of the new PPQ Form 577 or 579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not within 30 days of inspection or specific country requirements²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. VOID the original PPQ Form 577 or 579 (refer to Recordkeeping on page 3-5-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. RETURN all voided certificates (including those ruined while typing or preparing) to the issuing office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. CHANGE the appropriate entries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. REPLACE the PPQ Form 577 or 579 at any duty station,¹ with an AD “This certificate replaces phytosanitary certificate (or phytosanitary certificate for reexport) [number], issued on [date], at [issuing office], because [reason for issuing new PPQ Form 577 or 579].”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. ATTACH the original or a copy (if the original is returned to the originating office) to the file copy of the new PPQ Form 577 or 579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not surrendered</td>
<td>The document was already mailed</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. CHANGE the appropriate entries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. REPLACE the PPQ Form 577 or 579 at the originating duty station <strong>only</strong>, with an AD “This certificate replaces phytosanitary certificate (or phytosanitary certificate for reexport) [number], issued on [date], at [issuing office], because [reason for issuing new PPQ Form 577 or 579].”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The document was lost</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. CHANGE the appropriate entries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. REPLACE the PPQ Form 577 or 579 at the originating duty station <strong>only</strong>, with an AD “This certificate replaces the applicant’s lost original of phytosanitary certificate (or phytosanitary certificate for reexport) [number], issued on [date], at [issuing office].”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ ACOs may have to contact the originating office for supporting documents.
² The original export certificate was issued according to PPQ policy concerning time limits.
Chapter 3

General Procedures

Completing PPQ Form 578

Introduction

PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products, is an accountable certificate used to certify processed plant commodities. Refer to Figure 3-6-1 for an example of a blank PPQ Form 578.

Purpose

The purpose of PPQ Form 578 is to assist U.S. applicants whose shipments may be placed in jeopardy if such a document is not issued. PPQ Form 578 was created by PPQ to fill a void where no other government certification existed.

NOTICE

PPQ Form 578 may only be issued for those processed products listed in the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD).

Guidelines for Completing PPQ Form 578

1. Prepare all export certificates in English.

2. List only U.S. addresses in the NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER block. Affiliated island addresses are acceptable.

3. Type or handwrite export certificates (if handwritten, do so only in all uppercase or capital letters).

4. Spell out dates in the month/day/year format (e.g., July 17, 2023).
5. Do not correct errors or add extraneous marks (i.e., tick marks, checkmarks, etc.) on the export certificate. Never use correction fluid or correction tape. If an ACO makes an error, the ACO must complete a new certificate.

6. Never abbreviate the following: calendar months, city names, State names, country names, or any other entry unless it is part of a business name (e.g., A.B.C. Distributing Inc.)

7. Never enter a grade, intended use, a commercial term, or a trade name.

8. Never enter phone of FAX numbers.

9. Never enter statements such as “in care of,” (c/o), “attention to,” “agent for,” or “notify.”

10. Never enter titles to signatures or names.

11. Check the export summary to verify the declared point of entry is authorized; if the point of entry is not authorized, warn the exporter the shipment may be delayed or refused entry.

12. Each PPQ Form 578 can only be prepared by the issuing office accountable for that certificate.

13. Additional declarations (ADs) are prohibited on PPQ Form 578.

14. Treatments cannot be certified on PPQ Form 578.

15. PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for PPQ Form 577 or PPQ Form 579, may not be used for PPQ Form 578.

16. PPQ Form 578 may be replaced if lost, etc., without any additional declaration.

17. Never enter a variety unless it is required in PExD or is listed in an import permit and all the conditions can be met.

Completion

Refer to Table 3-6-1 for specific instructions, techniques, and examples for completing PPQ Form 578.

Table 3-6-1 Instructions for Completing PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the block is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLACE</td>
<td>ENTER the complete name of the city and State of the issuing office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>ENTER the date when the certificate is prepared by an Authorized Certification Official (ACO).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER</td>
<td>DO NOT WRITE in this space; all PPQ Forms 578 are prenumbered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER</td>
<td>ENTER the complete name and U.S. address of the applicant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### General Procedures: Completing PPQ Form 578

**Completion**

Table 3-6-1 Instructions for Completing PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products (page 2 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the block is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE</td>
<td>ENTER the complete name and address of the consignee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEANS OF CONVEYANCE</td>
<td>ENTER the specific name of the conveyance, if known. If unknown, enter airfreight, ocean vessel, railroad, truck line, airmail, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POINT OF ENTRY</td>
<td>This should be the first point of arrival in the country of destination, or if not known, the country name. If the consignment transits through another country, record this only if the country of transit has specific requirements for transiting consignments in PExD or if there is official communication from the NPPO. Note in brackets [ ] the entry point of the country of transit, or if not know, the country name. The point of entry is declared by the exporter at the time of issuance of the phytosanitary certificate. When the summary in PExD specifies a point of entry must be listed in its phytosanitary import requirements, one of the specific points of entry must be declared and the consignment should enter through that point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCT (kind, quantity, and weight)</td>
<td>ENTER the name of the processed product exactly as it appears in the list in PExD; do not add scientific names. Enter the amount and description of the shipping containers as declared by the applicant (e.g., 11 wooden crates, 123 cardboard cartons, 5 burlaps bags, or if in bulk, enter &quot;IN BULK.&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDENTIFICATION</td>
<td>ENTER the markings as declared by the applicant. If there are no distinguishing marks, enter &quot;NONE.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORIGIN</td>
<td>ENTER the origin as declared by the applicant, specifying the States or countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARNING</td>
<td>This warning alerts all parties that any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of export certificates is subject to civil penalties or punishable by a fine or imprisonment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHORIZATION</td>
<td>TYPE or PRINT the name of the ACO who will sign the certificate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGNATURE</td>
<td>SIGN your name. The signature must match the name entered in NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Example

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0052. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .03 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

**Plant Protection and Quarantine**

**Export Certificate**

**Processed Plant Products**

**For Official Use Only**

**Place:**

**Date:**

**Sample**

**Number:**

**Name and Address of Exporter:**

**Sample**

**Name and Address of Consignee:**

**Sample**

**Means of Conveyance:**

**Point of Entry:**

**Description of Consignment**

**Product (Kind, Quantity, and Weight):**

**Sample**

**Identification:**

**Sample**

**Origin:**

**Warning:** Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to $250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than $10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

This is to affirm that, based upon inspection of submitted samples and/or by virtue of processing received, the plant products described above are believed to be free from injurious plant pests.

**Name of Authorized Officer:**

**Sample**

**Signature:**

**Sample**

No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

**PPQ Form 578**

**Sep 2001**

Previous edition dated Feb 2001 may be used.

1 of 1

---

Figure 3-6-1  Example of PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products (blank)
General Procedures: Completing PPQ Form 578
Continuation Sheet(s)

Continuation Sheet(s)

When there is insufficient space on a PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products, proceed as follows.

1. In the block certificate, enter “refer to attachment(s).”
2. List the information on a separate sheet of plain paper without letterhead, unless required by the importing country as specified in the export summary. If letterhead is required, only use letterhead PPQ letterhead.
3. Indicate the name and number of the certificate, if applicable, and the issuance date at the top of each continuation sheet.
4. Review the listed information for accuracy.
5. Sign each continuation sheet.
6. Include the original continuation sheet(s) with the original certificate. Include a copy of the continuation sheet(s) with each copy of the original certificate.

Recordkeeping

Issuing offices must retain the multipart paper issuing office copies of export certificates for 3 years. After 3 years, destroy these copies by incinerating or shredding. If the certificate lists protected commodities, maintain the paper certificates and accompanying documentation for 5 years.

File and maintain the multipart paper issuing office copies of export certificates according to local procedures for storing accountable certificates.

Distribution

Distribute copies of PPQ Form 578 issued on multipart paper forms as indicated in Table 3-6-2.

Table 3-6-2  Instructions for Distributing PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products
(page 1 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the copy is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Part 1—shipper’s original (white with blue microprint background) | 1. If present and applicable, ATTACH a foreign export certificate for foreign-origin processed products  
2. GIVE the original and shipper’s copy to the applicant, shipper, or broker |
| Part 2—shippers’ copy (white)           |                                                                      |
**General Procedures:** Completing PPQ Form 578

**Distribution**

### Table 3-6-2 Instructions for Distributing PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products (page 2 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the copy is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 3—record copy (white)</td>
<td>1. ATTACH any pertinent information for that specific shipment(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. SEND the record copy to your supervisor, Export Certification Specialist (ECS), or State Plant Health Director (SPHD) (to whom and when to send record copies is established by the ECS and SPHD. A good rule of thumb is on a weekly basis, gather and send copies of issued certificates).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4—issuing office copy (white)</td>
<td>1. ATTACH any pertinent information for that specific shipment(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. FILE at the issuing office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Such as application, foreign export certificate, continuation sheet(s) (refer to Continuation Sheet(s) on page 3-6-5).
Introduction

The funding for phytosanitary certification is generated directly by user fees. User fees for export certification of plants and plant products follows 7 CFR 354. This section provides guidance for Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) regarding collecting user fees for the following export certificates:

◆ PPQ Form 577, Phytosanitary Certificate
◆ PPQ Form 578, Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products
◆ PPQ Form 579, Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport

Federal ACOs

PCIT use is mandatory for all PPQ employees in the collection of funds for export certificates. Refer to Guidance for Federal ACOs on page 3-7-3.
State and County ACOs
At this time PCIT use by State and county ACOs is voluntary but highly recommended. An applicable administrative fee applies to all export certificates, both PCIT and multipart paper forms. State and county ACOs should refer to their local policy for collecting user fees and the USDA administrative fee. Refer to Table 3-7-1.

Table 3-7-1 : Administrative Fees for Export Certificates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the export certificate is:</th>
<th>Then the administrative fee is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issued in PCIT</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issued outside of PCIT</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For State or county locations using PCIT, PPQ has developed a mechanism to collect the administrative fee directly from the applicant. Refer to Step 1: Collect the Administrative Fee on page 3-7-9.

In addition to collecting the USDA administrative fee, PPQ has also developed the capability to collect the State and county fees associated with export certificates. Refer to State and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting State and County Fees and the USDA Administrative Fee in PCIT on page 3-7-12.

State and county locations not using PCIT must collect and remit the administrative fee monthly to APHIS for each certificate issued. Refer to Federal, State, and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting the USDA Administrative Fee Without PCIT on page 3-7-17.

Important PCIT Facts
The following PCIT facts apply to all users:

- **No** fees are removed from accounts until certificates are in issued or printed status.
- PCIT will **not** allow PPQ Form 577, 578, or 579 to be completed without sufficient funds.
- Applicants using PCIT may run a debit transaction report to view all credits and debits made to their account.
- If applicants are **not** using PCIT, then the duty station may run a debit transaction report to view all credits and debits for each applicant.
- If a company submits an application, duty stations will **never** need to create a shell account.
- The use of wild card searches, when searching for organizations, can increase the effectiveness of your search in PCIT. Entering less specific information yields a larger result.
Guidance for Federal ACOs

Step 1: Determine Shipment Value
The cost of an export certificate is based on whether the shipment is commercial or noncommercial.

Commercial Shipments
Shipments with a value greater than or equal to $1250 are considered commercial.

Noncommercial Shipments
Shipments whose value is less than $1250 are considered noncommercial. Applicants must provide an invoice indicating the value is less than $1250. Furthermore, the quantity of produce declared and the number and description of packages on the application must match those found on the invoice. Attach a copy of the invoice in PCIT.

NOTICE
ACOs must use their professional judgment and the shipment’s accompanying documentation to establish the shipment’s value and to determine whether a shipment is commercial or non-commercial.

Humanitarian Shipments. Shipments that are neither for gain nor profit are considered noncommercial regardless of the value. Applicants must provide documentation indicating the shipment is a humanitarian shipment.

NOTICE
PCIT automatically sets the fee according to the shipment value. The ACO can over-ride the fee on the certificate adjustment and payment screen.

Interagency Agreements. Shipments certified under an interagency agreement are charged the noncommercial rate. If a USDA agency or facility requests such an arrangement, an interagency agreement must be signed before issuing an export certificate.¹

¹ To set up an interagency agreement, or to identify the agencies that have valid agreements, contact the Agreement Services Center in Riverdale, Maryland.
Step 2: Set User Fee for Export Certificates
Refer to Table 3-7-2.

Table 3-7-2  User Fees for Export Certificates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the invoice value is:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Commercial (equal to or greater than $1,250) | 1. The fee is $106  
2. REFER to Step 3: Collect User Fee on page 3-7-4 |
| Noncommercial (less than $1,250)         | 1. The fee is $61  
2. REFER to Step 3: Collect User Fee on page 3-7-4 |

NOTICE
• If ACOs issue export certificates on contiguous or noncontiguous ROT, PPQ must charge the user fee for the export certificate and the overtime charges.
• PCIT collects the user fee for export certificates only. Overtime is not handled through PCIT. Handle overtime fees according to APHIS policy.

Step 3: Collect User Fee
◆ Applicants must pay for export certificates in U.S. funds at the time of service
◆ Applicants may deposit funds in PCIT to pay for export certificates.

Credit Card or eCheck
The preferred method of payment for export certificates is by the applicant through PCIT with credit card or eCheck. If the applicant uses a credit card or eCheck, no further action is required; refer to Example A.

Example A  Applicant Using eCheck or Credit Card
Company A funds their account in PCIT and submits an application. The applicant should always select prepurchase account in this example.
To create the PPQ Form 577 or 579, the ACO must:
1. Process the submitted application.
2. Ensure the fee is correct before clicking “Issue certificate and charge fee”.
3. Complete the certificate printing process.
PCIT APHIS 94 is not required.

NOTICE
Credit cards and eChecks are accepted only when applicants use the financial management option in PCIT.

Paper Check or Money Order
Applicants may present paper checks (cashier’s, certified, traveler’s, personal) or money orders. ACOs must enter that payment into PCIT.
General Procedures: User Fees
Guidance for Federal ACOs

- Checks and money orders must be payable to USDA–APHIS
- Checks drawn on foreign banks must be marked as and payable in U.S. dollars
- Checks must have the following accounting code in the memo line: 0XPQPQ0024PQPSRTPUBLICUSDA/0203 (only if they do not have a PCIT Org ID)
- Checks must have the Org ID listed in the memo line if they have a PCIT account

The following information must appear on the face of personal checks:
- Complete mailing address
- Driver’s license number
- Phone number

The tax identification number or social security number must be kept on file in the issuing office. The tax identification number or social security number is not to be listed on the check or any documents that are submitted for processing.

**NOTICE**

- If a check is returned by the bank for insufficient funds, do not certify additional shipments until the outstanding balance is paid in full.
- Do not write below the memo and signature lines on a check.
- Do not write on the back of checks or money orders.
- Do not endorse checks or money orders with a stamp.

Refer to the following examples for entering a paper check or money order in PCIT:

---

2 As required by the Debt Collection Improvement Act (DCIA); the Department of Treasury, Financial Management Service policy directives; and Departmental, and APHIS policy directives.
**Example B**

**Applicant Presents Paper Check or Money Order & Submits PCIT Application**

Company B submits applications with PCIT. They give the duty station a check for $250.00. The applicant should select “prepurchase” when submitting applications.

To handle the check in PCIT, the ACO must:
1. Click “Financial Management” and search for Company B by the organization name or Org ID number.
2. Click “Transactions” for Company B.
3. Select “Add funds to prepurchase account” on the update account menu.
4. Enter the check information and click save. Company B now has $250.00 in their account.

To create the PPQ Form 577 or 579, the ACO must:
1. Process the submitted application.
2. Ensure the fee is correct before clicking “Issue certificate and charge fee”.
3. Complete the certificate printing process.

The PCIT APHIS 94 is required and must reflect $250.00 for Company B.

**Example C**

**Applicant Presents Paper Check or Money Order Without a PCIT Organization**

Company C is not using PCIT and presents a check for $500.00. The ACO must use a shell account.

To handle the check in PCIT, the ACO must:
1. Click “Financial Management” and search for Company C by the organization name or Org ID number.
   - If you find Company C, then a shell account was already created. Go to step 2.
   - If you do not find Company C, then click “Create applicant organization,” complete the information, and click save. Return to step 1.
2. Click “Transactions” for Company C.
3. Select “Add funds to prepurchase account” on the update account menu.
4. Enter the check information and click save. Company C now has $500.00 in their account.

The ACO must:
1. Create an application for Company C.
2. Update applicant to Company C on the General Screen.
3. Submit the application to the duty station.

To create the PPQ Form 577 or 579 in PCIT, the ACO must:
1. Process the submitted application.
2. Ensure the fee is correct before clicking “Issue certificate and charge fee”.
3. Complete the certificate printing process.

The PCIT APHIS 94 must reflect $500 for company C.
Collecting the User Fee for Letterhead Certification (Nonanimal Statement) in PCIT

PCIT collects the user fee for Letterhead Statements (nonanimal) even though the document is not generated in PCIT. For guidance on the completion of Letterhead Statements (nonanimal), refer to Certifying Nonanimal Products for Export in the Special Procedures section of the Animal Product Manual.

Refer below for instructions on collecting the user fee for Letterhead Certification (nonanimal statement) in PCIT:

1. Select “Financial Management.”
2. Search for the company name. If you find the company name, go to number 3. If you cannot find the company, do the following:
   A. Click “Create Applicant Organization.” Complete the information and click save.
   B. Return to number 2 above.
3. Click “Transactions” for Company.
4. Select “Charge for a certificate issued outside of PCIT.”
5. Select the processing duty station from the drop down list.
6. Enter the issue date.
7. Select the Certificate Type, 578/LTR.
8. Enter the certificate number.
9. Select the appropriate Federal Fee.
10. Click the Save button.

NOTICE
You may use the same process for PPQ Form 577 and 579 when PCIT is down to collect the applicable user fee.

Step 4: Remit Paper Checks or Money Orders
PCIT will populate the “PCIT-generated APHIS 94 information report” (PCIT APHIS 94) for any paper checks or money orders manually entered into PCIT. The PCIT APHIS 94 must be submitted in lieu of “APHIS Form 94, Record of Public Funds Received for export certification fees.”

How to Generate and Remit PCIT APHIS 94
1. Select “View Reports.”
2. Select “APHIS 94 Record of Public Funds Received.”
3. Click submit.
4. Select the appropriate duty station.
5. Fill in the date range.
6. Click next.
7. Click generate report.
8. Print the report.
9. Review the report for accuracy.
10. Complete blocks 14 and 15.
11. Photocopy each check or money order for the work location records.
12. Attach checks and/or money orders to the PCIT APHIS 94.
13. Send (refer to important note below) the PCIT APHIS 94 with the checks and/or money orders to the address printed in Block 4.
14. The ECS will keep a copy of the PCIT APHIS 94 and the associated checks or money orders until a receipted copy is returned from the Minneapolis Financial Services Branch (MFSB).
15. If the ECS does not receive a receipted copy within 3 weeks of submission, notify the Minneapolis Financial Services Branch.

**NOTICE**
Send the collected fees every Thursday or immediately when deposit receipts total $5000 or more.

**Replacing Export Certificates**
User fees are applicable for export certificates that **must** be replaced because of an error caused by the applicant or for changes to information about a shipment. The fee for replacing an export certificate is $15.00. The fee remains in effect after 2012 until new regulations are finalized.

**NOTICE**
PPQ **does not** charge user fees for export certificates that have been replaced because of an error caused by an ACO.

**NOTICE**
The quantity **cannot** be increased when replacing an export certificate. Any increase in quantity would necessitate an additional inspection.

If the applicant requests the original export certificate be split into multiple certificates, or replaced more than once, set the fee for the first replacement at $15.00. Charge all additional replacements the applicable rate specified in Table 3-7-2.
State and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting Only the USDA Administrative Fee in PCIT

Step 1: Collect the Administrative Fee

◆ Applicants must pay the administrative fee for export certificates issued by States and Counties in U.S. funds at the time of service.
◆ Applicants may deposit funds in PCIT to pay the applicable administrative fee associated with export certificates.

Credit Card or eCheck in PCIT
The preferred method of payment for the administrative fee is by the applicant through PCIT with credit card or eCheck. If the applicant uses a credit card or eCheck, no further action is required by the State or county. Refer to Example D.

Example D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Using eCheck or Credit Card</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company D funds their account in PCIT and submits an application. Applicants should always select prepurchase account in this example. The ACO must:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Process the submitted application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Complete the certificate printing process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCIT APHIS 94 is not required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTICE
Credit cards and eChecks are accepted only when using the financial management option in PCIT.

Paper Check or Money Order in PCIT
Applicants may also present a paper check (cashier’s, certified, traveler’s, personal) or money order for the administrative fee. If a State or county does not want to accept paper checks or money orders for the administrative fee, then refer the applicant to the closest PPQ location. Once PPQ enters the proper check or money order in PCIT, then the money would be available at any location using PCIT.

If a State or county elects to collect paper checks or money orders, then the ACO must enter that payment in PCIT.
◆ Checks and money orders must be payable to USDA–APHIS
◆ Checks drawn on foreign banks must be marked as and payable in U.S. dollars
General Procedures: User Fees
State and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting Only the USDA Administrative Fee in PCIT

◆ Checks **must** have the following accounting code in the memo line:
  0XPQPQ0024PQPSCRTPUBLICUSDA/0203 (**only** if they **do not** have a PCIT Org ID)

◆ Checks **must** have the Org ID listed in the memo line if they have a PCIT account

The following information **must** appear on the face of personal checks:

◆ Complete mailing address
◆ Driver’s license number
◆ Phone number

The tax identification number or social security number **must** be kept on file in the issuing office. The tax identification number or social security number is **not** to be listed on the check or any documents that are submitted for processing.

**NOTICE**

- If a check is returned by the bank for insufficient funds, **do not** certify additional shipments until the outstanding balance is paid in full.
- **Do not** write below the memo and signature lines on a check.
- **Do not** write on the back of checks or money orders.
- **Do not** endorse checks or money orders with a stamp.

Refer to the following examples for entering a paper check or money order in PCIT:

**Example E**

**Applicant Using Paper Check or Money Order & Submitting PCIT Application**

Company E submits applications with PCIT. They give the duty station a check for $250.00. They should select “prepurchase” when submitting applications.

To handle the check, in PCIT, the ACO **must**:

1. Click “Financial Management” and search for Company E by the organization name or Org ID number.
2. Click “Transactions” for Company E.
3. Select “Add funds to prepurchase account” on the update account menu.
4. Enter the check information and click save. Company E now has $250.00 in their account.

To create the PPQ Form 577 or 579, the ACO **must**:

1. Process the submitted application.
2. Complete the certificate printing process.

The PCIT APHIS 94 **must** reflect $250.00 for Company E.

---

3 As required by the Debt Collection Improvement Act (DCIA); the Department of Treasury, Financial Management Service policy directives; and Departmental, and APHIS policy directives.
**Example F**  
**Applicant Using Paper Check or Money Order Without a PCIT Organization**

Company F is not using PCIT and hands you a check for $500.00. The ACO must use a shell account in PCIT.

To handle the check in PCIT, the ACO must:
1. Click “Financial Management” and search for Company F by the organization name or Org ID number.
   - If you find Company F, then a shell account was already created. Go to step 2.
   - If you do not find Company F, then click “Create applicant organization,” complete the information, and click save. Return to step 1.
2. Click “Transactions” for Company F.
3. Select “Add funds to prepurchase account” on the update account menu.
4. Enter the check information and click save. Company F now has $500.00 in their account.

To create the application in PCIT, the ACO must:
1. Create an application for Company F.
2. Update applicant to Company F on the General Screen.
3. Submit the application to the duty station.

To create the PPQ Form 577 or 579 in PCIT, the ACO must:
1. Process the submitted application.
2. Complete the certificate printing process.

The PCIT APHIS 94 must reflect $500 for company F.

**Step 2: Remit the Administrative Fee**

**Remitting with PCIT**

PCIT will populate the “PCIT-generated APHIS 94 information report” (PCIT APHIS 94) for any paper checks or money orders manually entered into PCIT.

**How to Generate and Remit PCIT APHIS 94**

1. Select “View Reports.”
2. Select “APHIS 94 Record of Public Funds Received,”
3. Click submit.
4. Select the appropriate duty station.
5. Fill in the date range.
6. Click next.
7. Click generate report.
8. Print the report.
9. Review the report for accuracy.
10. Complete blocks 14 and 15.
11. Photocopy each check or money order for the work location records.
12. Attach checks and/or money orders to the PCIT APHIS 94.

13. Send (refer to important note below) the PCIT APHIS 94 with the checks and/or money orders to the address printed in Block 4.

14. The ECS will keep a copy of the PCIT APHIS 94 and the associated checks or money orders until a receipted copy is returned from the Minneapolis Financial Services Branch (MFSB).

15. If the ECS does not receive a receipted copy within 3 weeks of submission, notify the Minneapolis Financial Services Branch.

NOTICE

The State or County must remit all paper checks or money orders by the end of the following month.

Replacing Export Certificates

The administrative fee is applicable for all export certificates that must be replaced because of an error caused by the applicant or for changes to information about a shipment.

NOTICE

There is no administrative fee for export certificates that must be replaced because of an error caused by an ACO.

NOTICE

The quantity cannot be increased when replacing an export certificate. Any increase in quantity would necessitate an additional inspection.

If the applicant requests the original export certificate be split into multiple certificates, then the applicable administrative fee applies to all certificates.

EXAMPLE

The applicant wants an original export certificate split into three certificates. The administrative fee applies to the original export certificate and all three split certificates.

State and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting State and County Fees and the USDA Administrative Fee in PCIT

Step 1: Collect All Fees

◆ Applicants must pay all fees (State, county, and Federal) for export certificates in U.S. funds at the time of service
◆ Applicants may deposit funds in PCIT to pay for export certificates
General Procedures: User Fees
State and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting State and County Fees and the USDA Administrative Fee in PCIT

Credit Card or eCheck in PCIT
The preferred method of payment for export certificates is by the applicant through PCIT with credit card or eCheck. If the applicant uses a credit card or eCheck, no further action is required by the State or county. Refer to Example G.

Example G

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Using eCheck or Credit Card</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company G funds their account in PCIT and submits an application. Applicants should always select prepurchase account in this example. The ACO must:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Process the submitted application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. On the certificate adjustment screen, click “Enter State/County Fees.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fill in the appropriate fields and click “Save.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Complete the certificate printing process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCIT APHIS 94 is not required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTICE
Credit cards and eChecks are accepted only when using the financial management option in PCIT.

Paper Check or Money Order in PCIT
Applicants may also present paper checks (cashier’s, certified, traveler’s, personal) or money orders for the appropriate user fees. If a State or County does not want to accept paper checks or money orders for the administrative fee, then refer the applicant to the closest PPQ location. Once PPQ enters the paper check or money order in PCIT, then the money would be available at any location using PCIT.

If a State or county elects to collect paper checks or money orders, then the ACO must enter those forms of payment into PCIT.

◆ Checks and money orders must be payable to USDA–APHIS
◆ Checks drawn on foreign banks must be marked as and payable in U.S. dollars
◆ Checks must have the following accounting code in the memo line: 0XPQPQ0024PQPSCRTPUBLICUSDA/0203 (only if they do not have a PCIT Org ID)
◆ Checks must have the Org ID listed in the memo line if they have a PCIT account
The following information **must** appear on the face of personal checks:

- Complete mailing address
- Driver’s license number
- Phone number

The tax identification number or social security number **must** be kept on file in the issuing office. The tax identification number or social security number is **not** to be listed on the check or any documents that are submitted for processing.

**NOTICE**

- If a check is returned by the bank for insufficient funds, **do not** certify additional shipments until the outstanding balance is paid in full.
- **Do not** write below the memo and signature lines on a check.
- **Do not** write on the back of checks or money orders.
- **Do not** endorse checks or money orders with a stamp.

Refer to the following examples for entering a paper check or money order in PCIT:

**Example H**

**Applicant Using Paper Check or Money Order & Submitting PCIT Application**

Company H submits applications with PCIT. They give the duty station a check for $250.00. They should select “prepurchase” when submitting applications.

To handle the check, in PCIT, the ACO **must**:

1. Click “Financial Management” and search for Company H by the organization name or Org ID number.
2. Click “Transactions” for Company H.
3. Select “Add funds to prepurchase account” on the update account menu.
4. Enter the check information and click save. Company H now has $250.00 in their account.

To create the PPQ Form 577 or 579, the ACO **must**:

1. Process the submitted application.
2. On the certificate adjustment screen, click “Enter State/County Fees.”
3. Fill in the appropriate fields and click “Save.”
4. Complete the certificate printing process.

The PCIT APHIS 94 **must** reflect $250.00 for Company H.

---

4 As required by the Debt Collection Improvement Act (DCIA); the Department of Treasury, Financial Management Service policy directives; and Departmental, and APHIS policy directives.
**General Procedures: User Fees**

State and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting State and County Fees and the USDA Administrative Fee in PCIT

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**Example I  Applicant Using Paper Check or Money Order Without a PCIT Organization**

Company I is not using PCIT and hands you a check for $500.00. The ACO must use a shell account.

To handle the check in PCIT, the ACO must:

1. Click “Financial Management” and search for Company I by the organization name or Org ID number.
   - If you find Company I, then a shell account was already created. Go to step 2.
   - If you do not find Company I, then click “Create applicant organization,” complete the information, and click save. Return to step 1.

2. Click “Transactions” for Company I.
3. Select “Add funds to prepurchase account” on the update account menu.
4. Enter the check information and click save. Company I now has $500.00 in their account.

To create the application in PCIT, the ACO must:

1. Create an application for Company I.
2. Update applicant to Company I on the General Screen.
3. Submit the application to the duty station.

To create the PPQ Form 577 or 579 in PCIT, the ACO must:

1. Process the submitted application.
2. On the certificate adjustment screen, click “Enter State/County Fees.”
3. Fill in the appropriate fields and click “Save.”
4. Complete the certificate printing process.

The PCIT APHIS 94 must reflect $500 for company I.

---

**Step 2: Remit All Fees Collected to USDA**

**Remitting with PCIT**

PCIT will populate the “PCIT-generated APHIS 94 information report” (PCIT APHIS 94) for any paper checks or money orders manually entered into PCIT.

**How to Generate and Remit PCIT APHIS 94**

1. Select “View Reports.”
2. Select “APHIS 94 Record of Public Funds Received.”
3. Click submit.
4. Select the appropriate duty station.
5. Fill in the date range.
6. Click next.
7. Click generate report.
8. Print the report.
9. Review the report for accuracy.
10. Complete blocks 14 and 15.
11. Photocopy each check or money order for the work location records.
12. Attach checks and/or money orders to the PCIT APHIS 94.
13. Send (refer to important note below) the PCIT APHIS 94 with the checks and/or money orders to the address printed in Block 4.
14. The ECS will keep a copy of the PCIT APHIS 94 and the associated checks or money orders until a receipted copy is returned from the Minneapolis Financial Services Branch (MFSB).
15. If the ECS does not receive a receipted copy within 3 weeks of submission, notify the Minneapolis Financial Services Branch.

**NOTICE**
The State or county must remit all paper checks or money orders by the end of the following month.

**Replacing Export Certificates**
The administrative fee is applicable for all export certificates that must be replaced because of an error caused by the applicant or for changes to information about a shipment.

**NOTICE**
There is no administrative fee for export certificates that must be replaced because of an error caused by an ACO.

**NOTICE**
The quantity cannot be increased when replacing an export certificate. Any increase in quantity would necessitate an additional inspection.

If the applicant requests the original export certificate be split into multiple certificates, then the applicable administrative fee applies to all certificates.

**EXAMPLE**
The applicant wants an original export certificate split into three certificates. The administrative fee applies to the original export certificate and all three split certificates.
Federal, State, and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting the USDA Administrative Fee Without PCIT

Guidance for State and County Officials
The following section describes the activities necessary for collecting and remitting the USDA administrative fee for States or counties not using PCIT. The remittance mechanism was established according to the least common denominator and took State and county legislative concerns into consideration as much as possible.

Since States and counties have different rules concerning fees, a single worksheet could not be developed for the remittance of administrative fees and the tracking of issued certificates, so the “Checks Collected Worksheet” and the “Certificates Issued Worksheet” were developed. State and County ACOs should refer to their local policy regarding fee collection. The various mechanisms may require exporters to pay for certification services in one of the following ways:

- Multiple checks (e.g., one check for the State or county and one check made to USDA–APHIS) for each certificate issued
- Multiple checks (e.g., same as above) that cover more than one certificate and the State or county tracks the exporters balance
- One check for the State or county and the State or county remits to the USDA directly at the end of the month for all the certificates issued

Tracking the Certificates Issued
States and counties not using PCIT must track and record all certificates issued on a monthly basis. Prior to the administrative fee, the total number of certificates issued by each location was all that was required. With the administrative fee, APHIS needs additional information to determine how much money was collected and to facilitate reconciliation. To track the total number of certificates issued, the “Certificates Issued Worksheet” (Figure 3-7-1) was created. ACOs must complete the worksheet for every certificate issued.

Reporting Voided or Erroneous Certificates
Voided certificates or certificates that have errors should be tracked, recorded, and reported to your ECS for accountability.
**Collecting the Administrative Fee**

When the USDA administrative fee is collected, all checks must be sent to the U.S. Bank lock box in St. Louis for processing. The “Checks Collected Worksheet” (Figure 3-7-2) provides all the necessary information for remitting checks to the USDA.

**NOTICE**

If an applicant carries a balance over time, the State or county should track the balance.

Use the “Checks Collected Worksheet” in Figure 3-7-2 on page 3-7-22 for documenting the receipt and transmittal of USDA administrative fees. Refer to Checks Collected Worksheet Instructions on page 3-7-23 to complete the worksheet. If the State or County is collecting checks from applicants and remits one check to USDA–APHIS at the end of the month then only one line needs to be completed on the “Checks Collected Worksheet” listing the one check remitted.

**Remitting Information**

The State or county must complete these tasks by the end of the following month:

- Make 2 copies of all checks, worksheets, and certificates
- Send copies of all checks, worksheets, and certificates to the ECS responsible for their area
- Retain a copy of all checks, worksheets, and certificates on file
- Submit the original checks and “Checks Collected Worksheet” to the address located in Block 2

**EXAMPLE**

If a certificate is issued in July, the State or county must submit the check, the Checks Collected Worksheet, and the Certificates Issued Worksheet to the ECS responsible for their area by the end of August.

**Replacing Export Certificates**

The administrative fee is applicable for all export certificates that must be replaced because of an error caused by the applicant or for changes to information about a shipment.

**NOTICE**

There is no administrative fee for export certificates that must be replaced because of an error caused by an ACO.
General Procedures: User Fees
Federal, State, and County Guidance for Collecting and Remitting the USDA Administrative Fee Without PCIT

NOTICE
The quantity **cannot** be increased when replacing an export certificate. Any increase in quantity would necessitate an additional inspection.

If the applicant requests the original export certificate be split into multiple certificates, then the applicable administrative fee applies to all certificates.

**EXAMPLE**
The applicant wants an original export certificate split into three certificates. The administrative fee applies to the original export certificate and all three split certificates.

**PPQ Responsibilities**

**Tracking Certificates**
In order for USDA to accurately account for all certificates issued and the associated administrative fees, the ECS **must** track the certificate numbers provided to State and county locations.

**Reconciling Information**
Reconciliation of the Checks Collected Worksheet, Certificates Issued Worksheet, and the certificates that were provided to the States and counties has to be done monthly.
### Certificates Issued Worksheet

**01. From:**

**To:** Export Certification Specialist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>03. Date</th>
<th>04. Applicant</th>
<th>05. Certificate Number</th>
<th>06. ACO Error</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Sent By (Signature):**

**Printed Name:**

**Title:**

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**Figure 3-7-1 Certificates Issued Worksheet**
Certificates Issued Worksheet Instructions

Block 1 - Enter the State or County name and address.

Block 2 - Enter the Export Certification Specialist (ECS) that is responsible for your duty station. The address listed in this block will be used to remit the worksheet to an ECS for verification.

Block 3 - Enter the date the export certificate was issued.

Block 4 - Enter the name of the applicant. In many cases, the applicant and exporter are the same. Enter the name of the person who actually paid for the certificate, not necessarily the exporter listed on the certificate.

Block 5 - Enter the export certificate number.

Block 6 - Indicate if the export certificate was issued to replace a previously issued certificate due to an error by the certifying official.
## Checks Collected Worksheet

01. Account #: 0XPQ0024PQSCTPATHUSDA/0203  
02. To: USDA, APHIS  
P.O. Box 979043  
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000  
03. From: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>04. Date</th>
<th>05. Applicant/ Name</th>
<th>06. Remitter Name</th>
<th>07. Check #</th>
<th>08. Check Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

09. Sent By (Signature)  
10. Printed Name  
11. Title  
12. Responsible Export Certification Specialist (ecs)  
13. __ of __

**Figure 3-7-2 Checks Collected Worksheet**
Checks Collected Worksheet Instructions

PPQ attempted to capture all the required information through the use of one worksheet instead of requiring State/County locations to fill out multiple documents each month. The worksheet contains all the information needed by PPQ to track and account for certificates issued and fees collected.

**NOTICE**

For States/Counties collecting individual checks covering all fees and remitting one check to the USDA monthly, complete only line 1 on the Checks Collected Worksheet.

Block 1 - Prefilled - Account Number

Block 2 - Prefilled - Address to send original checks and worksheets

Block 3 - Fill in the address of the state/county location

Block 4 - Input the date the certificate was issued

Block 5 - Input the name of the applicant organization/government entity. In many cases, the applicant and exporter are the same. Enter the name of the person who actually paid for the certificate, not necessarily the exporter listed on the certificate.

Block 6 - Input the person that signed the check or money order

Block 7 - Input the check or money order number

Block 8 - Input the amount of the check collected

Block 9 - Signature of the person sending in the worksheet

Block 10 - Printed name of signer in block 9

Block 11 - Title of person

Block 12 - Name of responsible ECS

Block 13 - To be completed if the worksheet requires multiple pages

Received Block - To be completed by USDA
Handling Refunds

If an applicant requests a refund for funds in their PCIT account, arrange for a refund from Export Services.

**NOTICE**

Once an export certificate has been issued and the applicant decides not to export the commodity, the user fee is no longer refundable. **Do not** send any refund fee.

Refer to the Refund Request Worksheet shown in Figure 3-7-3 when processing all refunds.

Once the refund has been completed, MFSB staff will notify ES that the PCIT Account can be decreased by the refund amount.

Email the worksheet to ppqexportservices@usda.gov requesting the refund.
### Refund Request Worksheet

Email worksheet to: ppqexportservices@usda.gov

**Accounting code:** 0XPQPQ0024PQPSCTRTPUBLICUSDA/0203  
**Date:**

Note: Please attach any documentation that supports the refund

#### Company Information

Company or individual name:  
PCIT Org ID number:  
Contact person:  
Contact email:  
Address:  
Reason for refund:

**Payment type used to fund PCIT**

(Fully complete the appropriate payment type below. Worksheets with missing information will be returned)

1. **Physical check**  
   - Available only when ACH or credit card refunds are possible. A current IRS Form-W9 must be submitted with the refund request.
   - **Financial institution name:**
   - **Financial institution routing number (RTN):**
   - **Tax Identification Number (TIN):**
   - **Depositor account title:**
   - **Depositor account number:**
   - **Refund amount:**
   - **Accounting code:** 0XPQPQ0024PQPSCTRTPUBLICUSDA/0203  
   - **Check number:**

2. **Electronic check (ACH)**  
   - A current IRS Form-W9 must be submitted with the refund request.
   - **Financial institution name:**
   - **Financial institution routing number (RTN):**
   - **Tax Identification Number (TIN):**
   - **Depositor account title:**
   - **Depositor account number:**
   - **Refund amount:**
   - **Pay.gov Tracking ID:**

3. **Credit card †**
   - **Name on card:**
   - **Amount of original charges:**  
   - **Amount of refund:**
   - **Agency tracking ID:**
   - **Pay.gov tracking ID:**
   - **Transaction date:**

* Allow 4–6 weeks for processing, † Allow 3–5 business days for processing

Privacy Act Statement: Collection of this information is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3322(g), 3325(d), and 7701(c). The information will be used by the Government to make payments by electronic funds to a vendor. This information may also be used for income reporting and for collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of a vendor’s relationship with the Government. Disclosure of the information by the vendor is mandatory. Failure to provide the requested information may result in the delay or withholding of payments to the vendor.

† An IRS-Form W9 with instructions may be found on the IRS.gov website or https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf.

---

**Figure 3-7-3  Refund Request Worksheet**
Managing Records

To maintain the credibility of the PPQ export program, an accountability system was established to deter forgeries and to control public misuse of export certificates.

ACOs must maintain an audit trail because the PPQ export program is one in which money is collected and handled directly.

**NOTICE**

A report equivalent to PPQ Form 575 is available in PCIT and is generated at the regional level for PPQ offices.

**Monthly Reports**

**PCIT Work Unit**

No further action is required since PCIT generates reports of all certificates processed within PCIT.

**Non-PCIT Work Unit**

Work units must count and compile all PPQ Forms 577, 578, and 579 successfully issued along with all export certificates replaced due to ACO error (no fee charged). The SPHD or designee must compile all State and county export certificate records and record that information into Work Accomplishment Data system (WAD) by the eighth day of the following month.

**Regional Office**

Regional offices are capable of generating any report needed from PCIT. The regional office will combine the information from PCIT along with the data from the non-PCIT work units WAD entries.

**Annual Maintenance**

Collect and maintain records and files as follows.

1. Keep a copy of the PCIT APHIS 94 used to send user fee money for export certificates.

2. File the PCIT APHIS 94 and associated check/money order copies for 3 years. After 3 years, destroy the records according to your duty station’s policy for disposal of sensitive documents.

**EXAMPLE**

At the end of fiscal year 2019, you should have the records for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 in storage on site. Destroy all records for fiscal year 2016 according to your duty station’s policy for disposal of sensitive documents.
For further reference, please refer to Recordkeeping on page 2-1-15.

**User Fee Section**

USDA–APHIS–FMD, User Fee Section summarizes the information received from the regions and provides ES with an annual summary of export certification activities.
General Procedures: User Fees
Managing Records
Chapter 4

Special Procedures

Commodity • Lumber

Contents

Introduction 4-1-1
Inspection of Containerized Lumber 4-1-1

Introduction

These special procedures cover inspecting lumber. The procedures are an acceptable basis for certification and should be adopted as a standard by all PPQ work locations. These special procedures supplement the general inspection guidelines detailed under Verifying Import Requirements on page 3-4-1.

Inspection of Containerized Lumber

The preferred method of certifying lumber for export is to inspect the lumber before it is containerized. The fact that the lumber is tightly and neatly packed in containers does not negate the inspection function.

Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) are not to accept as the basis for certifying containerized lumber, an applicant’s affidavit or industry certification stating the condition of the lumber. For all shipments of containerized lumber offered for export, ACOs must officially verify that the lumber is free from bark and that the applicant met one of the criteria for lumber.

If a shipment of containerized lumber is not in compliance with the phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country, provide the reason why certification was denied to the ACO located nearest the originating lumber mill. That ACO is responsible for visiting the lumber mill to correct practices that resulted in the certification denial.

The standardized inspection procedures for certifying containerized lumber are as follows:

◆ Concentrate on examining the exposed edges and butt ends of the lumber
◆ If there is evidence of bark or rounded surface tissue when certifying the lumber under the square-edged criteria, refuse to certify
If the readings are between 15 and 20% when determining the moisture content of containerized lumber, apply the moisture meter prongs to the butt ends of the boards and take additional readings on the boards parallel to the grain.

Inspect the containerized lumber as thoroughly as possible without removing any bundles of lumber from the container.

Use a flashlight to help examine the lumber.
Introduction

PPQ has updated the nationwide template for establishing compliance agreements with the cotton industry. Do not change or modify the revised version of the template listed in this section. A fillable National Cotton Compliance Agreement is available. Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) should contact Mike Ward, Senior Accreditation Programs Manager, through the communication protocol listed in Appendix A on page A-1-1, if they have questions or concerns regarding the national compliance agreement for the cotton industry.

Issuing a PPQ Form 577 for Baled Compressed Cotton

Cotton warehouses may be under a compliance agreement to conduct the phytosanitary inspection necessary to issue a PPQ Form 577. Below are general guidelines on how to certify baled compressed cotton when the inspection is conducted by a warehouse under compliance.

1. Receive and review PPQ 572 from exporter or designated agent. The PPQ 572 must have the name and address of the warehouse that conducted the inspection, inspection results, and the date of the inspection.

2. Verify the warehouses listed on the PPQ 572 are currently listed on the cotton compliance agreement database. If not in the database, contact your Export Certification Specialist (ECS).

3. Verify the number of inspected bales equals the number of inspected bales to be placed on the PPQ Form 577.

4. Issue the PPQ Form 577.

5. PCIT users are not required to maintain physical copies as long as the document is attached in PCIT. Retain all paper copies from compliant warehouses with the multipart paper file copy of PPQ Form 577.
### Special Procedures: Commodity • Cotton

### Issuing a PPQ Form 577 for Baled Compressed Cotton

#### Figure 4-2-1 PPQ Form 519, Compliance Agreement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control numbers for this information collection are 0579-0054, 0088, 0129, 0198, 0257, 0310, 0317, 0322, 0337, 0346, 0363, and 0369. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1.25 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE</th>
<th>COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF PERSON OR FIRM</td>
<td>2. LOCATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. REGULATED ARTICLE(S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Densely Packed Baled Cotton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. APPLICABLE FEDERAL QUARANTINE(S) OR REGULATIONS</td>
<td>7 CFR 353</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**5.1 WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:**

(See National Cotton Compliance Agreement on pages 2-5)

This agreement expires one year from the signing date of issuance in block 10. Edits or changes to the original form of this document are prohibited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. SIGNATURE</th>
<th>7. TITLE</th>
<th>8. DATE SIGNED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The affixing of the signatures below will validate this agreement which shall remain in effect until canceled, but may be revised as necessary or revoked for noncompliance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11. PPQ/CBP OFFICIAL (NAME AND TITLE)</th>
<th>12. ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13. SIGNATURE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. U.S. GOVERNMENT/STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL (NAME AND TITLE)</td>
<td>15. ADDRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. SIGNATURE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PPQ FORM 519  SEP 2012

Previous editions before 2010 are obsolete.
National Cotton Compliance Agreement

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE PROGRAMS

NATIONAL COTTON COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT STIPULATIONS

In authorizing and participating in the treatment of uniform densely packed baled cotton as a basis for the certification of regulated articles, no liability shall be attached either to the United States Department of Agriculture, to cooperating agencies, or to any of their employees.

The participant will handle, process, and move regulated articles in accordance with instructions. The participant will maintain and offer for inspection such records as may be required. The participant will carry out all additional conditions, treatments, procedures, precautions, and sanitary measures which may be required by the Authorized Certification Official (ACO):

1. The participant will load for export only densely packed cotton bales requiring phytosanitary certification.
2. The participant will visually inspect each shipment using the attached hypergeometric sampling chart (refer to Table 4-2-1) to ascertain that the bales are free from living insects, cottonseed, soil, plant material, or other contaminants. To verify through random sampling that the bales are densely packed. The integrity of the bale wrapping must be maintained to prevent contamination of the cotton with soil, grease, etc.
3. The participant will load only cotton that must be stored and must be entered into the inventory of warehouse(s) party to this agreement.
4. The participant will load only clearly marked bales that have been kept segregated from uncompressed cotton into clean containers, box cars, or other equipment. Marking must include, but is not limited to the Permanent Bale Identification (PBI) tag.
5. Containers, box cars, or other equipment with less than a full load of compliant warehouse origin cotton must be reinspected at a port of export by Federal, State, or county ACOs if commingled with non-compliant cotton.
6. Cotton inspected at the compliant facility may only be offloaded into another container, box cars, or other equipment with prior approval from

1 Densely packed baled cotton is defined as a minimum compression rate of 22 pounds of lint per cubic foot (352.4 kg of lint per cubic meter).
Federal, State, or county ACOs. Offloading without prior approval will invalidate the previous inspection.

7. The participant will maintain files of shipping documents showing the number of bales, marks, weight and origin by State of each bale, signed and completed PPQ Form 572 and the signature of the manager or their authorized agent. Such files will be made available for inspection upon request by Federal, State, or county ACOs. PCIT users are not required to maintain physical copies as long as the document is attached in PCIT. Files of each shipment must be maintained for three years even if participant is no longer active in the program.

8. The participant will, after completion of the inspection and loading, send the signed PPQ Form 572, Application for Inspection and Certification of Domestic Plants and Plant Products for Export, to the applicant requesting the inspection. The applicant shall contact Federal, State, or county ACOs by submitting the completed and signed PPQ Form 572 for each shipment.

9. Federal, State, or county ACOs reserve the right to periodically inspect operations, facilities and individual shipments of cotton shipped under this agreement. Such inspections may occur without prior notice to the warehouse official, but shall occur during normal duty hours.

10. Compliance agreements are non-transferable. If the participant leaves his/her present employer or company, the compliant warehouse must notify the local Federal, State or county ACOs within fourteen (14) days of the occurrence in writing.

11. With the signature below, the participant undertakes the responsibility for compliance for all conditions in the compliance agreement, and for all persons the participant directly supervises who may be involved with the inspection of the densely packed baled cotton.

12. The person who undertakes the responsibility for the compliance of the warehouse will maintain a list of all trained personnel who have the authority under this agreement to inspect and sign the inspection report. A current and updated list of signatures will be kept on file with Federal, State, or county ACOs.

13. Training and review of the conditions of this agreement will be conducted annually or as conditions warrant. Such training and reviews will be provided by Federal, State, or county ACOs to individuals who sign as a participant to this agreement.

14. The USDA reserves the right to modify the conditions of this agreement in order to meet any changes in phytosanitary import requirements of a foreign country(s). USDA will contact Federal, State, or county ACOs with the new importation requirements.

15. Verification of a facility and individual’s participation in the National Cotton Compliance Agreement Program is required prior to issuance of a
PPQ Form 577 for which a completed and signed PPQ Form 572 has been received. Federal, State, or county ACOs must verify the signature on the PPQ Form 572 with the signature on file.

16. This compliance agreement may be canceled for repeated violations of the conditions of this agreement. Notification of each violation, major and minor, shall be communicated to the facility and responsible individual(s) by local Federal, State, or county ACOs in writing. All violations must be corrected within fourteen (14) business days. Facilities receiving three (3) major or five (5) or more minor violations in a twelve (12) month period shall have their compliance agreement canceled. Such cancellation shall be made in writing and with thirty (30) business days prior notice.

Major violations include but are not limited to:
A. Certifying for export cotton other than densely packed bales
B. Receipt of notification of non-compliance from a foreign country, for which a violation is confirmed
C. Unauthorized signature on PPQ Form 572
D. PPQ Form 572 signed at non-compliant facility or by an unauthorized person at a compliant facility
E. Absence of marking(s) (must include, but is not limited to the Permanent Bale Identification (PBI) identifier)
F. Failure of a facility to timely notify Federal, State, or county ACOs of changes in personnel who sign as party to this agreement within fourteen (14) business days

Minor violations include but are not limited to:
A. Absence of or errors in marks as described on a PPQ Form 577
B. Any loss of the integrity of the bale wrapping that leads to the contamination of the cotton with soil, grease, etc.
C. Incomplete or inaccurate PPQ Form 572 signed by authorized individuals party to this agreement

17. Affected facilities may reapply for participation in the National Cotton Compliance Agreement Program after a six (6) month waiting period and successful completion of official USDA training program.
Table 4-2-1  Hypergeometric Table for Random Sampling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of inspectional units:</th>
<th>Randomly select this number of units to inspect:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>Inspect all units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>16-17</td>
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<td>18-19</td>
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<td>886-200,000</td>
<td>29</td>
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</table>
Chapter 4

Special Procedures

Commodity • Grain (Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS))

Contents

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FGIS Official Agencies 4-3-1
FGIS Inspections 4-3-2
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FGIS Documentation 4-3-4
FGIS Treatments 4-3-5
Determining Eligibility For Certification 4-3-5
Completion of PPQ Forms 577 or 579 for Grain Products 4-3-6
Other FGIS Documents 4-3-8
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 4-3-9

Introduction

The purpose of this section is to provide clarification on certain aspects of inspections conducted by USDA’s Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) is a program area within the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) (formerly the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).

Under the U.S. Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, AMS conducts official sampling and inspections of grain offered for export. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and FGIS have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on page 4-3-9 that sets forth the policies and procedures by which AMS and APHIS will collaborate on the issuance of phytosanitary certificates. PPQ Forms 577 and 579 can be issued based upon AMS inspection results, which will be reported on FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain on page F-1-11.

NOTICE

FGIS Form 921-2 must be presented to the certifying office before issuing PPQ Form 577 or 579. The only exception to this policy is when an ACO performs the official inspection.

FGIS Official Agencies

In addition to FGIS inspectors, FGIS has designated private and State agencies to perform official inspection services at domestic location and delegated some State agencies to perform official inspection services at export port locations.
FGIS Inspections

FGIS inspections, generally, only involve the detection of live weevils and other live insects injurious to stored grain.

FGIS issues a number of different documents. However, some of these documents do not indicate the presence of live pests when found. The only FGIS document that will always indicate whether insects were found in a consignment is the FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain on page F-1-11. In order to ensure that the issuance of a PPQ Form 577 or 579 is based on the appropriate FGIS document, ES worked with the FGIS and the grain industry to develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) for using FGIS documents as the basis of phytosanitary certification.

The issuance of PPQ Form 577 or 579 for grain will be based on FGIS inspection results recorded on FGIS 921-2. An original or photocopy of the FGIS Form 921-2 is acceptable and must be kept on file with the Issuing Office copy of the PPQ Form 577 or 579. It is the applicant’s responsibility to request an FGIS Form 921-2 from FGIS. Refer to Appendix F on page F-1-1 for an example of FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain on page F-1-11.

This form must be presented regardless of whether any other type of FGIS document was obtained for the consignment. If an FGIS Form 921-2 is not presented, a PPQ Form 577 or 579 cannot be issued without inspection by an ACO. If the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) states an FGIS document, other than an FGIS Form 921-2, is required to issue a PPQ Form 577 or 579, the FGIS Form 921-2 must still be presented.

When an importing country requires a consignment to be free of plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc., note the following information:

◆ The applicant is responsible for requesting that FGIS inspect for plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc., as part of their official inspection activities since FGIS, generally, only inspects for insects for phytosanitary inspection purposes

◆ When there are specific requirements for specific quarantine items in grain that must be attested to in an AD, were communicated through official communication, or provided in a specific grain commodity summary, ACOs must verify that the FGIS Form 921-2 indicates a negative result for the specified quarantine items before a PPQ Form 577 or 579 can be issued.

EXAMPLE: Argentina currently requires the following additional declaration (AD) for wheat grain: The shipment is free of Cirsium arvense.
In this case, the applicant must request that FGIS conduct an inspection for *Cirsium arvense* (Canadian thistle). FGIS inspectors follow special procedures when they must inspect for the presence of *Cirsium arvense* in wheat shipments. ACOs must review the FGIS Form 921-2 issued for the consignment to ensure it states that the consignment was found free of *Cirsium arvense*. FGIS may use the common name rather than the botanical name.

FGIS routinely inspects grain samples for the presence of the following weed seeds:

- Castor beans (*Ricinus communis*)
- Cottonseed in wheat grain to Egypt
- *Crotalaria* seeds (Fabaceae)
- Ragweed seeds (*Ambrosia*) for soybean shipments to Russia

**NOTICE**

If FGIS cannot inspect for a particular weed seed, the applicant must make arrangements for FGIS to draw an official sample for analysis by an approved laboratory.

The U.S. Grain Standards Act stipulates that all export “grain” consignments be inspected and weighed by FGIS. FGIS defines “grain” to mean: corn, wheat, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, sunflower seed, triticale, oats, barley, rye, sorghum and mixed grain. Certain exceptions to mandatory inspections are made for overland export “grain” consignments to Mexico and Canada and when total export volume from a specific facility is less than 15,000 tons annually.

FGIS has also established regulations governing the inspection of rice, peas, lentils, chickpeas, beans and a number of processed commodities. Official inspections of export consignments of these commodities are not mandatory under FGIS regulations.

When FGIS inspection is not mandatory, applicants can still request that FGIS conduct an inspection of a grain consignment and issue an FGIS Form 921-2 for phytosanitary purposes. Regardless of the situation, export consignments must be officially inspected by FGIS or an ACO in order to obtain a phytosanitary certificate.
Species that FGIS Can Inspect

FGIS is authorized to provide phytosanitary inspections for the commodities (milled or not) listed in Table 4-3-1.

Table 4-3-1  Species that FGIS Can Inspect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avena byzantina</td>
<td>oat</td>
<td>Pisum sativum</td>
<td>pea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avena sativa</td>
<td>oat</td>
<td>Secale cereale</td>
<td>rye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brassica napus</td>
<td>canola</td>
<td>Sorghum bicolor</td>
<td>sorghum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glycine max</td>
<td>soybean</td>
<td>Triticosecale spp.</td>
<td>triticale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gossypium sp.</td>
<td>cotton</td>
<td>Triticum aestivum</td>
<td>wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus annuus</td>
<td>sunflower</td>
<td>Triticum compactum</td>
<td>wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hordeum vulgare</td>
<td>barley</td>
<td>Triticum durum</td>
<td>wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lens culinaris</td>
<td>lentil</td>
<td>Triticum turgidum</td>
<td>wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linum usitatissimum</td>
<td>flax</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>millet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oryza sativa</td>
<td>rice</td>
<td>Vigna radiata</td>
<td>mung bean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phaseolus spp.</td>
<td>bean</td>
<td>Zea mays</td>
<td>corn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTICE

“Beans” includes any commodity designated by FGIS on an FGIS 921-2. The applicant is responsible for contacting FGIS to confirm that FGIS can inspect for a specific type of bean or commodity derived from “beans.”

NOTICE

The commodity must be produced solely from grain (only the seeds of a plant) and one of the acceptable species (including beans) for FGIS to conduct the inspections.

A listing of FGIS service providers is available on the FGIS website.

FGIS Documentation

FGIS official personnel will record on FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain on page F-1-11 information about detections of live insects, larvae and other pests. The FGIS Form 921-2 should be reviewed for the presence of quarantine insects or to determine if the shipment is deemed “infested” under FGIS criteria. Should either situation occur, the shipment must be fumigated according to official procedures before it can be certified.

The remarks section of the FGIS Form 921-2 should also be examined for and action taken to address other phytosanitary concerns that may have also been detected during the official inspection of the shipment.
FGIS Treatments

Phytosanitary treatments listed on the FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report—Insects in Grain on page F-1-11 may be included on an export certificate. Under the APHIS–GIPSA MOU, FGIS personnel or official personnel of agencies designated or delegated by FGIS to perform official services can witness fumigation of grain and processed products for phytosanitary purposes.

**NOTICE**

FGIS will witness fumigation of vessels, but does not require official personnel to witness fumigation of railcars or containers. In the latter cases, the fumigator will provide a document with fumigation details.

Determining Eligibility For Certification

ACOs can determine their phytosanitary actions by using Table 4-3-2 for all grain inspected by FGIS.

Table 4-3-2  Determine Action to Take on Grain Inspected by FGIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If FGIS found:</th>
<th>And:</th>
<th>And the pest is:</th>
<th>And the consignment:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No insects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>REFER to Table 4-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live insects</td>
<td>Fumigation was noted on FGIS Form 921-2</td>
<td>Regulated</td>
<td>Was treated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fumigation was <strong>not</strong> noted on FGIS Form 921-2</td>
<td>Nonregulated and designated as “infested” on the FGIS Form 921-2</td>
<td>Was treated</td>
<td>REFER to Table 4-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonregulated and <strong>not</strong> designated as “infested” on the FGIS Form 921-2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4-3-3  Determine Whether to Issue PPQ Form 577 or 579

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the consignment:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meets <strong>all</strong> the country’s phytosanitary requirements</td>
<td>ISSUE PPQ Form 577 or 579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does <strong>not</strong> meet <strong>all</strong> the country’s phytosanitary requirements</td>
<td>REFUSE to issue PPQ Form 577 or 579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completion of PPQ Forms 577 or 579 for Grain Products

FGIS has the authority to provide phytosanitary inspections of grain and processed grain products. In addition to inspecting grain (milled or not), FGIS is authorized to provide phytosanitary inspections for the grain products listed in Table 4-3-4.

The commodity must be produced solely from grain (only the seeds of a plant) and one of the acceptable species (including beans) in order for FGIS to conduct the inspections.

**NOTICE**

Never identify a commodity to a level below the species classification (e.g., variety, cultivar) unless listed and required as such in an export summary.

Do not list or refer to any of the following:

◆ Grades
◆ Intended uses
◆ Other commercial terms
◆ Sizes
◆ Trade names
### Table 4-3-4 Completion of PPQ Forms 577 or 579 for Grain Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the block is:</th>
<th>Then follow these instructions to complete PPQ Form 577 or 579:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED</strong></td>
<td>ENTER the common name of the commodity then the following as appropriate (e.g., “oat bran”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (bran)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (brewers dried grains)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (cakes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (cubes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (distillers dried grains)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (dried)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (ground)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (feed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (flakes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (flour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (gluten feed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (gluten meal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (gluten pellets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (grits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (groat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (malted grain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (meal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (middling)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (middling pellets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (pellets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ (rolled)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS</strong></td>
<td>ENTER only the botanical name of the commodities eligible for FGIS inspection:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Avena sativa, Avena byzantina, Brassica napus, Glycine max, Helianthus annuus, Hordeum vulgare, Lens culinaris, Linum usitatissimum, Oryza sativa, Phaseolus spp.*¹ <em>Pisum sativum, Secale cereale, Sorghum bicolor, Triticosecale spp., Triticum aestivum, Triticum compactum, Triticum durum, Vigna radiata, and Zea mays</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Beans include any commodity designated as “bean” by FGIS on an FGIS Form 921-2.
Other FGIS Documents

There are isolated cases when, in addition to the FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain on page F-1-11, an FGIS certificate is required. PExD will state when other FGIS certificates are required. The FGIS Form 921-2 is an inspection report, not a certificate.

**NOTICE**

Except for FGIS certificates issued for beans and rice, FGIS certificates issued for official inspections of exports will show the FGIS seal in the center of the certificate. The seal indicates the grain was officially sampled and inspected by FGIS or an official agency working under GIPSA authority.

If PExD states an FGIS certificate is required, refer to Table 4-3-5 to determine if the FGIS certificate presented is acceptable.

**Table 4-3-5  Determine Whether to Use the FGIS Certificate to Issue a PPQ Form 577 or 579**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the sample and inspection was:</th>
<th>Then the FGIS certificate will be:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Official”</td>
<td>WHITE and can be used as the basis for issuing PPQ Form 577 or 579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Submitted” (not officially sampled)</td>
<td>PINK and cannot be used as the basis for issuing PPQ Form 577 or 579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A “warehouse sample” (not officially sampled)</td>
<td>YELLOW and cannot be used as the basis for issuing PPQ Form 577 or 579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTICE**

Official Grain Inspection Certificates, Official Sample - Lot Inspection, provided by official agencies of FGIS differ from those provided by FGIS. However, an FGIS seal must be visible in the center of the certificate.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between the
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and the
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)

Article I - Purpose
The Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have certain related objectives in the discharge of their responsibilities associated with export shipments of U.S. grain and related products from U.S. and Canadian ports. This document revises an Agreement dated November 05, 1981 between the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), which is now part of GIPSA, and APHIS–Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). The original agreement was intended to improve GIPSA/APHIS collaboration, and in turn, the efficiency of phytosanitary certification of U.S. grain exports. This document updates the original agreement by providing updated procedures and responsibilities for the phytosanitary inspection and certification of export grain and related products.

Article II - Background
The United States is a signatory to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The IPPC develops and adopts International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) by which an importing country may require a phytosanitary certificate for certain agricultural products. Under the IPPC, the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country is responsible for establishing and maintaining a national export certification system to produce valid and credible phytosanitary certificates.

APHIS-PPQ is delegated responsibility under Section 108 of the United States Department of Agriculture’s Plant Protection Act (PPA) of 2000 to inspect plants and plant products offered for export and to certify to the NPPO of the importing country that such products are free of plant pests in accordance with its phytosanitary requirements.

GIPSA provides quality inspections of grains, rice, pulses, legumes, and related products and processed by-products under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA) and Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA), and in doing so, provides APHIS with the pest status of consignments. APHIS uses this information to issue a phytosanitary certificates for these commodities.

(The term grain shall mean all products for which GIPSA is responsible for under the USGSA and AMA.) GIPSA carries out its inspection responsibilities through Federal and licensed non-Federal personnel. For the purposes of this document, the term GIPSA will be used to refer to GIPSA or its official inspection personnel.
Article III - Authorities
Title 7, Section 79(e)(1) (Inspection of Exports), of the USGSA, for official inspection personnel employed by the Secretary, or other persons under contract with the Secretary, to officially inspect at export port locations, all grain required or authorized to be inspected.

Section 418 (Certification for Exports), Public Law 106-224, of the PPA to inspect plants and plant products offered for export and to certify to the NPPO of the importing country that such products are free of plant pests in accordance with the phytosanitary requirements of foreign countries; and

Section 431(a) (Cooperation), Public Law 106-224, of the PPA to cooperate with other Federal agencies, the government of foreign countries, international organizations or associations, States and their political subdivisions, farmer's associations and similar organizations, and other persons to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, and prevent or retard the spread of plant pests and diseases.

Article IV - Mutual Responsibilities & Understanding
It is mutually understood and agreed to/that:

A. APHIS–PPQ and GIPSA will maintain a working relationship with each other ensuring mutual cooperation and understanding in executing this MOU.

B. GIPSA will charge a fee to the applicant for services related to phytosanitary inspection as warranted.

Article V - APHIS Responsibilities
A. APHIS–PPQ will specify the specific grains GIPSA and their official service providers can inspect for phytosanitary purposes.

B. PPQ will:
   1. Provide technical pest identification training for at least two supervisors from each GIPSA location responsible for activities under this MOU.
   2. Periodically monitor the accuracy of pest identification performed by GIPSA and official service providers; and,
   3. Identify all live insects, larvae, and other pests which cannot be identified by GIPSA.
   4. Provide vials, envelopes, etc., required for the submission of specimens.

C. PPQ will be the primary contact point for applicants requesting phytosanitary certification and will provide all necessary information to enable applicants to obtain phytosanitary certification.

D. PPQ will not, except under special circumstances (e.g., analysis for plant pathogens, etc.):  
   1. Inspect grain at elevators or on waterborne carriers; or
   2. Request official sublot or composite samples of grain.
E. PPQ may ask GIPSA to furnish official samples, copies of inspection logs, official grain inspection certificates, or other inspection information (Inspection Report - Insects in Grain, Form FGIS 921-2) for review and will:

1. Issue a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate; or
2. Inform GIPSA and the applicant or their agent of circumstances that prevent the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate.

PPQ will maintain the integrity of any official samples obtained from GIPSA and official service providers and return such samples as soon as possible.

**Article VI - GIPSA and Official Service Provider Responsibilities**

A. General:

1. GIPSA personnel shall accept applications from applicants for phytosanitary inspections and perform the requested service. Applicants must provide GIPSA with the importing country’s phytosanitary requirements.
2. GIPSA personnel shall, in accordance with prescribed GIPSA procedures, examine officially drawn samples for live insects, larvae, and other pests prohibited by the country of destination.
3. GIPSA personnel will record on Form FGIS 921-2, “Inspection Report - Insects in Grain”, pertinent information about any detection of adult insects, larvae, or other pests.
4. GIPSA personnel will notify APHIS–PPQ of live insects or other pests that cannot be accurately identified. Once APHIS–PPQ has been notified, the applicant shall arrange for transportation of the pests to APHIS–PPQ for identification. Official personnel shall secure and preserve the identity of any specimens sent to APHIS–PPQ.
5. Official personnel shall preserve the identity of these pests until such time as they are turned over to APHIS–PPQ. When submitting pests to APHIS–PPQ for identification, the specimens shall be identified by:
   a. Name of applicant;
   b. Mode of transportation and identification of carrier;
   c. Kind of grain;
   d. Date found;
   e. Sublot number, if applicable
   f. Quantity of grain represented by the sample, subsample, component sample, or sublot sample;
   g. Hold number (s), if applicable; and
   h. Country of destination.
6. Upon request of APHIS–PPQ, GIPSA personnel shall witness the fumigation of grain infested with insects that are prohibited by the country of destination, in accordance with established procedures in the GIPSA Fumigation Handbook.

7. Upon request of APHIS–PPQ, GIPSA personnel may re-inspect grain for infestation after fumigation, in accordance with the established GIPSA procedures.

8. Upon request of APHIS–PPQ, GIPSA personnel shall witness the fumigation of grain infested with insects prohibited by the country of destination. The fumigation procedures shall be identical to the procedures outlined in the GIPSA Fumigation Handbook. For purposes of phytosanitary certification, the fumigation procedure shall be witnessed even if the grain is not considered “Infested” under the United States Grain Standards Act, or designated as “Sample Grade” due to insect infestation for products inspected under the Agricultural Marketing Act.

9. When grain is infested with prohibited insects and the affected shiphold(s) cannot be fumigated because:
   a. The ship does not meet the requirements for on-board fumigation as outlined in the GIPSA Fumigation Handbook, or
   b. The receiving country will not accept grain which has been fumigated.
      GIPSA personnel shall, upon request of APHIS–PPQ, witness the complete removal of the infested grain.

10. GIPSA personnel will issue FGIS 921-2 Form to reflect the phytosanitary condition of any lot infested with insects when the affected containerized shipment cannot be fumigated.

11. GIPSA personnel will report to APHIS–PPQ any incidence of live or dead *Trogoderma granarium* (khapra beetle).

12. Additional file samples for phytosanitary inspections are not required. Official file samples may be forwarded to APHIS–PPQ if needed. GIPSA personnel shall maintain a record of all official file samples furnished to APHIS–PPQ.

13. Upon completion of inspection, GIPSA personnel shall promptly provide the completed Form FGIS 921-2, “Inspection Report - Insects in Grain” for the shipment directly to the applicant for service, or mail, fax, or electronically submit a completed copy of the Form FGIS 921-2, “Inspection Report - Insects in Grain” to the APHIS–PPQ office that will issue the phytosanitary certificate. Upon request, a completed copy of Form FGIS 909 and/or Form FGIS 909-2, “Official Export Grain Inspection Certificate,” or Form FGIS 917, “Official Grain Inspection and Weighing Certificate,” or other approved official certificate shall also be submitted.

To expedite the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate by APHIS–PPQ, GIPSA personnel may telephone their findings to the APHIS–PPQ office that will issue the phytosanitary inspection certificate.
B. Reporting procedures for U.S. grain in Canadian ports:

When a phytosanitary inspection is completed, regardless of whether it is performed in conjunction with an inspection for official grade, a completed copy of Form FGIS 921-2, “Inspection Report - Insects in Grain,” shall be promptly mailed, faxed, or electronically transmitted to the Duluth, Minnesota office of APHIS–PPQ.

Upon request, a completed copy of Form FGIS 909, “Official Export Grain Inspection Certificate,” and a completed copy of Form FGIS 916, “Official Certificate,” shall be promptly mailed, faxed, or electronically transmitted to:

USDA–APHIS–PPQ
515 West 1st. Street, Rm. 226
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-720-5282
Fax: 218-720-5281

Article VII - Application Procedures

C. U.S. Grain in Canadian Ports: This section applies only to phytosanitary inspection services on U.S. grain shipped through Canadian ports including, but not limited to, Baie Comeau, Montreal, Port Cartier, Quebec City, Sorel, and Trois Rivieres.

Applicants requesting phytosanitary inspection services should check the “other closely related services” block on Form GIPSA 907, “Application for Inspection and Weighing Services” and write “phytosanitary.” Applicants or their agents must apply for phytosanitary inspection services with the APHIS–PPQ field office at the following address:

USDA–APHIS–PPQ
515 West 1st. Street, Rm. 226
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-720-5282
Fax: 218-720-5281

D. Export Grain at U.S. locations: Applicants requesting phytosanitary inspection services for grain shipped from export ports and other domestic locations in the United States shall apply with the appropriate APHIS–PPQ office or GIPSA.

Article VIII - Statement of No Financial Obligation

Signature of this MOU does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of APHIS or GIPSA. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this MOU. Transfers of funds or items of value are not authorized under this MOU.
**Article IX - Limitations of Commitment**

This MOU and any continuation thereof shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States. It is understood and agreed that any monies allocated for purposes covered by this MOU shall be expended in accordance with its terms and the manner prescribed by the fiscal regulations and/or administrative policies of the party making the funds available. If fiscal resources are to transfer, a separate agreement must be developed by the parties.

**Article X - Congressional Restriction**

Under 41 USC 22, no member of or delegate to Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of the MOU or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

**Article XI - Amendments**

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties in writing.

**Article XII - Termination**

This MOU may be terminated by either party with sixty (60) days written notice to the other party.

**Article XIII - Effective Date and Duration**

This MOU will be in effect upon date of final signature and will continue for 5 years.
Chapter 4

Special Procedures

Commodity • Seed

Contents

Sampling Seed 4-4-1
   Equipment Needed to Sample Seed 4-4-1
   Steps to Sample Seed 4-4-1
Safety Precautions for Sampling and Inspecting 4-4-6
Seed Shipments 4-4-6

Sampling Seed

Equipment Needed to Sample Seed
To collect the seed samples, ensure you have the equipment listed below:

◆ Cartridge type dust mask (to avoid breathing pesticide if the seed is treated)
◆ Cloth (something the length of the trier to empty subsamples onto)
◆ Container (must hold at least a quart of seed)
◆ Knife
◆ Marking pen
◆ Protective gloves (to prevent skin exposure when sampling dusted seed)
◆ Tape (to close opened containers)
◆ Trier

Steps to Sample Seed
Follow these steps to sample the seed:

Step 1: Determine sample size.
Refer to Table 4-4-1 as a guide.
Step 2: Compute how many subsamples to draw.
Once you determine your sample size, you must then calculate how many subsamples to draw to ensure a representative sample.

**NOTICE**
When sampling seed, return the excess seed to its original container after you have completed your sampling. Never mix seed from different lots before returning your samples. Be careful not to spill seed.

To compute how many subsamples to draw, you need to determine how the seed is packaged:

**Table 4-4-2 Computing Number of Subsamples Based on Seed Packaging**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the seed is in:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bags or other nonhermetically sealed containers</td>
<td>Compute subsample using 2.A and Table 4-4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk</td>
<td>Compute subsample using 2.B and Table 4-4-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.A (seed in bags or other nonhermetically sealed packages):
If the seed is packaged in bags, refer to Table 4-4-3 to compute how many subsamples to draw. If the number of subsamples you draw does not provide enough seed for an adequate sample, draw the additional seed you need.
Do not sample more than 30 bags per lot. If there are fewer than 5 bags in the lot, you must still draw 5 subsamples.

Refer to Step 3: Draw the subsample. on page 4-4-4.

2.B (bulk seed): If the seed is being shipped in bulk (unpackaged or loose), use this calculation and the preceding table to compute how many subsamples to draw.

a. Determine the weight of the lot.

b. Divide the weight of the lot by 100.

c. Take the result obtained by your division (consider this figure as the “equivalent number of bags”) and go back to the previous substep (2.A) to determine how many subsamples to draw. Refer to the example below.

**EXAMPLE** How many subsamples would you draw from a 2,000 lb. bulk shipment of oats?

Treat the shipment as a single lot:

1. The weight of the lot is 2,000 pounds.
2. $2,000 \div 100 = 20$ (the equivalent number of bags).
3. Twenty falls between 15 and 24 on the matrix—which directs you to draw 7 subsamples.

d. Refer to Step 3.
Step 3: Draw the subsample.

1. Check the label or invoice to learn if the seed was treated. If the seed is brightly colored (blue, orange, or pink are common), assume it was treated regardless of what the label says.

   \[\text{CAUTION}\]
   If you know or believe the seed is treated, take these precautions:
   - Avoid wiping your mouth or nose with your hands
   - Use plastic gloves and a dust mask
   - Wear eye protection
   - Wear protective coveralls

2. Determine if the seed is coated, pelleted, or preplanted (anything that would make it impractical to inspect the seed or tell what it is). Do not certify pelletized or embedded seeds unless you can inspect the seeds before treatment and still meet the required time limits (an option would be to inspect the non-pelletized portion of the same lot of seed and issue an export certificate based on those results). This would not include seed that is merely dusted or coated with ingredients such as rhizobia, dyes, or pesticides. You can inspect treated seeds because the seeds are visible through the chemical substance.

3. Draw your subsamples randomly. If sampling a bulk shipment, draw your subsamples at equal intervals throughout the shipment.

4. If you’re sampling a single bag, do not make more than a single hole with the trier; merely move the trier in different directions to collect the seed.

5. Insert the trier (with the holes down and closed) into the seed. It is better to enter the bag near its top to prevent spillage. If the seed is too large, does not flow freely, or the trier cannot penetrate the container, sample by hand.

6. Rotate the inner sleeve of the trier to open the holes.

7. Lightly move the trier back and forth to get the seed into the trier.

8. Rotate the inner sleeve of the trier to close the holes.

9. Remove the trier from the bag or bulk seed.

10. Close the holes in the bag made by the trier. If a burlap or cloth bag, close the hole by moving the tip of the trier over the weave. If a paper bag, close the hole with a pressure-sensitive label or masking tape.

11. Combine the seed in a plastic bag or other container large enough to hold all the subsamples.
12. Mix the seed thoroughly to blend the subsamples. Collect enough seed to have a sufficient amount to analyze (computed in Step 1: Determine sample size. on page 4-4-1).

13. If the seed is treated, wipe off the trier and then wash your hands, face, and arms with soap and water.

After collecting the sample, refer to Step 4.

**Step 4: Inspect the sample.**
If the foreign country has no specific seed testing requirements, visually inspect the sample you have collected. Look for live pests, pathogens, plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc. Inspect the entire sample.

When inspecting small lots of seed, pour seeds from packets onto white or dark colored paper (contrasting the color/type of seed). This technique is a common way to spot contaminants. Inspect one packet at a time so others aren’t contaminated and proper amounts are returned to packets.

Refer to Table 4-4-4 to determine the correct action to take. If the foreign country has specific seed testing requirements, refer to Step 5: Submit the sample. on page 4-4-5.

**Table 4-4-4  Inspecting the Sample**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you find:</th>
<th>And:</th>
<th>Then:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No</strong> evidence of live pests, pathogens, plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>ISSUE PPQ Form 577 or 579¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of live pests, pathogens, plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc.²</td>
<td>A method of cleaning or treating the seed is available and acceptable to the applicant and the foreign country</td>
<td>1. OFFER the applicant the option to recondition the seed 2. REINSPECT the sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No</strong> method of cleaning or treating the seed is available or acceptable to the applicant and the foreign country</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. REFUSE to issue PPQ Form 577 or 579 2. EXIT this manual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Refer to Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 on page 3-5-1 for further information.

2 You may offer the applicant the option of getting contaminants and pests identified instead of proceeding directly to cleaning or treating the seed. Refer to Table 3-4-6 on page 3-4-7 for further information.

**NOTICE**
Samples from commercial lots of seed may be extremely valuable. Return all samples to the applicant, being careful to note the lot numbers so that they may be returned to the original seed lot from which they were obtained.

**Step 5: Submit the sample.**
If the foreign country has specific seed testing requirements, submit the seed sample to an accredited facility for testing. Refer to Seed Sampling and Testing on page 2-1-10 for further information.
Safety Precautions for Sampling and Inspecting


Seed Shipments

If possible, inspect seeds prior to treatment. Requirements for laboratory testing must be met prior to the seeds being treated except in the following cases:

- Fungicide- or insecticide-treated corn seed (*Zea mays*) may be tested using ELISA technique to detect Stewart’s bacterial wilt (*Pantoea stewartii*) (=*Erwinia stewartii*)
- Laboratory testing for *Claviceps africana* which must include a structural examination at 10x or greater magnification\(^1\)

*Pelletized* and *embedded* seeds cannot be certified unless the inspection is conducted prior to treatment and time limits are met.

**WARNING**

Always follow Safety Precautions for Sampling and Inspecting on page 4-4-6.

Seeds cannot be certified based only on the fact that the seeds have been treated and/or vacuum packed. Appropriate seed sampling and inspection must always be conducted.

---

\(^1\) Based on a 2004 review by the National Seed Health System, Seed Technical Working Group of the Pataky and Block paper (Plant Disease 88: 633-640).
Chapter 4

Special Procedures

Commodity • Seed Potatoes

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Introduction

The following sections of the XPM deal with seed potatoes. The first section covers the State National Harmonization Program (SNHP) Memorandum of Understanding for seed potatoes. The SNHP was put together in a cooperative effort by APHIS, seed certification agencies, State Plant Regulatory Officials (SPROs), the National Plant Board, and industry groups. It was finalized in November 2006. States have been signing Memorandums of Understanding since 2007. Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington have met all the requirements of the SNHP program.

One of the requirements of the SNHP Memorandums of Understanding is a Quality Manual (QM) from each participating state. The QM has the details about how the state plans to execute the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding. A QM Review Committee has been formed and is made up of seed potato certification officials, National Plant Board members, and APHIS representatives. The committee works with each state to finalize its QM. A site visit is conducted to audit the state’s program prior to final approval. The SNHP QM sets minimum requirements for interstate and export shipments of seed potatoes.

The second section covers Export Standards for Seed Potatoes. This section was developed several years ago and is not used often at this time. It may be that the SNHP Memorandum of Understanding will ultimately replace the Export Standards for Seed Potatoes; however the seed certification officials provided updates for this section in 2005 and the industry would like to retain this section at least until the SNHP is in full use by all states that export seed potatoes.
State National Harmonization Program MOU Template

for
Seed Potatoes
November 30, 2006
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
between the
{Insert Name of State or Other Entity} (Cooperator)
and the
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)

Article 1 - Purpose
This MOU provides for the cooperative participation between the parties to hereby establish, as a part of a State National Harmonization Program (SNHP) for seed potatoes, (1) minimum standards set by state authority for certification of seed potatoes in order to facilitate interstate shipment and export and (2) cooperation in pest management.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish, as part of the SNHP for seed potatoes, harmonized standards to control the spread of disease through state certification programs for seed potatoes. This SNHP for seed potatoes allows for uniform minimum phytosanitary standards that may enhance uniformity and quality in seed potatoes shipped between states; may lead to the enhanced marketing of high quality commercial potatoes grown in the United States; and may enhance international marketing of quality seed potatoes exported from the United States.

Article 2 - Authority
APHIS is authorized by the Plant Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 106-224, § 431, 114 Stat. 438, 451, (2002) to cooperate with other Federal agencies, the governments of foreign countries, international organizations or associations, states or their political subdivisions, farmer’s associations, and other persons to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, and prevent or retard the spread of plant pests or noxious weeds.

{Insert State Authority, if so desired}

Article 3 - Definitions
1. Seed potatoes: potato plantlets, plants, stem cuttings, microtubers, minitubers, tubercles or tubers intended for planting.
2. Line selected hill units: tubers that have been taken from an identifiable production field and that have been developed through a series of plant selections, grow-outs and reselections based on plant or tuber characteristics.
3. Limited generation system: a scheme wherein eligible planting stock for each seed class is limited by compliance with established pest tolerances and a specified number of increases in the field.
4. **Regulated pest:** any pest that is controlled under the seed certification system of the cooperator.

5. **Free of regulated pests:** regulated pests are **not** present in numbers that can be detected using appropriate sampling, inspection, and testing procedures.

6. **Post harvest test:** winter grow-out or laboratory testing of harvested potatoes to verify that regulated pests meet applicable tolerances.

7. **Certifying Entity:** the seed certification entity in each state. This is the exclusively recognized seed potato certifying entity for each state, as listed below:

   {Insert state seed certification entity and define structure and statutory authority}.

**Article 4 - Uniform Requirements for Seed Certification**

The cooperating parties agree that seed potatoes may be certified by the cooperator or its designee, under the SNHP if:

1. They are produced from:
   a. tissue culture potatoes that are free of regulated pests or
   b. other entry level materials such as line selected hill units or parent plants used in stem cuttings that are free of regulated pests;

2. They are produced under a limited generation system;

3. They have undergone at least two field inspections to ensure compliance with tolerances set forth in Annex 2 of this MOU;

4. They are subjected to post-harvest testing for recertification;

5. They are produced and stored in a cooperating state under the SNHP; and

6. Interstate shipments and exports departing from the state are inspected by the Cooperator’s designated officials at the shipping point to verify lot identity and ensure compliance with all applicable phytosanitary requirements.

**Article 5 - Cooperator Responsibilities**

A. The cooperating state with a commercial seed production industry agrees to:

1. Designate {Mr./Ms./Dr.—Insert full name} as its authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU;

2. Recognize seed certification entities for each state participating in the SNHP;

3. Ensure that certification practices in their state conform fully to the requirements listed in Article 4 of this MOU;

4. Require that the designated seed certifying entity maintains adequate records relating to all aspects of the certification regime, including records to enable trace-back of the certified seed to its field generation and parent material and to ensure lot identification;

5. Require that any testing is performed using generally recognized diagnostic methods and protocols;
6. Provide to APHIS a quality manual describing seed certification procedures, pest tolerances, and testing methodologies, together with mechanisms for ensuring compliance. The quality manual shall consist of the most current certified seed potato standards for each certifying entity and a brief handbook outlining the various standards and protocols for disease testing;

7. Implement potato pest management plans and quarantine programs consistent with those listed in Annex 1 of this MOU; and

8. Require that certified seed produced within the state and offered for interstate and export sale meets the requirements of Article 4 of this MOU.

B. The Cooperator agrees to require that in-state growers who purchase seed from outside the state provide or maintain adequate records verifying that such seed meets the requirements of Article 4 of this MOU.

**Article 6 - APHIS Responsibilities**

APHIS agrees to:

1. Designate {Mr./Ms./Dr.—Insert full name} as its authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU;

2. Recognize the seed certification entity that is recognized by the Cooperator to certify seed potatoes under the SNHP if the state meets the requirements set forth in Articles 4 and 5 of this MOU;

3. Oversee the implementation of the Federal pest management plans listed in Annex 1 of this MOU;

4. Oversee the SNHP by reviewing records and audits performed by the Cooperator of certification facilities, procedures, and personnel to ensure conformance with the terms of this MOU;

5. Provide additional declaration for international export by attaching such additional declaration to the federal phytosanitary certificate for seed potatoes from Cooperator states stating that those seed potatoes meet the minimum standards established through the SNHP.

**Article 7 - Statement of No Financial Obligation**

Signature on this MOU does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of APHIS or the Cooperator. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this MOU. Transfer of funds or items of value is not authorized under this MOU.

**Article 8 - Security Guidelines**

When connected to the USDA–APHIS network, comply with the security guidelines as outlined in the USDA Cyber Security Manual Series 3500; including USDA Departmental Manual (DM) 3515, “Privacy Requirements” and USDA DM 3525, “USDA Internet Use and E-Mail Security.” The Cooperator will not download any material (i.e., pictures, movies, or music files) bearing a copyright nor access any material defined as inappropriate in these regulations and directives.
Article 9 - Limitation of Commitment
This MOU and any continuation thereof shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States. It is understood and agreed that any monies allocated for purposes covered by this MOU shall be expended in accordance with its terms and the manner prescribed by the fiscal regulations and/or administrative policies of the party making the funds available. If fiscal resources are to transfer, a separate agreement must be developed by the parties.

Article 10 - Congressional Restriction
Under 41 USC 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this MOU or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

Article 11 - Review and Amendment
The terms of this MOU, in particular the seed certification requirements in Article 4, the pest management plans in Annex 1, and the pest tolerances in Annex 2, shall be subject to periodic review and amendment. This MOU, including annexes, may be amended by mutual agreement of the cooperating parties in writing.

Article 12 - Termination
This MOU may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

Article 13 - Effective Date And Duration
This MOU will be in effect upon date of final signature and will continue for five years from the date of signature.

If derogation for this cooperator is applicable, insert the following article, or similar language:

Article 14 - Temporary Derogation
Notwithstanding the requirements of Article 4.3 of this MOU, the tolerance for variety mix in {Insert name of State} will be {xxx}. This derogation will be in effect for a period of {Insert number of years} years following the date of signature.

The requirements of Article 4.6 will not apply to {Insert name of State} for a period of {Insert number of years} years following the date of signature.

{Insert Name of Cooperator}

{Insert name and title of signatory}  Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL and PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION and QUARANTINE

{Insert name and title of signatory}  Date
Annex 1: Federal Pest Management Plans

1. Golden Nematode Management Plan
2. Potato Necrotic Virus Management Plan

Annex 2: Maximum Tolerances, Final Field Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leafroll</th>
<th>Mosaic</th>
<th>Total Virus</th>
<th>BRR</th>
<th>Variety Mix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Export Standards for Seed Potatoes

The export standards for seed potatoes do not take the place of official State standards that apply to domestic seed potatoes.

When a grower requests export certification of seed potatoes, the official State seed potato certification agency should consult PPQ’s Export Program Manual (XPM).

Certification Basis

Export certification of seed potatoes is based solely on visually inspecting a sample from each lot, which must meet the prescribed tolerances in these special procedures unless otherwise provided by a higher authority.

Visually inspect seed potatoes at least twice during each planting to ensure compliance with prescribed tolerances.

Limited Generation System

Export certification of seed potatoes is in conformance with the limited generation system specified by these special procedures.

Planting Maintenance

Plantings must be kept in a good growing condition, and general insect and seed pests must be kept under effective control.

When cultivating, irrigating, digging, grading, moving, using equipment, and performing other farming practices, suitable precautions must be taken to guard against the spread of disease and insect pests into or within plantings.

Storage Facilities

Each lot of U.S. export seed potatoes must be stored so as to preclude intermixing with any other class of certified seed potatoes.

U.S. export seed potatoes shall not be stored in the same storage facility with potatoes found to be infected with bacterial ring rot, *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus*. Refer to USDA Laboratories Approved to Test Seed...
Special Procedures: Commodity • Seed Potatoes
State Authority

Potato for the Pathogen *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus* for Export to Canada.

**Containers**

Containers used for harvesting, storing, and handling U.S. export seed potatoes must be new or cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the official State seed potato certification agency.

Containers used for packaging and shipping U.S. export seed potatoes must be new.

**State Authority**

State authority for certifying seed potatoes resides with the State agency granted the authority by State law to carry out these regulatory functions.

Contact the Department of Agriculture of the State from which the seed potatoes originate for the name and address of the official State agency that possesses certification authority.

**Responsibilities**

PPQ and the Seed Certification Technical Committee (SCTC) will periodically review the U.S. export standards to ensure that they keep current with biological information and requirements of international trade. In cooperation with SCTC and industry representatives, PPQ will affect necessary changes in order to maintain viability and integrity of the U.S. export standards.

**Official State Seed Potato Certification Agency**

The official State seed potato certification agency is responsible for verifying that the requirements of these special procedures have been met within the limitations imposed by accepted State and industry standards.

**Participating Growers**

A participating grower must be a qualified seed potato grower raising certified seed potatoes in accordance with official State certification regulations. Farming, sanitation, and other seed production practices not addressed in these special procedures are the responsibility of the participating grower.

The participating grower must select the planting site for and properly maintain plantings of seed potatoes being grown subject to the provisions of the U.S. export standards.
Participating growers must maintain the identity and grade of each lot of certified seed potatoes in their possession in a manner approved by the official State seed potato certification agency.

Requirements for Classes of Certified Seed Potatoes

When a class of seed potatoes is specified as being eligible for certification, the stock was previously certified as the specified class by an official seed potato certification agency. All seed potatoes certified as such must be visually monitored in the field for trueness to plant type, and the tubers must be visually inspected after harvesting to verify plant type.

Prenuclear Stock Seed Potatoes

To be eligible for certification as prenuclear (in vitro production) stock seed potatoes, each explant must have been pathogen tested. Plantlets and microtubers must be produced in aseptic culture. During normal business hours, records must be available for inspection by representatives of the official State seed potato certification agency.

Nuclear Stock Seed Potatoes

To be eligible for certification as nuclear (greenhouse or controlled environment production) stock seed potatoes, plant material must have met the prenuclear requirements. At least 1% of this increase must be pathogen tested, except when there are fewer than 20 plants or minitubers. When there are fewer than 20 plants or minitubers, at least 5 plants or minitubers must be pathogen tested. Plants or minitubers selected for pathogen testing may be bulked following acceptable methods for test purposes. In the event that a test is positive for disease infection, the whole clone, together with any progeny, will be ineligible for certification. Testing and regeneration records must be maintained and made available for inspection at all reasonable times.

Generation 1—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes

Generation 1 plant material that has met the requirements for prenuclear or nuclear stock or State equivalent will be eligible for certification as Generation 1—U.S. export seed potatoes.

Generation 2—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes

Generation 2 plant material that has met the requirements for Generation 1 or earlier increases or State equivalent will be eligible for certification as Generation 2—U.S. export seed potatoes.

Plants must be inspected at least twice while growing and found to be in compliance with the tolerances specified in Table 4-5-1.
Special Procedures: Commodity • Seed Potatoes
Requirements for Classes of Certified Seed Potatoes

**Table 4-5-1 Tolerances for Generation 2—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>First field inspection</th>
<th>Second field inspection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial ring rot</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackleg</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilts</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, all viruses</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varietal mixture</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Generation 3—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes**

Generation 3 plant material that has met the requirements for Generation 2 or earlier generations will be eligible for certification as Generation 3—U.S. export seed potatoes.

Each planting **must** be visually inspected at least twice and found to be in compliance with the tolerances specified in Table 4-5-2.

**Table 4-5-2 Tolerances for Generation 3—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>First field inspection</th>
<th>Second field inspection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial ring rot</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackleg</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilts</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, all viruses</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varietal mixture</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Generation 4—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes**

Generation 4 plant material that has met the requirements for Generation 3 or earlier generations will be eligible for certification as Generation 4—U.S. export seed potatoes.

Each planting **must** be visually inspected at least twice and found to be in compliance with the tolerances specified in Table 4-5-3.

**Table 4-5-3 Tolerances for Generation 4—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>First field inspection</th>
<th>Second field inspection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial ring rot</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackleg</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilts</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, all viruses</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varietal mixture</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Generation 5—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes

Generation 5 plant material that has met the requirements for Generation 4 or earlier generations will be eligible for certification as Generation 5—U.S. export seed potatoes.

Each planting must be visually inspected at least twice and found to be in compliance with the tolerances specified in Table 4-5-4.

Table 4-5-4  Tolerances for Generation 5—U.S. Export Seed Potatoes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>First field inspection</th>
<th>Second field inspection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial ring rot</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackleg</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiltś</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, all viruses</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varietal mixture</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refusal, Cancellation, and Rejection

Failure to comply with any provision of the U.S. export standards will constitute cause for refusal of certification services, cancellation of any approvals already granted, or rejection of seed potatoes entered for certification as a class of U.S. export seed potatoes.

In addition, the following incidents are specific causes for refusal, cancellation, or rejection.

1. Any field, storage, or other condition an official State seed potato certification agency determines may be detrimental to the U.S. potato industry or to the U.S. seed potato export market, or may hinder or prevent accurate determination of whether the disease, varietal purity, grade, or other requirements of the U.S. export standards have been met.

2. Any seed potatoes entered for certification verified to be infested or infected with a serious pest that is exotic or has a limited distribution in the United States, i.e., PSTVd. Note that gangrene, *Phoma exigua pv. foveata*, and wart, *Synchytrium endobioticum*, do not occur in the U.S.


4. The basis for and scope of a refusal, cancellation, or rejection and reinstatement following such actions will be determined by the official
State potato certification agency in the State where the U.S. export seed potatoes are produced.

Grade and Identification

U.S. export seed potatoes must be:

- Graded to meet U.S. No. 1 Seed Potato Grade
- Identified by a blue-colored tag
- Identified by official State certification tags or other official identification affixed to each container that are approved by the SCTC

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Chapter 4

Special Procedures

Commodity • Used Agricultural Machinery

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Introduction

Foreign countries may require phytosanitary certification for plants and plant products and regulated articles. Used farm machinery is considered a regulated article due to the proximity of this machinery to contaminants such as soil, plant debris, seeds, plants, etc. To address the need by U.S. exporters in facilitating the safe international movement of used farm machinery, the following guidance has been created.

Eligibility Requirements

Used agricultural machinery must meet the following requirements to be considered for phytosanitary certification:

◆ The machinery must be regulated in official communication from the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the importing country
◆ The machinery must be associated with the production, collection or transfer of plants or plant products
◆ The machinery must be in used condition
◆ The machinery should be cleaned in such a way as to meet the requirements of the importing country prior to requesting phytosanitary inspection of the article

Inspection Guidance

The inspection level for used agricultural machinery should be 100% or as close to 100% as practical. Follow general guidance for conducting a visual phytosanitary inspection of a commodity. Inspect for pests, plant debris, plants, soil, weed seeds, etc.
Additional Requirements

In addition to a visual inspection, the importing country may specify that pest freedom be determined by additional measures. These measures may include washing or cleaning, disassembly of the machinery, or treatment of the machinery. Use of Additional Declarations (ADs) specified in official communication from the importing country are permitted. Where NPPOs require a treatment for import of the used machinery, verify the treatment applied and record details of the treatment in the Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment section of the phytosanitary certificate (PC).

Issuing a PPQ Form 577 for Used Agricultural Machinery

Eligible used agricultural machinery shall be listed on the PC as follows:

◆ Block 9, Name of Produce and Quantity Declared:
  ❖ For Common Name select only “Machinery, Vehicle, or Equipment”
  ❖ For Plant Part select only “Regulated Article”

◆ Block 11, Number and Description of Packages:
  ❖ Select “other” and enter details that describe the type of machinery, vehicle, or equipment (example: tractor, planter, etc.)

◆ Block 12, Distinguishing Marks:
  ❖ Enter any markings found on the machinery, such as the brand name, model number, serial number, etc., exactly as they appear on the machinery. If there are no distinguishing marks on the machinery, enter “NONE.”
Chapter 4

Special Procedures

Commodity • High-Quality Specialty Grain (HQSG)

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Introduction

The USDA–APHIS–Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Export Program allows approved grain facilities operating under a High-Quality Specialty Grain (HQSG) compliance agreement to sample and conduct phytosanitary inspection of HQSG. The HQSG must be grown in the United States and exported for human consumption or processing for human consumption. The same commodities exported for planting (e.g., seed) cannot be certified following this procedure. The HQSG must be shipped in containers (bagged or bulk). Grain bulk loaded in vessel ship holds cannot be certified using this special procedure. The results of the inspections must be recorded on the Specialty Soya and Grains Alliance (SSGA) HQSG—Inspection Report (SSGA 3). Approved facilities must conduct a stowage examination and record the results on the SSGA Container Examination Reports (SSGA 4). For consignment export certification, the SSGA 3 and SSGA 4 must be uploaded as an attachment in the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT) system website.

NOTICE

It is the exporter’s responsibility to obtain the USDA–AMS Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) HQSG waiver and meet all FGIS requirements for export.

Under this special procedure, only HQSG phytosanitary inspection (SSGA 3) and stowage examination (SSGA 4) results from approved facilities operating under a compliance agreement administered by APHIS–PPQ can be used for export certification. Exporters not under an APHIS–PPQ compliance agreement may provide inspection (SSGA 3) and stowage examination (SSGA 4) results from an approved grain facility operating under an APHIS–PPQ compliance agreement. A list of USDA–APHIS-approved HQSG facilities under compliance can be found on the APHIS Plant Health Export Program website.
If authorized certification officials (ACOs) have any questions regarding HQSG consignment export certification, they should contact a PPQ Export Certification Specialist (ECS).

SSGA provides administrative support to facilities wishing to participate in the USDA–APHIS–PPQ–Compliance-Based Certification Program for High-Quality Specialty Grain (HQSG). Grain facilities interested in participating should contact the SSGA Executive Director for more information on registration requirements and to request application materials at (507) 385-7557 or via email at ewenberg@soyagrainsalliance.org.

### Issuing a PPQ Form 577 for High-Quality Specialty Grain

USDA–APHIS-approved HQSG facilities must be under a compliance agreement to conduct the phytosanitary inspection (SSGA 3) and stowage examination (SSGA 4) necessary to issue a PPQ Form 577. Below are general guidelines on how to certify HQSG when the inspection is conducted by an USDA–APHIS-approved HQSG facility under compliance.

Do not list or refer to any of the following on the phytosanitary certificate:

- Grades
- Intended uses
- Other commercial terms
- Quality
- Sizes
- Trade names

1. Review the PCIT application. The PCIT application must have the phytosanitary inspection report (SSGA 3) and stowage examination report (SSGA 4) results attached in PCIT.

   A. On the Inspection Details screen, under Inspector Name, select “HQSG Facility.”
   
   B. On the Inspection Details screen, under Inspection Finding, select “Certification Based on Approved HQSG Facility Inspection Results.”

2. Verify block #3, Loading Facility Name and Address on the SSGA 3 and Loading Facility Name and Address on the SSGA 4, are on the list of
**Special Procedures: Commodity • High-Quality Specialty Grain (HQSG)**

**Issuing a PPQ Form 577 for High-Quality Specialty Grain**


**NOTICE**

To confirm the status of a facility, ACOs should check the list of approved HQSG facilities each time an application is submitted.

3. Verify the quantity of HQSG inspected and recorded on the SSGA 3 is **equal to or greater than** the quantity submitted in the PCIT application.
4. Verify the container number(s) examined and recorded on the SSGA 4 is the same as the container number(s) submitted in the PCIT application.
5. Verify all other import requirements have been met.
6. Issue PPQ Form 577.
Special Procedures: Commodity • High-Quality Specialty Grain (HQSG)
Issuing a PPQ Form 577 for High-Quality Specialty Grain
Introduction

The Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) export program allows designated State cooperators to issue export certificates at interior points of origin in the United States as per NAPPO RSPM 8.

To obtain authority to issue export certificates, a State plant regulatory agency must agree to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PPQ. The MOU is a formal document that specifies the responsibilities and areas of cooperation mutually understood and agreed to by the Federal and State Departments of Agriculture.

PPQ’s accreditation program was established to facilitate the exportation of commodities to foreign markets. Accreditation recognizes consistent levels of competency and confers specific authority. Accrediting trained personnel, organizations, facilities, and processes associated with phytosanitary functions enhances PPQ’s ability to protect plant resources and facilitate safe trade.

NOTICE

To better facilitate local communication among ECSs, SPHDs, SPROs, and ACOs, ECSs may wish to contact the SPHD to establish or to confirm the proper protocol to follow when giving feedback to SPROs and ACOs who are cooperators.
How States Enter the Federal-State Cooperative Program

The following steps must be followed to officially enter a State into the Federal-State Cooperative Export Program.

1. State plant regulatory official (SPRO) of a State Department of Agriculture writes to the Deputy Administrator of PPQ and asks to participate in the program.

2. Written request is processed through PPQ, Phytosanitary Issues Management, Export Services (ES).

3. The standardized MOU is transmitted to PPQ regional directors to provide relevant guidance. A copy of the letter is provided to the Agreements Services Center (ASC).

4. The PPQ regional office initiates an MOU with each SPRO and assigns a regional control number. The PPQ regional office submits 3 originals of the MOU to the SPRO for signature.

5. The SPRO signs all copies of the MOU and returns them to the PPQ regional office to be signed by the Regional Director. The MOU is effective upon date of final signature by the Regional Director for the period indicated in the MOU, not to exceed 5 years.

6. The PPQ regional office retains the original, sends one to the State, and the third to the Export Certification Specialist (ECS) for that State. The PPQ regional office also provides a copy of the MOU to ES and the ASC.

Basic Requirements and Procedures for Nominating Federal or State Candidates

The basic requirements and procedures for nominating Federal or State candidates are as follows:

1. The Export Certification Specialist (ECS) may nominate a candidate through Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT). At least nine months of experience is required before training may be conducted. The nomination must include the candidate’s experience and education to be designated as an ACO. The candidate must meet or exceed the following basic requirements to be an ACO:

   A. Ability to recognize plant pests including symptoms and/or signs of disease.

---

1 A minimum of 1 year experience in plant protection regulatory activities working with or under the supervision of an ACO is required. This experience must occur prior to becoming an ACO.
B. A combined total of 5 years education in biological sciences\(^2\) and experience are required. At least 1 year has to be experience. The years of education and experience do not have to be consecutive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
<th>Examples of acceptable qualifications are as follows:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ 0 years education and 5 years experience</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ 1 year education and 4 years experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ 2 years education and 3 years experience</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ 3 years education and 2 years experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◆ 4 years education and 1 year experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. No ACO shall inspect any commodities in which they or a member of their family are directly or indirectly financially interested.

2. The ECS reviews the candidate’s qualifications to verify that the experience and educational requirements have been met as stated in 7 CFR 353.6, NAPPO RSPM 8, and this manual.

3. The ECS submits the candidate’s name and summary of qualifications to ES for approval in PCIT.

4. ES will approve or reject the submission in PCIT. If ES approves the submission the ECS may proceed with administering the APHIS training course on phytosanitary certification for the candidate’s initial accreditation.

5. The ECS administers the APHIS initial training course on phytosanitary certification and test to the candidate. The candidate must achieve a minimum score of 80% to be accredited and may go to PCIT and print a certificate of accreditation.

6. PCIT will automatically change the role of the candidate to ACO when one year of experience is completed. Initial accreditation is valid for three years from date of testing. ACOs can be placed in inactive status if they fail to issue export certificates within 1 year of initial accreditation.

---

**Reaccreditation of ACOs**

1. PCIT will notify the ECS one year before an ACO’s accreditation expires. The ECS will notify ACOs or their supervisors when reaccreditation training is required.

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\(^2\) One year equals 12 credit units in the biological sciences. Examples of courses to meet educational requirements can be found in NAPPO standard #8, Accreditation of Individuals.
2. The ECS administers the APHIS reaccreditation training course on phytosanitary certification and test to the ACO. The ACO must achieve a minimum score of 80% to retain accreditation.

3. The ACO is now reaccredited and the accreditation is valid for three years.

Export Certificate Review Process

1. The issuing office must ensure that record copies and supporting documentation are sent to the appropriate ECS on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis unless the issuing office is using PCIT with attachments for supporting documents.

2. ECSs are responsible for reviewing certificates and for conducting field audits to ensure compliance with Federal regulations, policies and procedures, foreign import requirements, and PPQ obligations to bilateral agreements, protocols, MOUs, and international standards.

3. The ECS must review at least 5% of all record copies along with supporting documentation in a timely manner. It is important that reviews are completed in a prompt manner so that major errors can be addressed before there is a trade incident. The export certificates reviewed should represent the actual range of export commodities certified by various ACOs. The percentage should be increased if a particular ACO or issuing office has a significant number of errors or where a significant number of notifications of noncompliance are received from the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) importing country. ES will work with the PPQ regional office upon receipt of notifications of noncompliance.

Refer to Figure 5-1-1 on page 5-1-5 for a model letter you can follow to document major mistakes. Refer to the APHIS website for a fillable version of a model letter. Provide a copy of the certificate in question, backup documents, and a brief explanation.
Date: ______________________________

To: _____________________________________________________________
    [insert name of State Plant Health Director or State Plant Regulatory Official]

Recently __________________________________ certified ______________________ to __________________
    [insert name of Authorized Certification Official (ACO)]                      [name of product]                 [name of country]
on Export Certificate #__________________ (attached). This export certificate has ____ /has not ____ been reported as
rejeced by the importing country. The error(s) is/are checked below:

☐ Failure to follow PPQ policy with regard to export certificates.
☐ Certifying disease freedom in grain.
☐ Failure to follow inspectional guidelines.
☐ Failure to follow known import requirements.
☐ Certifying prohibited or ineligible commodities.
☐ Certifying CITES commodities at an ineligible port.
☐ Certifying commodities from non-accredited or noncompliant sources.
☐ Attesting to conditions from non-accredited or noncompliant sources.

______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________

Our records indicate that this is the ACO’s _______ warning this year. Future errors could result in suspending the ACO’s
accreditation (authority to issue export certificates). Please forward to my office a letter explaining the error(s) and what correc-
tive actions will be taken. This notice is intended as a corrective action to ensure the integrity of USDA–APHIS–PPQ’s export
program.

If you have any questions, contact me at __________________________________________.
    (insert your phone number)

_______________________________________________________________ , Export Certification Specialist
    (Signature of Export Certification Specialist)

_______________________________________________________________
    (Printed name of Export Certification Specialist)

Enclosure

Figure 5-1-1 Model Letter for Documenting Major Errors Found on an Export Certificate
4. The ECS **must** document major errors made by ACOs. Major errors on export certificates include but are **not** limited to the following:
   - Failure to follow PPQ policy with regard to export certificates (for example, but not limited to):
     - Certifying disease freedom in grain
     - Failure to follow inspectional guidelines
     - Failure to follow known import requirements
   - Certifying prohibited or ineligible commodities
   - Certifying CITES commodities at an ineligible port
   - Certifying commodities from nonaccredited or noncompliant sources.
   - Attesting to conditions from nonaccredited or noncompliant sources.

Major errors documented by the ECS **must** be submitted to the SPHD who will review and forward the information to the PPQ supervisor or SPRO of the ACO.

5. First Major Error
   A. The first major error will be discussed between the ACO and the appropriate supervisor to address any questions and to determine what corrective action should be taken to prevent recurrence.
   B. The appropriate supervisor will document the discussion and any recommendations that were made to the ACO. A copy of the discussion and recommendations will be forwarded to the SPHD. The SPHD **must** forward a copy to the regional office.

6. Second Major Error
   A. The second major error will be discussed between the ACO and the appropriate supervisor to address any questions and to determine what corrective action should be taken to prevent recurrence.
   B. The appropriate supervisor will request refresher training for the ACO.
   C. The supervisor will document the discussion, recommendations, and the training request. A copy of the discussion and recommendations will be forwarded to the SPHD. The SPHD **must** forward a copy to the appropriate regional office.

7. Third Major Error: refer to information as specified in **Suspension and Reaccreditation of Suspended ACOs** on page 5-1-7.

8. The ECS will document minor errors that **do not** warrant formal documentation. Examples of minor errors include but are **not** limited to the following:
Incorrect lining out blocks
Failure to complete all blocks
Incorrect approved country name
Failure to date an export certificate
Misspelled words
Unclear abbreviations

Minor errors should be handled informally through the appropriate supervisor.

9. After completing the review process, the ECS should either destroy the copies of the export certificates or retain them for training purposes. If the copies are retained for training purposes, the ECS is responsible for maintaining and protecting the confidentiality of information on any export documents.

**Inactivation and Reactivation of ACOs**

1. An ACO’s role will be changed from ACO to ACO Admin in PCIT for one of the following reasons:
   - Failure to successfully complete reaccreditation every 3 years
   - Failure to issue export certificates within 2 years of accreditation

2. In the ACO Admin role, the ACO will **not** be authorized to sign export certificates.

3. An ACO Admin may be returned to the ACO role when the following two conditions have been completed:
   - The inactive ACO has completed a 60-day period of refresher experience under the guidance of an active ACO.
   - The inactive ACO has completed the reaccreditation requirements as specified in **Reaccreditation of ACOs** on page 5-1-3.

**Suspension and Reaccreditation of Suspended ACOs**

1. An ACO may be suspended from issuing export certificates for any one of the following reasons:
   - Knowingly or deliberately signing a fraudulent export certificate with any intentional false statements or misrepresentations relative to the export certificate
   - Making 3 major errors within a 12-month period
Special Procedures: Special Programs • Federal-State Cooperative Export Program

Retesting for Initial or Reaccreditation Training

- Repeating the same major error, after counseling, as specified in Export Certificate Review Process on page 5-1-4, within a 12-month period.

2. The regional office will provide a summary of actions taken to ES.

3. ES will change the role within PCIT to ACO Admin or Inactive.

4. In order to be reinstated, the ACO must complete the APHIS initial training course on Phytosanitary Certification and pass the test with a minimum score of 80%. The suspended ACO may complete the APHIS initial training course on Phytosanitary Certification during the 9th month of the suspension. The nominee will not be accredited to sign export certificates until one year of suspension has been completed.

Retesting for Initial or Reaccreditation Training

1. The candidate is notified of failure to achieve a minimum score of 80%.

2. The candidate is allowed 2 to 45 days to take a retest.

3. If the candidate scores a minimum of 80%, the ACO is now accredited and may go to PCIT and print a certificate of accreditation. The accreditation is valid for 3 years.

4. If the candidate fails the retest, he/she is allowed 2 to 45 days to take a second retest.

5. If the candidate passes the second retest, refer to # 3 on page 5-1-8 above.

6. In initial training, if the candidate fails the second retest, they must complete another year of regulatory experience, retake the appropriate training and examination, and must achieve a minimum score of 80%.

7. In reaccreditation training, if the candidate fails the second retest, they must complete a 60-day period of refresher experience under the guidance of an active ACO, retake the appropriate training and examination, and must achieve a minimum score of 80%.

Maintenance of the Federal-State Cooperative Export Program

The Federal-State Cooperative Export Program is maintained as follows:

1. ES maintains a current list of designated ACOs in PCIT. If there are questions concerning eligibility, qualifications, or designation of State officials, direct them to ES using the contact protocol in Appendix A on page A-1-1.

2. State officials are responsible for notifying the ECS when an ACO retires or otherwise separates from State employment. The ECS is responsible for updating PCIT with one of the following:
A. ACO admin status: This status allows a user to access and use PCIT but is unable to issue or sign export certificates.

B. Inactive status: This status removes all access to PCIT from the user.

3. Inactive ACOs may be returned to the active status when the following conditions have been met:
   - The inactive ACO has completed a 60-day period of refresher experience under the guidance of an active ACO.
   - The inactive ACO has completed the reaccreditation requirements as specified in Reaccreditation of ACOs on page 5-1-3.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Program**

MOU for the Program is a formal document that specifies the responsibilities and areas of cooperation mutually understood and agreed to by the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture. MOUs are effective when the PPQ official signs the agreement. MOUs are renewed every 5 years. The content of the MOU is subject to change as directed by ES in collaboration with the ASC. Amendments must be formally signed by the SPRO and the representative of PPQ. An example of the MOU for the Program follows.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
Between the  
{Insert Name of State or Other Entity} (Cooperator)  
and the  
United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA)  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)  
Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)

Article 1 - Purpose
This MOU provides for cooperative participation between the parties to perform export certification of commodities and to expand the system of issuance of export certificates. For the purpose of this MOU, export certificates are defined as Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form 577), Export Certificate Processed Plant Products (PPQ Form 578), and Phytosanitary Certificate for Re-export (PPQ form 579). Under the expanded system, these listed certificates will be issued at interior United States points of origin, in particular, to cover containerized and door-to-door shipments intended for export. This MOU enhances the ability of USDA–APHIS–PPQ to provide export certification to customers.

Article 2 - Background
Historically, export certification was performed at points of export by Federal inspectors. A need arose for certification of commodities at interior points of commodity origin. Representatives of USDA–APHIS–PPQ and states developed an MOU that provided for export certification at interior points of the United States by inspectors from State Departments of Agriculture.

Article 3 - Authorities
Under the Plant Protection Act, as amended, (7 USC §§ 7701 et. seq.) (PPA), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue regulations and orders to prevent, detect, control, eradicate, suppress, or retard the spread of plant pests or noxious weeds into or within the United States and to cooperate with other Federal agencies or entities, States or political subdivisions of States, national governments, local governments of other nations, domestic or international organizations, domestic or international associations, and other persons to carry out the purposes of the PPA.

Article 4 - Objectives
This MOU will serve to establish the cooperating parties’ responsibilities under this cooperative program and to define in general terms the basis on which the parties concerned will cooperate.

Article 5 - Mutual Responsibilities
The Cooperator and USDA–APHIS–PPQ mutually agree to/understand that:

A. Overall direction and control of this cooperative program is to be maintained by USDA–APHIS–PPQ. However, personnel of the Cooperator will remain administratively responsible to the Cooperator.
B. The Cooperator shall be responsible for conducting inspection and certification in accordance with the policies, directives, and regulations of USDA–APHIS–PPQ and within the scope of the law.

C. The Cooperator will retain administrative responsibilities for its personnel authorized to participate in the program.

D. The Cooperator will solely issue export certificates listed in Article 1 of this document for international commerce.

**Article 6 - Cooperator Responsibilities**

The Cooperator agrees:

A. To designate Mr./Ms./Dr.—Insert full name as its authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU.

B. In conducting the Basic Phytosanitary Export Certification Program to/that:
   2. Nominate to USDA–APHIS–PPQ qualified State inspectors to perform inspection and certification work.
   3. Ensure that nominees for designation as inspectors under this MOU meet or exceed the basic requirements as defined in Export Certification regulations, 7 CFR 353.6(b).
   4. Submit to USDA–APHIS–PPQ, for review and concurrence, the names and qualifications covering those personnel nominated for designation as inspectors.
   5. Cooperative personnel authorized to issue export certificates under this MOU shall participate, without cost to USDA–APHIS–PPQ, in an initial and reaccreditation training program conducted by USDA–APHIS–PPQ.

C. In conducting the Phytosanitary Field Inspection of Seed Crops Program to/that:
   1. Use only those agents that meet or exceed the basic requirements as defined in Export Certification regulations, 7 CFR 353.6(a).
   2. Provide agents with training and resources in accordance with 7 CFR 353.6(a)(2).
   3. Terminate, after notification, an agent’s participation in the inspection activities when the agent is identified as not following established procedures for proper recording or reporting of pest organisms found.
   4. Monitor inspection activities of designated agents during each growing season in cooperation with USDA–APHIS–PPQ.

**Article 7 - USDA–APHIS–PPQ Responsibilities**

USDA–APHIS–PPQ agrees, in conducting the Basic Phytosanitary Export Certification Program, to/that:
A. Designate Mr./Ms./Dr.—Insert full name as its authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU.

B. Provide an Authorized Certification Official Certificate to qualified cooperative personnel who have complied with the requirements of Article 6 of this MOU.

C. Conduct an initial training program for qualified cooperative employees prior to designation.

D. Provide reaccreditation training every three years for qualified cooperative employees designated as an inspector under Article 6 of this MOU.

E. Provide an online Export Program Manual (XPM), and other necessary information.

F. Provide program oversight by conducting field audits of facilities and personnel to ensure conformance with USDA–APHIS–PPQ regulations, policies, and procedures.

**Article 8 - Statement of No Financial Obligation**
Signature on this MOU does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of USDA–APHIS–PPQ. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this MOU. Transfer of funds or items of value is not authorized under this MOU.

**Article 9 - Limitations of Commitment**
This MOU and any continuation thereof shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States. It is understood and agreed that any monies allocated for purposes covered by this MOU shall be expended in accordance with its terms and the manner prescribed by the fiscal regulations and/or administrative policies of the party making the funds available. If fiscal resources are to transfer, a separate agreement must be developed by the parties.

**Article 10 - Congressional Restriction**
Under 41 USC 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this MOU or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

**Article 11 - Amendments**
This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the cooperating parties in writing.

**Article 12 - Termination**
This MOU may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days written notice to the other party.

**Article 13 - Effective Date and Duration**
This MOU will be in effect upon date of final signature and will continue for five years from the date of signature. This MOU shall supersede all previous Memoranda of Understanding for export certification between cooperating parties.
List of Active MOUs for Federal-State Cooperative Programs

All States have entered into a MOU for Federal-State Cooperative Program. MOUs are in effect for five years. Refer to Table 5-1-1 for a list of active Federal-State MOUs.

Table 5-1-1 List of Active Federal-State MOUs (page 1 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cooperating State</th>
<th>MOU number</th>
<th>Date expires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>12-8201-0058-MU</td>
<td>02/19/2023</td>
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<td>Alaska</td>
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## Table 5-1-1 List of Active Federal-State MOUs (page 2 of 2)

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<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>12-8556-1526-MU</td>
<td>03/12/2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

This section provides guidance on lumber certification options, specifically on when and how to record Kiln Dried (KD)/Heat treatment (HT) information on a Phytosanitary Certificate (PC). These procedures will allow certification with or without a physical inspection if certain conditions are met. In addition to this guidance, all foreign import requirements must be met before certification. All treatment information should be listed in the treatment section of the PC when a treatment is required by the importing country. Treatment information should not be listed in any other section unless requested in official communication from the importing country.
**Inspection and Certification Options**

1. An Authorized Certification Official (ACO) inspects the lumber and issues a PC

**NOTICE**

Refer to verification of markings as listed in Table 5-2-1 on page 5-2-4 and Table 5-2-3 on page 5-2-9 to ensure minimum phytosanitary measures have been met.

OR

2. When the following documentation is presented to an ACO, a PC may be issued if the documentation meets all import country requirements

   A. Certification of treatment and/or milling from a lumber facility affiliated with an organization listed in Table 5-2-1 on page 5-2-4 or Table 5-2-3 on page 5-2-9, OR

   B. Certification from a facility in the Mill Certification Program (includes certificates shown in Figure 5-2-3 on page 5-2-7, Figure 5-2-4 on page 5-2-13, or Figure 5-2-5 on page 5-2-14), OR

   C. Certification of treatment and/or milling from a facility operating under an agreement with USDA–APHIS, State, or county

OR

3. Applicants who are not able to meet options 1 or 2, or who are not under an appropriate USDA–APHIS approved CA, must present third party verification of kiln/thermocouple certification within the last year, kiln records, and a treatment certificate on company letterhead to the ACO.

**Treatment Verification**

1. Kiln Drying to a specific percentage of moisture content

   A. An ACO conducts a physical inspection, reviews kiln charge results, and measures the moisture content to ensure it is below 20%, OR

   B. A facility operates under the supervision of a PPQ-authorized agency, and

      a. The ACO conducts a physical inspection and verifies KD marks, if required, are from an authorized agency (refer to Table 5-2-1), OR

      b. The facility provides a treatment certificate (refer to Figure 5-2-3 or Figure 5-2-5) issued by an authorized agency in Table 5-2-1 or Table 5-2-3, OR
c. The facility provides a third-party kiln calibration performed within the last year and documentation of low moisture content and/or kiln charge results and a heat treatment certificate on company letterhead

2. Heat treatment to a specific core temperature for a specific duration
   A. A facility operates under the supervision of a PPQ authorized agency, and
      a. The facility provides a treatment certificate issued by an authorized agency in the Mill Certification Program (refer to Figure 5-2-3) (must have HT statement addition) and Figure 5-2-4), OR
      b. The ACO verifies HT marks, if required, are from an authorized agency (refer to Table 5-2-3).
      OR
   B. A facility not affiliated with a Mill Certification Program organization. An ACO reviews thermocouple calibration performed within the last year by a third party, documentation of core temperatures and duration provided by the facility, and a heat treatment certificate on company letterhead.

**NOTICE**

Verification may be conducted through inspection of documentation when a physical inspection is not required or through a Mill Certification Program as listed in this section. It is not a requirement to add treatment information to the PC unless requested by the importing country.

---

**Examples of Recorded KD/HT Treatments on the PC**

Refer to Figure 5-2-1 and Figure 5-2-2 for examples of recorded KD/HT treatments on the PC.

---

Figure 5-2-1 Example of treatment section on the phytosanitary certificate certifying kiln drying
**Figure 5-2-2** Example of treatment section on the phytosanitary certificate certifying heat treatment

**NOTICE**

Enter treatments according to the examples above for consistency. Please use N/A for DATE when the dates of treatments are **not** provided.

**KD Inspection Company Marks**

**Table 5-2-1** KD Inspection Company Marks (page 1 of 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="AITC" /></td>
<td>American Institute of Timber Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTINENTAL INSPECTION AGENCY</td>
<td>Continental Inspection Agency, LLC (CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="NELMA" /></td>
<td>Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (NeLMA) (two trademarks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="NSLB" /></td>
<td>Northern Softwood Lumber Bureau (NSLB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="PLIB" /></td>
<td>Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="RIS" /></td>
<td>Redwood Inspection Service (RIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="RRA" /></td>
<td>Renewable Resource Associates, Inc. (RRA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="SPIB" /></td>
<td>Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="SIWP" /></td>
<td>Stafford Inspection and Consulting, LLC (SIWP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: on lumber, expect letters to be inked instead of background.)

(Note: underline may not appear.)
### Table 5-2-1  KD Inspection Company Marks (page 3 of 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="TP Mark" /></td>
<td>Timber Products Inspection (TP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="WCLB Mark" /></td>
<td>West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="WWPA Mark" /></td>
<td>Western Wood Products Association (WWPA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**CERTIFICATE OF KILN DRYING**

SAWN HARDWOOD LUMBER

Lumber Kiln Dried By: ________________ Order #: ________________
Name of Company: ________________ Invoice #: ________________
Address: ____________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ________________
Date Kiln Process Completed: ________________ Phone: ________________ Fax: ________________

(This certifies that the lumber described below has been kiln dried resulting in all parts of the lumber having a moisture content of less than 20% at the conclusion of the kiln drying process.)

**DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT**

List species, thickness, grade of various items contained in shipment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUNDLE NUMBERS</th>
<th>CLIP ID NUMBERS</th>
<th>MOISTURE CONTENT READINGS</th>
<th>BOARD FOOTAGE</th>
<th>CUBIC METERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(This document is issued under a program officially approved by the Animal, Plant, Health, and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The products covered by this document are subject to pre-shipment inspection by that Agency. No liability shall be attached to the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any representatives of the Department with respect to this certificate.)

**Authorized Person Responsible for Certification**

I certify that the products described above do satisfy the Kiln Drying requirement of less than 20% moisture content.

Name (Print): __________________________ Title: __________________________
Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

**NHLA Validation**

Name (Print): __________________________ Title: __________________________
Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

National Hardwood Lumber Association PO Box 34518 | Memphis, TN 38184-0518 | 901-377-1818 | 901-347-0504 Fax | www.nhla.com

Authorization #: 07-0100-1173-MU
1st Copy For Member Office | 2nd Copy For NHLA | 3rd Copy For National Inspector

---

Figure 5-2-3 Kiln Dried Treatment Certificate Example
**Table 5-2-2 Lumber Grading Agencies Participating in Mill Certification Programs for Heat Treatment of Coniferous Sawn Wood**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PPQ Region</th>
<th>Participating Lumber Grading Agency</th>
<th>Lumber Grading Agency Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Eastern    | Northeastern Lumber Manufacturer's Association, Inc.  
272 Tuttle Road, P.O. Box 87A  
Cumberland Center, ME 04021  
Renewable Resource Associates, Inc.  
860 Johnson Ferry Road  
Suite 140 - 194  
Atlanta, GA 30342  
Southern Pine Inspection Bureau  
4709 Scenic Highway  
Pensacola, FL 32504  
Timber Products Inspection, Inc.  
P.O. Box 919  
Conyers, GA 30012  
California Redwood Association and Redwood Inspection Service  
818 Grayson Road, Suite 201  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau, Inc.  
1010 S 336th Street, Suite 300  
Federal Way, WA 98003  
West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau  
Box 23145  
Portland, OR 97281-3145  
Western Wood Products Association  
522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97204-2122  
Timber Products Inspection, Inc.  
105 SE 124th Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
| Jeff Easterling  
Executive Vice President  
Phone: 207-829-6901  
FAX: 207-829-4293  
Lon J. Sibert  
President  
Phone: 678-528-3734  
Cell: 770-330-9416  
EFAX: 678-325-7330  
Tom S. Jones  
President  
Phone: 850-434-2611  
FAX: 850-433-5594  
David Conner  
Lumber Division Director  
Phone: 770-922-8000  
FAX: 770-922-1290  
Charles Jourdain  
President  
Phone: 925-935-1499  
FAX: 925-935-1496  
Jeff Fantozzi  
Secretary/General Manager  
Phone: 253-835-3344  
FAX: 253-835-3371  
Skeet Rominger  
Executive Vice President  
Phone: 503-639-0651  
FAX: 503-684-8928  
Jim Matthews  
Asst. Director of Quality Standards  
Phone: 503-224-3930  
FAX: 503-224-3934  
Casey Dean  
Director of Western Operations  
Phone: 360-449-3840 x12  
FAX: 360-449-3953 |
### Heat Treatment Inspection Company Marks

#### Table 5-2-3  Heat Treatment Inspection Company Marks (page 1 of 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="AITC" /></td>
<td>American Institute of Timber Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="AWIS" /></td>
<td>American Wood Inspection Services (AWIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="CIS" /></td>
<td>Carolina Inspection Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="CI" /></td>
<td>Continental Inspection Agency, LLC (CI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="CR" /></td>
<td>Conway &amp; Robison LLC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: on lumber, expect letters to be inked instead of background.)
### Table 5-2-3  Heat Treatment Inspection Company Marks (page 2 of 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="EWPI" /></td>
<td>Export Wood Packaging Inspection Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 0 0 HT</td>
<td>Lee Inspection &amp; Consulting Services, Inc. (LIWP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIWP</td>
<td>Missouri Forest Products Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFPA</td>
<td>Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (NeLMA) (two trademarks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Northern Softwood Lumber Bureau (NSLB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="NSLB" /></td>
<td>Packaging Research Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="PLIB" /></td>
<td>Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="RIS" /></td>
<td>Redwood Inspection Service (RIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="RRA" /></td>
<td>Renewable Resource Associates, Inc. (RRA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="SPIB" /></td>
<td>Southern Pine Inspection Bureau (SPIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="SIWP" /></td>
<td>Stafford Inspection and Consulting, LLC (SIWP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: on lumber, expect letters to be inked instead of background.)

(Note: underline may not appear.)
### Table 5-2-3  Heat Treatment Inspection Company Marks (page 4 of 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="TP" /></td>
<td>Timber Products Inspection (TP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="WCLB" /></td>
<td>West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="WWPA" /></td>
<td>Western Wood Products Association (WWPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="WRD" /></td>
<td>Wood Research and Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HEAT TREATMENT CERTIFICATION
USING A KILN FACILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUPPLYING MILL (or as indicated in DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT)</th>
<th>NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The lumber described below is certified to have undergone an appropriate heat treatment to achieve a minimum wood core temperature of 56 degrees C for 30 minutes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT</th>
<th>VOLUME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDICATE SPECIES, GRADE MARKS, OR OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS. ALSO, INDICATE NUMBER OF PACKAGES AND BOARD FEET/CUBIC METERS BY LOT.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This document is issued under a program officially approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The products covered by this document are subject to pre-shipment inspection by that Agency. No financial liability shall be attached to the U.S. Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTHORIZED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME (PRINT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY VALIDATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIGNATURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5-2-4 Heat Treatment Certificate Example
**Special Procedures:** Special Programs • Lumber Certification

Heat Treatment Inspection Company Marks

---

**MILL CERTIFICATE OF KILN DRYING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT</th>
<th>VOLUME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDICATE SPECIES, GRADE MARKS, OR OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS, ALSO, INDICATE NUMBER OF PACKAGES AND BOARD FEET/CUBIC METERS BY LOT (Lot number and volume are required).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mill Order No.:**

**Invoice No.:**

**Customer No.:**

**Number of Bundles:**

**Marks on Bundles:**

**Vessel:**

This document is issued under a program officially approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The products covered by this document are subject to preshipment inspection by that Agency. No liability shall be attached to the U.S. Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

**AUTHORIZED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SIGNATURE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**AGENCY VALIDATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

*Figure 5-2-5  PPQ Kiln Treatment Certificate Example*
Kiln Dried Treatment/Heat Treatment Verification

The following procedures are acceptable for issuing phytosanitary certificates and recording the HT/KD treatment in the treatment section of the certificate:

**KD Verification**

1. Hardwood
   
   A. An ACO will conduct a visual inspection, verify the KD marks on the wood or cover, and measure the moisture content to ensure it is below 20%. The marks must be from companies listed in Table 5-2-1 and specifically display KD; **OR**
   
   B. A facility operates under the MOU PPQ has with the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA); phytosanitary certification is based on the treatment certificate provided by the facility (refer to Figure 5-2-3). Shipments are subject to random phytosanitary inspection; **OR**
   
   C. The Mill Certification Program allows for certifying kiln-dried sawn hardwood lumber; refer to Figure 5-2-6 through Figure 5-2-6 for details.
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NATIONAL HARDWOOD LUMBER ASSOCIATION (COOPERATOR)
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS)
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE (PPQ)

ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to facilitate the implementation of an APHIS-approved and industry-issued certification system with respect to the Certification of Kiln Drying Sawn Hardwood Lumber.

ARTICLE 2 – BACKGROUND

Many foreign countries have adopted measures requiring the kiln drying and certification of all sawn hardwood lumber originating in the United States to prevent the introduction and establishment of pests. To facilitate exports of bark-free sawn hardwood lumber shipments, APHIS initiated this MOU with the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) to develop and oversee the United States Kiln Drying Sawn Hardwood Lumber Certification Program.

ARTICLE 3 - AUTHORITIES

APHIS is authorized by the Plant Protection Act, Sec. 431 (a), Public Law 106-224, to cooperate with other Federal agencies, the governments of foreign countries, international organizations or associations, states and their political subdivisions, farmers’ associations and similar organizations, and other persons to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, and prevent or retard the spread of plant pests and diseases.

ARTICLE 4 – MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cooperator and APHIS mutually agree/understand to/that:

1. The overall direction and control of this cooperative program is to be maintained by APHIS. Inspection of the sawn hardwood lumber shall be performed by industry-certified personnel and shall remain administratively responsible to the NHLA.

2. The basic control requirement for sawn hardwood lumber under this system is kiln drying to the extent that all parts of the lumber have been reduced to less than 20 percent moisture by weight.
3. Employee(s) responsible for this work will be under the general program direction of APHIS and NHLA. Supervision of personnel will be provided by their employing organization and they will be subject to their employing organization’s rules and regulations, except to the extent that NHLA personnel will conduct inspections following USDA regulations and standards.

ARTICLE 5 – COOPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Cooperator agrees to/that:

1. Designate Mark Barford, Executive Manager, Memphis, Tennessee, as its authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU. Mr. Barford can be contacted by telephone at 901.377.1818 Ext. 101.

2. Kiln dried sawn hardwood lumber shipments shall be inspected by an industry-certified inspector of the NHLA and subject to the terms of Item 4 below. Kiln dried sawn hardwood lumber requirements are regulated by the NHLA Board of Managers. NHLA inspectors shall ensure that kiln dried sawn hardwood lumber bundles are properly numbered and conform to the certification statement that the inspected lumber has been kiln dried resulting in all parts of the lumber having a moisture content of less than 20% at the conclusion of the kiln drying process. This certification statement appears in the body of the Kiln Drying Sawn Hardwood Lumber Certificate. Each shipment of kiln dried sawn hardwood lumber shall include a corresponding Kiln Drying Sawn Hardwood Lumber Certificate with the manifest. Refer to Attachment 1 for a sample Certificate of Kiln Drying, Sawn Hardwood Lumber.

3. Maintain signed agreements with participating facilities; a register of participating facilities, including names of representatives approved to issue Certificates of Kiln Drying; a register of employees who are authorized to authenticate the certificates; copies of all certificates issued; and a web accessible register of participating facilities and corresponding approved representatives for issuing and approving certificates.

4. Provide on-site inspections to check the capabilities of all participating facilities. The inspectors shall inspect each participating facility’s equipment and the skills of the kiln operators. The inspectors shall be skilled with all four kiln types: direct heat, indirect heat, direct steam, and indirect steam. Monthly reviews of the individual Kiln Drying Certification Program shall be made through regular quality control checks by the Cooperator. Additionally:

4.1. Inspections shall be performed by industry-certified inspectors that are independent of the treatment facilities and thoroughly competent in the inspection of kilns and the species of wood being inspected.

4.2. Inspections of participating facilities and treated inventory shall be performed in each month that a shipment is scheduled. The Cooperator ensures that facilities will
request inspections as necessary. The inspections shall consist of document verification, including the board feet amount of kiln dried (KD) lumber produced each month; kiln treatment records review; moisture testing and lot number verification on the bundle bands of a representative sample of the facility’s production inventory at the time of inspection; review of inspection and segregation practices of treated wood; and provide written reports to the inspected facility.

4.2.1. When the first audit results in failure/reported non-compliance of a certified facility:

4.2.1.1 The inspector shall notify the non-compliant facility with a letter of non-compliance within three (3) business days of inspection.

4.2.1.2 Within 15 days of the written non-compliant notification to the inspected facility, the inspector shall submit a written analysis of the problem and proposed solutions to the non-compliant facility.

4.2.1.3 The non-compliant facility will be re-inspected 45 calendar days after the written non-compliant notification to determine if the proposed solutions have been implemented by the inspected facility and are sufficient to resolve the non-compliance issues.

4.2.2. If during the 45-day re-inspection period, a second audit results in failure/reported non-compliance, the facility shall be removed from the certification program. One year after removal from the certification program, a facility may re-apply for certification.

5. Ensure that inspected facilities make files and records, including inspection reports, relating to APHIS certification responsibilities as outlined in Article 6 available for review by APHIS.

6. Retain inspection records for three years after the close of the Federal fiscal year in which the inspection occurred.

ARTICLE 6 – APHIS RESPONSIBILITIES

APHIS agrees to/that:

1. Designate John Tyrone Jones, II, Export Specialist, as its authorized representative who shall be responsible for collaboratively administering the activities conducted under this MOU. Mr. Jones can be reached at 301.734.8860.

2. Complete an audit of the NHLA Program annually. A written report of audit findings will be submitted to the NHLA within 21 business days after completion of the audit.
3. As part of the bi-annual inspections, APHIS will ensure that agencies independent of the mills (product) have been approved by the NHLA Board of Managers as lumber grading agencies and that their inspectors are industry-certified. Each lumber grading agency must have met the resource and checks and balance requirements of the NHLA Board of Managers in order to qualify as a lumber grading agency. Additionally, the APHIS inspector will review the files and records of the industry-certified inspectors and that the industry-certified inspectors have been fully trained and certified by the NHLA. Training for industry-certified inspectors includes the proper calibration of the kiln; placement and number of probes; use of moisture meters; proper recording and filing of product and inspection information; positioning of product within the kiln; storage of the product; review of shipment documentation; verification of training documentation and competence; and identifying suspect (fraudulent) shipment documentation.

4. Monitor the certification system for conformance by conducting bi-annual inspections (minimum) at participating facilities as well as corresponding points of export. Local PPQ officers will be responsible for scheduling the bi-annual inspections. Regional and headquarters staff will verify completion of the bi-annual inspections and maintain the inspection schedule records.

5. Generate and distribute inspection reports to the inspected facility; the respective PPQ regional office; and to the Phytosanitary Issues Management Office at headquarters in Riverdale, MD. Facilities failing inspection shall receive a written preliminary inspection report within seven (7) days of the inspection. The inspection report shall include recommendations to achieve compliant status. Final and complete reports shall be distributed to the aforementioned parties within 21 business days after completion of the audit.

ARTICLE 7 – STATEMENT OF NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

Signature of this MOU does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of APHIS. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this MOU. Transfers of funds or items of value are not authorized under this MOU.

ARTICLE 8 – LIMITATIONS OF COMMITMENT

This MOU and any continuation thereof shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated by the Congress of the United States. It is understood and agreed that any monies allocated for purposes covered by this MOU shall be expended in accordance with its terms and the manner prescribed by the fiscal regulations and/or administrative policies of the party making the funds available. If fiscal resources are to transfer, a separate agreement must be developed by the cooperating parties.
ARTICLE 9 – CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTION

Under 41 USC 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of the MOU or to any benefit to arise there from.

ARTICLE 10 – AMENDMENTS

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of the parties in writing.

ARTICLE 11 – TERMINATION

This MOU may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

ARTICLE 12 – EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION

This MOU will become effective upon date of final signature and will continue for a period of five years.

NATIONAL HARDWOOD LUMBER ASSOCIATION

________________________________________________            __________________
Mark Barford                                                                                        Date
Executive Manager

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

_______________________________________________            ___________________
Paul R. Eggert                                                                                                 Date
Associate Deputy Administrator
Figure 5-2-6  Example of MOU for Kiln-Dried Sawn Hardwood Lumber (page 6 of 6)
D. An ACO verifies the treatment meets the required temperature and duration at the facility, as outlined in chapter 7 of the Dry Kiln Operators Manual. The facility must provide a copy of a kiln certification (calibration) performed in the last year and validation of low moisture content. Phytosanitary certification is based on the verification of kiln inspection, the ACO’s verification of treatment, recorded results, and the provided validation of moisture content.

2. Softwood
   A. An ACO will conduct a visual inspection, verify KD marks on the wood, and measure the moisture content to ensure it is below 20%. The marks must be from inspection agencies listed in Table 5-2-1 and specifically display KD; OR
   B. An ACO verifies the treatment meets the required temperature and duration at the facility, as outlined in chapter 7 of the Dry Kiln Operators Manual. The facility must provide a copy of a kiln certification (calibration) performed in the last year and validation of low moisture content. Phytosanitary certification is based on the treatment certificate, the ACO’s verification of treatment, recorded results, and the provided validation of moisture content.

Refer to Figure 5-2-1 for an example of the treatment section on the PC certifying kiln drying.

**HT Verification**

1. Hardwood
   A. A facility operates under the MOU PPQ has with the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA); Phytosanitary certification is based on the treatment certificate provided by the facility; stipulating the heat treatment in the Description of Consignment section (refer to Figure 5-2-6). Shipments are subject to random phytosanitary inspection. OR
   B. An ACO verifies the treatment meets the required core temperature at the facility. The facility must provide a copy of a thermocouple certification performed in the last year. Phytosanitary certification is based on the verification of the thermocouple inspection, the ACO’s verification of the treatment and recorded results.
2. Softwood
   A. An ACO will conduct a visual inspection and verify the HT marks on the wood. The marks must be from inspection agencies listed in Table 5-2-3; OR
   B. A facility operates under the MOU PPQ has with the lumber grading agencies (refer to Table 5-2-2); phytosanitary certification is based on the treatment certificate provided by the facility (refer to Figure 5-2-4). Shipments are subject to random phytosanitary inspection; OR
   C. An ACO verifies the treatment meets the required core temperature at the facility. The facility must provide a copy of a thermocouple certification performed in the last year. Phytosanitary certification is based on the verification of the thermocouple inspection, the ACO’s verification of the treatment and recorded results.

Refer to Figure 5-2-4 for an example of the treatment section on the PC certifying heat treatment.

Mill Certification Programs Overview

These special procedures provide information about the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) PPQ has initiated with numerous lumber grading agencies, who provide the oversight of Mill Certification Programs. The purpose of the MOUs is to facilitate exports of coniferous sawn wood and to address the export concerns of the importing country.

Coniferous sawn wood is an important export from the U.S., which is highly regulated because of various pests, including the pine wood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*. Therefore, the MOUs establish how the wood products will be inspected and treated at the mill and the documentation that the mill will supply to PPQ for export certification of coniferous sawn wood.

Two of the MOUs eliminate the need to issue a PPQ Form 577 for coniferous sawn wood and allow participating lumber mills to issue their own certification for kiln dried coniferous lumber going to Member States of the European Union. The two MOUs are for the following situations:

◆ Coniferous sawn wood using heat treatment certification
◆ Debarking and grub hole control of coniferous sawn wood

Mill Certification Programs for coniferous sawn wood use the MOUs listed below and further detail:

◆ Heat Treatment of Coniferous Sawn Wood Going to Member States of the European Union on page 5-2-24
Heat Treatment of Coniferous Sawn Wood Going to Member States of the European Union

The Mill Certification Program for heat treatment of coniferous sawn wood going to Member States of the European Union is the most widespread of the Mill Certification Programs. This program provides an industry certification system that is officially approved to meet the phytosanitary import requirements of the European Union for coniferous wood from the U.S.

Refer to Figure 5-2-7 and Figure 5-2-7 for an example of an MOU for a Mill Certification Program for heat treatment of coniferous sawn wood going to Member States of the European Union.

Export shipments of wood from lumber mills that are not participating in a Mill Certification Program may be certified to Member States of the European Union with PPQ Form 577, if the mill meets the criteria specified in the export summary for the European Union.

**NOTICE**

Advise applicants that shipments may be rejected or destroyed at destination if the wood has not been sawn or kiln dried and heat treated, and is not accompanied by the proper certificate.
3.2-34-85-0254-MU
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
[ASSOCIATION]
AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE (APHIS)

ARTICLE 1

The Memorandum facilitates the implementation of an officially approved industry certification system to satisfy the legislation of the European Community derived from Plant Health Directive 77/93/EEC, as amended, with respect to heat treatment of coniferous sawn wood destined to the European Union.

ARTICLE 2

Authority exists under the Plant Protection Act of Section 431 (a), Public Law 106-224, for the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the States of political subdivisions thereof, farmers' associations, and similar organizations, and individuals to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, or to prevent or retard the spread of plant pests and plant diseases, including the export certification of domestic plants and plant products.

ARTICLE 3

The cooperating parties agree that:

a. The overall direction and control of this cooperative program is to be maintained by APHIS. Inspectional personnel shall remain administratively responsible to the Association.

b. The basic control requirement for coniferous sawn wood under this system is heat treating/kiln drying to the extent that all parts of the wood, including the core, have reached a temperature of at least 135 degrees F (56 degrees C) for 30 minutes.

ARTICLE 4

The Association agrees to:

a. Heat treated/kiln dried coniferous sawn wood shipments shall be inspected by an approved representative of the Association and, subject to the terms of Article 4.c, below, shall be certified as confirming to the certification statement imprinted on the Heat Treatment Certification Using a Kiln Facility Certificate. A sample of this certificate is annexed to this Document.

b. Shipments of coniferous sawn wood moving into export channels that have been heat treated/kiln dried according to the requirements of this system shall have bundles of coniferous wood in the shipment marked "HT" or "KD" at the preparing mill.

c. Maintain signed agreements with participating mills, a register of participating mills, a registry of employees/agents to issue the Heat Treatment Certification Using a Kiln Facility Certificate, a register of agency employees who are authorized to authenticate such certificates, and copies of all certificates issued.

d. Provide mill inspector training to all participating mills. Monthly review of the individual mill certification program shall be made through regular quality control checks by the Association.

e. Make files and records available for review by APHIS in carrying out its responsibilities outlined in Article 5. Records will be retained for 3 years after the close of the Federal fiscal year.

ARTICLE 5

APHIS agrees to monitor the certification system for conformance by conducting random biannual inspections (minimally) at participating companies and at points of export and by reviews Lumber Grading Agency files and records.

Figure 5-2-7 Example of MOU for Mill Certification Program for Heat Treatment of Coniferous Sawn Wood Going to European Union Member States (page 1 of 2)
ARTICLE 6

This Memorandum is to define in general terms, the basis on which the parties concerned will cooperate and, as such, does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of APHIS. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this Memorandum.

ARTICLE 7

Pursuant to Section 22, Title 41, United States Code, no member or delegate to Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this Memorandum or to any benefit to arise there from.

ARTICLE 8

This Memorandum shall become effective upon date of final signature and shall continue in effect for 5 years. It may be amended at any time by mutual agreement between the parties in writing and may be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties or by either party upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

ASSOCIATION

[LUMBER GRADING AGENCY NAME]

[NAME AND TITLE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE]

[Signature]  

Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

[Signature]  

Regional Director  

Date

Figure 5-2-7  Example of MOU for Mill Certification Program for Heat Treatment of Coniferous Sawn Wood Going to European Union Member States (page 2 of 2)
Heat Treatment Declaration
These special procedures cover the export certification of wood and wood products requiring a heat treatment declaration.

ACOs may record an unmonitored heat treatment on an export certificate when the following conditions apply:

◆ The material presented can be verified as the material represented on the certificate (lot numbers, board feet, etc.); and
◆ The material is from a mill approved by the USDA

Lumber Grading Agencies
Official control of Mill Certification Programs is maintained through MOUs established between PPQ and lumber grading agencies. The participating lumber grading agencies formulate, publish, and maintain grading rules, and provide inspection facilities for softwood under the provisions of the American Softwood Lumber Standard.

Refer to Table 5-2-2 for a list of the lumber grading agencies participating in Mill Certification Programs for heat treatment of coniferous sawn wood going to Member States of the European Union.

Heat Treatment Certification Using a Kiln Facility
Lumber exported under a Mill Certification Program for heat treatment of coniferous sawn wood going to Member States of the European Union must be accompanied by a mill certificate, “Heat Treatment Certification Using a Kiln Facility.” The mill certificate attests that the wood has been properly heat treated.

Only sawn wood that has been kiln dried according to the provisions of the American Softwood Lumber Standard may be exported under this Mill Certification Program.

Refer to Figure 5-2-4 for an example of Heat Treatment Certification Using a Kiln Facility.

Mill Certification Program Responsibilities
When an MOU establishes a Mill Certification for heat treatment of coniferous sawn wood going to Member States of the European Union, the lumber grading agencies, the participating lumber mills, and the PPQ regional offices each have stipulated responsibilities. These program responsibilities are listed below for the following:

◆ Lumber Grading Agencies on page 5-2-28
◆ Lumber Mills on page 5-2-28
◆ PPQ Regional Offices on page 5-2-28
Lumber Grading Agencies
The responsibilities of lumber grading agencies, as stipulated in the MOUs, are as follows:

◆ Perform a monthly check of Mill Certification Program’s quality control
◆ Maintain copies of issued certificates
◆ Maintain a list of designated personnel at each participating lumber mill who are approved to issue mill certificates
◆ Maintain signed agreements with participating lumber mills
◆ Provide training to participating lumber mills’ inspectors
◆ Validate mill certificates

Lumber Mills
The responsibilities of participating lumber mills, as stipulated under the MOUs, are as follows:

◆ Designate personnel to issue mill certificates (Heat Treatment Certification Using a Kiln Facility on page 5-2-27)
◆ Send issued mill certificates to the lumber grading agency for final review and validation
◆ Treat all shipments of coniferous sawn wood moving under a Mill Certification Program according to the American Softwood Lumber Standard for heat-treated or kiln-dried wood

PPQ Regional Offices
The responsibilities of the designated PPQ regional offices are as follows:

◆ Conduct biannual audits of each lumber grading agency for which an MOU is signed and of its participating lumber mills (also refer to Biannual Audit Checklist for Certification Programs on page 5-2-42)
  ❖ Meet with each lumber grade agency and participating lumber mills to review documentation
  ❖ Confirm at participating lumber mills or at points of export that the shipments of coniferous sawn wood moving under a Mill Certification Program are meeting its conditions
  ❖ Collect and submit to Export Services (ES) the results of the biannual audit by October 1 of each year (refer to Figure 5-2-11 for an example of a Biannual Audit Checklist for the Wood Mill Certification Programs)
**Special Procedures:** Special Programs • Lumber Certification

Kiln-Dried Coniferous Sawn Wood Going to Non-European Union Member States

- Designate personnel to conduct biannual audits and randomly inspect lumber grade agencies and their lumber mills participating in a Mill Certification Program
- Maintain in the regional office those MOUs for Mill Certification Programs established in the region
- Randomly inspect for conformance to the Mill Certification Program participating lumber mills and shipments of wood at points of export
- Randomly review the files and records of participating lumber grading agencies
  - Audit results are used to support Mill Certification Programs when foreign countries inquire about program validity

---

**Kiln-Dried Coniferous Sawn Wood Going to Non-European Union Member States**

MOUs and Mill Certification Programs established for kiln-dried coniferous sawn wood going to non-European Union Member States are similar to those previously mentioned (for coniferous sawn wood going to Member States of the European Union), yet are different in that they cover only kiln-dried coniferous sawn wood.

Wood that has been heat treated or merely debarked is **not** authorized under these MOUs.

Refer to **Figure 5-2-8** for an example of an MOU for kiln-dried coniferous sawn wood.
12-34-8x-xxx-MU
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
[ASSOCIATION]
AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE (APHIS)

ARTICLE 1

The Memorandum facilitates the implementation of an officially approved industry certification system to provide an alternative basis for the Federal phytosanitary certification of kiln dried coniferous sawn wood. This program does not apply to European Union (EU) member states.

ARTICLE 2

Authority exists under the Plant Protection Act of Section 431 (a), Public Law 106-224, for the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the States of political subdivisions thereof, farmers’ associations, and similar organizations, and individuals to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, or to prevent or retard the spread of plant pests and plant diseases, including the export certification of domestic plants and plant products.

ARTICLE 3

The cooperating parties agree that:

a. The overall direction and control of this cooperative program is to be maintained by APHIS. Inspectional personnel shall remain administratively responsible to the Association.

b. The basic control requirement for coniferous sawn wood under this system is kiln drying to the extent that all parts of the wood have reached a temperature of at least 160 degrees F (71 degrees C) and the moisture content of the wood has been reduced to less than 20 percent by weight.

ARTICLE 4

The Association agrees to:

a. Kiln dried coniferous sawn wood shipments shall be inspected by an approved representative of the Association and, subject to the terms of Article 4.c, below, shall be certified as confirming to the certification statement imprinted on the Mill Certificate of Kiln Drying. A sample of this certificate is annexed to this document.

b. Shipments of coniferous sawn wood moving into export channels that have been kiln dried according to the requirements of this system shall have bundles of coniferous wood in the shipment marked “KD” or “Kiln Dried” at the preparing mill.

c. Maintain signed agreements with participating mills, a register of participating mills, including names and representatives approved to issue Mill Certificates of Kiln Drying, and copies of all certificates issued.

d. Provide mill inspector training to all participating mills. Monthly review of the individual mill certification program shall be made through regular quality control checks by the Association.

e. Make files and records available for review by APHIS in carrying out its responsibilities outlined in Article 5. Records will be retained for 3 years after the close of the Federal fiscal year.

ARTICLE 5

APHIS agrees to monitor the certification system for conformance by conducting random biannual inspections (minimally) at participating companies and at points of export and by reviews Lumber Grading Agency files and records.

Figure 5-2-8 Example of MOU for Kiln Dried Coniferous Sawn Wood (page 1 of 2)
ARTICLE 6

This Memorandum is to define in general terms, the basis on which the parties concerned will cooperate and, as such, does not constitute a financial obligation on the part of APHIS. Each signatory party is to use and manage its own funds in carrying out the purpose of this Memorandum.

ARTICLE 7

Pursuant to Section 22, Title 41, United States Code, no member or delegate to Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this Memorandum or to any benefit to arise there from.

ARTICLE 8

This Memorandum shall become effective upon date of final signature and shall continue in effect for 5 years. It may be amended at any time by mutual agreement between the parties in writing and may be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties or by either parity upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

ASSOCIATION
[LUMBER GRADING AGENCY NAME]
[NAME AND TITLE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE]

[Signature] ________________________________ Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

[Signature] ________________________________ Date
Regional Director
Lumber Grading Agencies

PPQ established MOUs with lumber grading agencies to facilitate the export certification of kiln dried coniferous sawn wood going to non-European Union Member States. Refer to Table 5-2-4 for a list of participating lumber grading agencies.

Table 5-2-4 Lumber Grading Agencies Participating in Mill Certification Programs for Kiln Drying of Coniferous Sawn Wood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lumber Grading Agency</th>
<th>Lumber Grading Agency Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (NeLMA)</td>
<td>Jeff Easterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272 Tuttle Rd., P.O. Box 87A</td>
<td>Executive Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland Center, ME 04021</td>
<td>Phone: 207-829-6901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 207-829-4293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Inc.</td>
<td>Jeff Fantozzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010 S 336th Street, Suite 300</td>
<td>Secretary/General Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Way, WA 98003</td>
<td>Phone: 253-835-3344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 253-746-5522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Resource Associates, Inc.</td>
<td>Lon J. Sibert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>860 Johnson Ferry Road</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suite 140 - 194</td>
<td>Phone: 678-528-3734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta, GA 30342</td>
<td>Cell: 770-330-9416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 678-325-7330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Pine Inspection Bureau</td>
<td>Bob Browder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4709 Scenic Highway Pensacola, FL 32504-9094</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 850-434-2611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 850-433-5594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Products Inspection, Inc.</td>
<td>David Conner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 919</td>
<td>Lumber Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyers, GA 30012</td>
<td>Phone: 770-922-8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 770-922-1290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau</td>
<td>Skeet Rominger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 23145</td>
<td>Executive Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, OR 97281-3145</td>
<td>Phone: 503-639-0651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 503-684-8928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wood Products Association</td>
<td>Kevin Binam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 500</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, OR 97204-2122</td>
<td>Phone: 503-224-3930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAX: 503-224-3934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mill Certificate of Kiln Drying

All shipments of kiln-dried coniferous sawn wood certified under these MOUs must have mill certificates validated by a participating lumber grading agency. The mill certificates must be presented to PPQ for conversion to PPQ Form 577 (refer to Figure 5-2-5 for an example of a Mill Certificate of Kiln Drying).
Special Procedures: Special Programs • Lumber Certification
Kiln-Dried Coniferous Sawn Wood Going to Non-European Union Member States

Mill Certification Program Responsibilities
When an MOU is entered into establishing a Mill Certification Program for kiln drying of coniferous sawn wood moving to non-European Member States, the lumber grading agencies, the lumber mills, and PPQ each have stipulated responsibilities. These program responsibilities are listed below for the following:

◆ Lumber Grading Agencies on page 5-2-33
◆ Lumber Mills on page 5-2-33
◆ PPQ Duty Stations on page 5-2-34
◆ PPQ Regional Offices on page 5-2-34

Lumber Grading Agencies
The responsibilities of lumber grading agencies are essentially the same as those listed for coniferous sawn wood going to Member States of the European Union, except that lumber grading agencies return mill certificates to the lumber mill for conversion to PPQ Form 577s. The lumber grading agencies’ responsibilities are as follows:

◆ Perform a monthly check of the Mill Certification Program’s quality control
◆ Maintain copies of issued certificates
◆ Maintain a list of designated personnel at each lumber mill who are approved to issue mill certificates
◆ Maintain signed agreements with participating lumber mills
◆ Provide training to participating lumber mills’ inspectors
◆ Return to lumber mills the validated mill certificates for conversion to PPQ Form 577s by PPQ
◆ Validate mill certificates issued by participating lumber mills

Lumber Mills
The responsibilities of participating lumber mills are as follows:

◆ Certify shipments are using a Mill Certificate of Kiln Drying for kiln-dried coniferous wood being exported to non-European Union Member States
◆ Designate personnel to issue mill certificates
◆ Present validated mill certificates to PPQ for conversion to PPQ Form 577s
◆ Send issued mill certificates to the lumber grading agency for final review and validation
PPQ Duty Stations
The responsibilities of PPQ Duty Stations are as follows:

◆ Issue PPQ Form 577s for those shipments of kiln-dried coniferous sawn wood covered by properly validated mill certificates
◆ Retain copies of validated mill certificates as supporting documentation for issued PPQ Form 577s
◆ Review validated mill certificates
◆ Verify that lumber grading agencies are participating in Mill Certification Programs

PPQ Regional Offices
The responsibilities of the designated PPQ regional offices are as follows:

◆ Conduct biannual audits of each lumber grading agency for which an MOU is signed and its participating lumber mills (also refer to Biannual Audit Checklist for Certification Programs on page 5-2-42)
  ◆ Meet with each lumber grading agency and participating lumber mills to review documentation
  ◆ Confirm at participating lumber mills or at points of export that the shipments of coniferous sawn wood moving under a Mill Certificate Program are meeting its conditions
  ◆ Collect and submit to ES the results of the biannual audit by October 1 of each year (refer to Figure 5-2-11 for an example of a Biannual Audit Checklist for the Wood Mill Certification Programs)
◆ Designate personnel to conduct biannual audits and randomly inspect lumber grade agencies and their lumber mills participating in a Mill Certification Program
◆ Maintain in the regional office those MOUs for Mill Certification Programs established in the region
◆ Randomly inspect for conformance to the Mill Certification Program participating lumber mills and shipments of wood at points of export
◆ Randomly review the files and records of participating lumber grading agencies
  ◆ Audit results are used to support Mill Certification Programs when foreign countries inquire about program validity
Debarking and Grub Hole Control of Coniferous Sawn Wood

The Mill Certification Program for debarking and grub control of coniferous sawn wood allows for certifying air-dried coniferous sawn wood or kiln-dried sawn wood of *Thuja* spp. going to Member States of the European Union (refer to Figure 5-2-9 on page 5-2-36 and page 5-2-37 for an example of an MOU for debarking and grub control of coniferous sawn wood.)
XX-MU
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
[ASSOCIATION]
AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE (APHIS)

Relative to

Preparation and Certification of Coniferous Sawn Wood of Thuja spp. Intended for Export
to the European Member States

ARTICLE 1

The object of this Memorandum is to facilitate the implementation of an officially approved
industry certification system to satisfy provisions of the national legislation of Member States of the
European Union (EU) derived from Plant Health Directive 77/93/EEC, as amended, with respect to
freedom from bark and grub holes on coniferous sawn wood originating in the United States. This
program is applicable to Member States of the EU and to coniferous lumber pertaining to Thuja spp.
only.

ARTICLE 2

This Memorandum is entered into by the Service by virtue of authority included in the Plant
Protection Act of, Section 431 (a), Public Law 106-224, to cooperate with the States of political
subdivision thereof, farmers' associations, and similar organizations, and individuals to detect,
eradicate, suppress, control, or to prevent or retard the spread of plant pests and plant diseases,
including the export certification of domestic plants and plant products.

ARTICLE 3

The cooperating parties agree that:

a. The overall direction and control of this cooperative program is to be maintained by the Service.
   Inspectional personnel shall remain administratively responsible to the Association.

b. The basic control requirement for coniferous sawn wood (Thuja spp. only), including spacers or
   other attached dunnage, is freedom from bark and grub holes larger than 3mm across associated with
   shipments, but the following conditions, if existing, shall not disqualify a shipment from
   certification:

   1. Waney edges from which external bark has otherwise been totally removed
   2. Ingrown bark, in particular, around knots
   3. Bark/pitch pockets, as described in the National Grading Rules
   4. Holes caused by Teredo worms (marine mollusks)
   5.

ARTICLE 4

The Association agrees:

a. That unseasoned or air-dried coniferous sawn wood shipments, if not otherwise covered by a
   phytosanitary certificate, shall be inspected by an approved representative of the Association and,
   subject to the terms of Article 4.c, below, shall be certified as meeting the wood control
   requirements of the importing country. A sample of a Mill Certificate of Debarking and Grub
   Hole Control is annexed into this document.

b. To maintain signed agreements with participating mills, and a registry of participating mills
   including names of representatives approved to issue certificates of debarking and grub hole control
   and copies of all certificates issued.

Figure 5-2-9  Example of MOU for Debarking and Grub Control of Coniferous Sawn Wood (page 1 of 2)
c. To provide mill inspector training to all participating mills. Monthly review of the individual mill certification program shall be made through regular quality control checks by the Association.

ARTICLE 5

The Service agrees:

a. To conduct an orientation program for designated mill inspectors on the plant health requirements of receiving countries pertaining to coniferous wood.

b. To monitor the certification system for conformance via random biannual inspection at participating mills, points of export, and reviews of Association files and records.

ARTICLE 6

This Memorandum is to define in general terms, the basis on which the parties concerned will cooperate and, as such, does not constitute a financial obligation to serve as a basis for expenditures. No transfer of Federal funds shall be involved under this Memorandum.

ARTICLE 7

This Memorandum shall become effective upon date of final signature and shall continue in effect for 5 years. It may be amended at any time by mutual agreement between the parties in writing and may be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties or by either parity upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

ASSOCIATION
[LUMBER GRADING AGENCY NAME]
[NAME AND TITLE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE]

[Signature] ___________________________ Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

[Signature]
Regional Director

Date
**Lumber Grading Agencies**

Refer to Table 5-2-5 for a list of lumber grading agencies participating in the Mill Certification Program for debarking and grub control of coniferous sawn wood. These lumber grading agencies may certify air-dried coniferous sawn wood or kiln-dried sawn wood of *Thuja* spp.

**Table 5-2-5 List of Lumber Grading Agencies Participating in Mill Certification Programs for Kiln Drying, Debarking, and Grub Hole Control**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lumber Grading Agency</th>
<th>Lumber Grading Agency Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| California Redwood Association and Redwood Inspection Service 405 Enfrente Drive, #200 Novato, CA 94949 | Christopher Grover  
Executive Vice President  
Phone: 415-382-0662  
FAX: 415-382-8531 |
| Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Inc. 1010 S 336th Street, Suite 300 Federal Way, WA 98003 | Jeff Fantozzi  
Secretary/General Manager  
Phone: 253-835-3344  
FAX: 253-835-3371 |
| West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau Box 23145 Portland, OR 97281-3145 | Skeet Rominger  
Executive Vice President  
Phone: 503-639-0651  
FAX: 503-684-8928 |
| Western Wood Products Association 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 500 Portland, OR 97204-2122 | Jim Matthews  
Assistant Director of Quality Standards  
Phone: 503-224-3930  
FAX: 503-224-3934 |
| Timber Products Inspection, Inc. P.O. Box 20455 Portland, OR 97220 | Casey Dean  
Chief Lumber Inspector  
Phone: 503-254-0204  
FAX: 503-252-9267 |

**Certificate of Debarking and Grub Hole Control**

This Mill Certification Program allows for the certification of debarking and grub hole control for coniferous sawn wood of only *Thuja* spp. going to Member States of the European Union. Air-dried coniferous sawn wood must have mill certification that the wood is free from bark and grub holes larger than 3 millimeters in diameter. The mill certificates must be presented to PPQ for conversion to PPQ Form 577 (refer to Figure 5-2-10 for an example of the Certificate of Debarking and Grub Hole Control).
CERTIFICATE OF DEBARKING AND GRUB HOLE CONTROL

Issued in the U.S.A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT</th>
<th>VOLUME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDICATE SPECIES, GRADE MARKS, OR OTHER IDENTIFYING MARKS. ALSO, INDICATE NUMBER OF PACKAGES AND BOARD FEET/CUBIC METERS BY LOT (Lot number and volume are required).</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The lumber in this shipment has been examined by a mill inspector or other authorized person and found to have been stripped of its bark and to be free of grub holes; and, to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, to be in conformance with the import requirements of the receiving country.

This document is issued under a program officially approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The products covered by this document are subject to preshipment inspection by that Agency. No liability shall be attached to the U.S. Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

AUTHORIZED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME (Print)</th>
<th>SIGNATURE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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</table>

AGENCY VALIDATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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</table>
Mill Certification Program Responsibilities

When an MOU is entered into to establish a Mill Certification Program for debarking and grub hole control of *Thuja* spp. going to Member States of the European Union, the lumber grading agency, the participating lumber mills, and the PPQ offices each have stipulated responsibilities. These program responsibilities are listed below for the following:

◆ **Lumber Grading Agencies** on page 5-2-40
◆ **Lumber Mills** on page 5-2-40
◆ **PPQ Duty Stations** on page 5-2-41
◆ **PPQ Regional Offices** on page 5-2-41

**Lumber Grading Agencies**
The responsibilities of lumber grading agencies are as follows:

◆ Perform a monthly check of the Mill Certification Program’ quality control
◆ Maintain copies of issued certificates
◆ Maintain a list of designated personnel at each participating lumber mill who are approved to issue mill certificates
◆ Maintain signed agreements with participating lumber mills
◆ Provide training to participating lumber mills’ inspectors
◆ Validate mill certificates issued by participating lumber mills

**Lumber Mills**
The responsibilities of participating lumber mills are as follows:

◆ Certify unseasoned or air-dried coniferous sawn wood as meeting the requirements of the foreign country using a Certificate of Debarking and Grub Hole Control
◆ Designate personnel to issue mill certificates
◆ Inspect unseasoned or air-dried coniferous sawn wood
◆ Send issued mill certificates to the lumber grading agency for final review and validation
PPQ Duty Stations
The responsibilities of PPQ Duty Stations are as follows:

◆ Issue PPQ Form 577s for those shipments of kiln-dried coniferous sawn wood covered by properly validated mill certificates
◆ Retain copies of validated mill certificates as supporting documentation for issued PPQ Form 577s
◆ Review validated mill certificates
◆ Verify that lumber grading agencies are participating in Mill Certification Programs

PPQ Regional Offices
The responsibilities of the designated PPQ regional offices are as follows:

◆ Conduct biannual audits of each lumber grading agency for which an MOU is signed and of its participating lumber mills (also refer to Biannual Audit Checklist for Certification Programs on page 5-2-42) as follows:
  ❖ Meet with each lumber grade agency and participating lumber mills to review documentation
  ❖ Confirm at participating lumber miles or at points of export that the shipments of coniferous sawn wood moving under a Mill Certificate Program are meeting its conditions
  ❖ Collect and submit to ES the results of the biannual audit by October 1 of each year (refer to Figure 5-2-11 for an example of a Biannual Audit Checklist for the Wood Mill Certification Programs)
◆ Designate personnel to conduct biannual audits and randomly inspect lumber grade agencies and their lumber mills participating in a Mill Certification Program
◆ Maintain in the regional office those MOUs for Mill Certification Programs established in the region
◆ Randomly inspect conformance to the Mill Certification Program participating lumber mills and shipments of wood at points of export for
◆ Randomly review the files and records of participating lumber grading agencies
  ❖ Audit results are used to support Mill Certification Programs when foreign countries inquire about program validity
Biannual Audit Checklist for Certification Programs

Refer to Figure 5-2-11 for an example of a Biannual Audit Checklist for Mill Certification Programs.

**BIANNUAL AUDIT CHECKLIST**
**FOR THE WOOD MILL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

DATE OF AUDIT: ____________________________

AGENCY or MILL AUDITED/address: ________________________________

CONTACT PERSON/ phone number: ________________________________

MOU(s) Audited (check)

| Coniferous Sawn Wood for Heat Treatment Moving to European Union (EU) |
| Kiln Drying MOU |
| Debarking, and Grub Hole Control of Thuja sp to European Union (EU) |

AUDIT RESULTS: | Yes | No | N/A

| Agency maintains the signed agreements (MOU’s) with the participating mills: | | | |
| Agency maintains a list of participating mills and their representatives that are approved to issue mill certificates: | | | |
| Maintains copies of all certificates issued: | | | |
| Training provided to mill inspectors: | | | |
| Agency maintains a list of Lumber Grading Agency employees eligible to validate mill certificates: | | | |
| Agency completes monthly review of the Certification Programs: | | | |
| Milled products shipped meet conditions of the programs: | | | |

COMMENTS: ______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

AUDITOR’s SIGNATURE: __________________________ DATE: ________________

PRINT NAME: __________________________ OFFICE: ______________________

Figure 5-2-11 Example of Biannual Audit Checklist for Mill Certification Programs
Kiln Certification

For guidance on kiln certification, APHIS recognizes the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Chapter 04 Inspection and Maintenance of Dry Kilns and Equipment in the USDA Agricultural Handbook AH-188: Dry Kiln Operator’s Manual.
Appendix A

Internal Communication

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Internal Communication

When personnel involved in the export program require assistance it is important they receive a prompt response from the appropriate person. To ensure issues are resolved in a timely fashion, it is important the person requesting assistance:

◆ Gather all pertinent information
◆ Complete all fields of the fillable version of the Held Shipment Worksheet in the case of a held shipment
◆ Refer to the proper person for assistance

For questions, concerns, and suggestions relating to the export program, follow the contact protocol described below.

Whether you are an Authorized Certification Official (ACO) or an applicant, your contacts should follow this order:

1. Export Certification Specialist (ECS) on page A-1-2
3. Export Services (ES) on page A-1-2

Additional guidance for obtaining assistance is provided below. To contact:

State and County
◆ Look up local listings for State agriculture officials
◆ In California, contact your county agricultural office
◆ National Plant Board website
Export Certification Specialist (ECS)
◆ APHIS Export Certification Specialists contact information website

National Operations Manager (NOM)
◆ Raleigh, North Carolina: 919-855-7314 or 919-855-7300
◆ Fort Collins, Colorado: 970-494-7500

Export Services (ES)
◆ General number: 301-851-2309
◆ Email: ppqexportservices@usda.gov
Appendix B

Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD)

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Introduction

The Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) (access via PCIT link below) is a repository of export summary information. PExD enhances the Plant Protection and Quarantine’s (PPQ) ability to maintain the export program for U.S. exporters. PExD will support PPQ Phytosanitary Issues Management (PIM) Export Services (ES) with the task of entering export summaries for foreign countries. PExD provides reusable text to facilitate uniform entry of export summaries. PExD also provides PPQ staff, State and county cooperators, and exporter users easy access to export summaries via direct user queries. PExD interfaces with the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking System (PCIT) application processing. During application processing users are provided with pertinent export summaries based on the consignee country, application commodities and other data contained in the application. PExD contains phytosanitary import requirements of U.S.-origin commodities to foreign commodities. This information may be retrieved by users with access to PCIT.

Accessing PExD

You can access PExD in the left hand navigation menu in any PCIT account home page or via the PExD link at the bottom of the PCIT login page.
Appendix B: Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD)
Accessing PExD
Appendix C

Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT)

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Introduction

The Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking System (PCIT) automates the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate, including collecting and tracking its related information, for eligible agricultural commodities being exported to foreign countries.

The web-based PCIT application is available nationwide and was developed to meet the following objectives:

◆ Enable the creation of electronic phytosanitary certificates
◆ Provide data standards to facilitate data integrity for reporting and interfacing with foreign governments
◆ Protect the PCIT data by incorporating defined security requirements

To use PCIT, please contact your Export Certification Specialist (ECS) to enroll.

Features

◆ Faster certificate generation
◆ Customizable templates
◆ Certificate archiving
◆ Reduced need for on-site paper record maintenance
◆ 56,000+ scientific and common commodity name database
◆ Ability to collect State and county fees
◆ Various State Certificates are now available
Appendix C: Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT)

PCIT Facts

- Applicants may now print a draft certificate
- Ability to enter multiple quantity and unit pairings
- Ability to enter multiple number of packages and package pairings
- Display the submission time for each application on the my duty station workload and my workload pages
- Ability to create treatment templates to apply common treatments quickly
- Standardized left navigation menu for all users
- Easy to use context help is included in PCIT on key fields to assist in identifying the type of information to be entered in the associated field
- Within the PCIT application, links to webpages such as PExD, PPQ, and this manual
- Contact Us page with:
  - Link to PPQ, Export Services website
  - Technical requirements for using PCIT
  - Link to download the USDA PCIT User’s Guide
  - Link to PCIT Release Notes
  - Link to PCIT Accessibility Guidelines
- Cost incurred on a per certificate basis, not on a per page basis

**EXAMPLE**
An export certificate that uses three pages will incur the same cost as a certificate that uses only one page.

PCIT Facts

- No fees are removed from accounts until certificates are in Issued status.
- PCIT will not allow the PPQ Form 577 or 579 to be completed without sufficient funds.
- Applicants using PCIT may run a debit transaction report to view all credits and debits made to their account.
- If applicants are not using PCIT, but the duty station is using PCIT, then the duty station may run a debit transaction report to view all credits and debits made for individual applicants.
- If a company submits an application, duty stations will never need to create a shell account.
- The use of wild card searches can increase the effectiveness of your search in PCIT. Entering less specific information yields a larger result.
- One person should register the organization. That person is the organization administrator.
Appendix C: Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT)

PCIT Tips

- Administrators can add users to the organization and designate others as administrators.
- Browser “BACK” button does **not** work.
- Copies can be printed at any time.
- No more four-part forms.
- Continuation pages will be generated by PCIT.

PCIT Tips

- Name templates so entire organization understands what they represent.
- Use singular names for commodities: apple vs. apples.
- If you find **no** matches, put asterisks (*) around the commodity to get more results.

**EXAMPLE**

- Plum returns 35 entries
- *Plum* returns 147 entries

Training Website

The PCIT training website is available at any time for trial.

To access the training site, contact your local ECS for a training site ID and password.

Available Assistance

- **PCIT Quick Reference Guides**, are simple one-page guides, broken down by topic and user to help you quickly understand the basics of using PCIT.
- **PCIT online help** is designed both as a course in using PCIT and as an ongoing reference while you are working with the application.
- PCIT Helpdesk: 1-866-HLP-PCIT (1-866-457-7248)
  email: pcithelpdesk@usda.gov
- Export Services: Michael Perry (301-851-2279)
  email: michael.j.perry@usda.gov
- National Operations Managers
  - Raleigh, North Carolina: (919) 855-7314 or 919-855-7300
  - Fort Collins, Colorado: 970-494-7500
Appendix C: Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT)
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Appendix D

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Applicants

The responsibilities of the applicant include the following:

1. Present all original official communication from the foreign country and the English translation. Applicants are responsible for the accuracy of all translations.


3. Provide all necessary documentation, which may include import permits (IP), bills of lading, manifests, shipping invoices, foreign export certificates, and inspection certificates.

4. Provide third-country import requirements for reexport certification.

5. Ensure the commodity is available for inspection, sampling, testing, etc. The applicant is responsible to ensure the shipment is sampled and/or inspected prior to loading containers.

6. Provide labor to open and close packages and adequate facilities to perform the inspection. The facilities must include supplies, equipment, and proper lighting for an efficient inspection before certification.

7. Provide for any required treatments, reconditioning, or other actions to meet the import requirements of the foreign country.

8. Export only those commodities properly inspected and certified under an export certificate.

9. Safeguard the certified shipment from infestation between the date the shipment was sampled and the actual shipping date, and ensure the
certified shipment departs within the time limits specified by the importing country.

**Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs)**

The responsibilities of ACOs include the following:

1. Identify the foreign import requirements for a commodity and determine whether the commodity meets the requirements.
2. Verify the contents of the shipment with the PPQ Form 572, inspection certificates, State certificates, agency reports, or any other supporting documents.
3. Verify a reexport commodity has been safeguarded and/or inspected to determine that it meets the importing country’s requirements.
4. Advise applicants when their commodity is ineligible for certification and explain PPQ’s policy regarding eligibility.
5. Advise applicants regarding a country’s specified time limits. Refer to the *Definitions of Terms and Coded Abbreviations* in an Export Summary for a country’s time limits.
6. Advise applicants on the status of a pending shipment. When samples are drawn for laboratory examination or when there will be delays in certifying the shipment, let the applicant or the shipping company know so the shipment is not inadvertently loaded and exported before certification.
7. Inspect the commodity to determine that it meets the importing country’s requirements.
8. Refuse to issue export certificates for prohibited commodities or commodities that do not meet a country’s import requirements.
9. Issue export certificates only for eligible commodities according to PPQ policy (refer to *Determining Eligibility* on page 3-3-1).
10. Monitor or supervise any treatment for export.
11. Prepare certificates in English. They can be handwritten or typed unless specified otherwise in an Export Summary.
12. Forward the record copy of each certificate to your ECS. Attach copies of IPs and other supporting documents (including translated documents with the original foreign-language document) used for certifying each shipment. If using the attachment feature in PCIT, ACOs may skip this step.
Export Certification Specialists (ECSs)

ECS responsibilities are as follows:

1. Ensure the continuity, credibility, and integrity of PPQ’s export program by providing training and quality control functions.

2. Serve as technical liaison among local, State, regional, and national officials regarding export certification. Be knowledgeable in agricultural production and commodity management practices in order to provide recommendations that enhance export protocols.

3. Serve as point of contact and expert on phytosanitary issues for all ACOs in their area.

4. Show proficiency in the use and training of Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT) to promote uniformity of certificate issuance within the export program.

5. Be proficient using this manual, the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD) and other databases, such as the USDA–ARS Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) database. Notify ES of needed changes and updates to the information.

6. Review (at least monthly) 5% of all certificates issued by ACOs within their area for compliance with policy and foreign import requirements.

7. Investigate the issuance of certificates for shipments that have been detained or rejected by the importing country. This should include verifying documents, adherence to certification policy and procedures, and conformance with the importing countries’ phytosanitary requirements. Aid applicants and ACOs in negotiating the release of detained shipments.

8. Inform supervisors, the National Operations Manager (NOM), and ES when certificate issuance may cause financial liability to the USDA or its employees, financial loss to the shipper or industry, or damage to the credibility of the export program.

9. Ensure an effective accountability system is established and maintained by SPHDs and State Plant Regulatory Officials (SPROs) for issued certificates.

10. Participate in periodic workshops conducted by ES.

11. Review and nominate cooperators, along with their qualifications, to ES for granting accreditation to issue certificates in conformance with Federal regulations (refer Special Programs • Federal-State Cooperative Export Program on page 5-1-1.)

1 Export Services, USDA–APHIS–PPQ, 4700 River Road, Unit 140, Riverdale, Maryland 20737; Phone 301-851-2279; FAX 301-734-7639.
12. Maintain accreditation records for all ACOs in PCIT. Notify ES of cooperators who transfer, retire, or otherwise separate from Federal, State or county employment.

13. Follow Memorandum(s) of Understanding (MOU) for the Federal-State Cooperative Program. Notify ES of needed changes. If a signed copy of a State’s MOU is needed, contact the PPQ regional office.

14. Conduct field audits involving review of facilities to ensure compliance with Federal regulations, policies and procedures, and PPQ’s obligations to bilateral agreements and protocols, MOUs, and international standards.

15. Assist with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Assist Investigative and Enforcement Services staff (USDA–APHIS–IES) offices to research and obtain information related to cases involving the certificate issuance.

16. Assist in reviewing new export protocols and work plans. Provide input to export program officials during development of new certification policies and procedures or modification of existing ones.

---

**Trade Specialists**

Trade Specialists have the following responsibilities:

1. Work with visiting foreign officials to address work plan compliance and new market access issues.

2. Serve as a resource for stakeholders, including ACOs and ECSs, to help interpret regulations and their implementation.

3. Interpret and implement work plans at both a local and multi-state level.

4. Investigate problems in the field related to the work plans.

5. Serve as liaison with the field and PIM.

6. Maintain active relationships with stakeholders in export certification matters.

7. Inform the Regional Program Manager, ECS, and SPHD of potential problems.

8. Facilitate exports within assigned areas.

9. Maintain familiarity with agriculture production and commodity management practices in specialized areas to give expertise that could lead to recommendations of modification in practices at the producer/local/State levels in ways that better support export protocols.

10. Conduct field audits involving review of facilities, to ensure conformance with Federal regulations, policies, and procedures. Ensure PPQ’s
Appendix D: Responsibilities
National Operations Managers (Export Certification and Trade)

National Operations Managers (Export Certification and Trade)
National Operations Managers (NOMs) have the following responsibilities:

1. Support and facilitate trade while considering program, stakeholder, economic, and political interests by following export and import guidelines for agricultural commodities.

2. Provide guidance and direction regarding PPQ policy, regulations, procedures, etc. to customers and stakeholders. Act as resource and consultant to the field regarding technical and operational issues.

3. Monitor program activities and the effective utilization of resources.

4. Interact with ECSs through regional workshops, conference calls, and other support as needed.

5. Assist the Phytosanitary Issues Management (PIM) staff with trade issues by facilitating the development and implementation of work plans for exports and imports.

6. Gather information for new and continuing export markets from the field.

7. Provide advice, information, and support in developing guidelines for program objectives.

8. Identify problem areas and recommend corrective measures.

9. Contribute to effective management and control systems for program activities.

10. Prepare reports and recommendations for Senior RPM regarding program issues.

11. Remain abreast of program changes and emerging issues.

12. Support, promote, communicate, and carry out PPQ departmental and administrative policy.

13. Investigate the issuance of export certificates for detained shipments. Verify documents, confirm adherence to certification policy and procedures, and assure conformance with foreign countries’ plant import obligations to bilateral agreements, protocols, MOUs, and International Standards are met.

11. Facilitate meetings between industry and foreign officials, to assure work plan requirements are met and to negotiate and resolve disagreements and procedural problems. Coordinate and arrange site visits to monitor work plan compliance of existing programs.

12. Visit domestic packing sites to review export programs for compliance with established protocol.
requirements. Aid agricultural applicants and ACOs in negotiating the release of detained shipments.

**Export Services (ES)**

ES is responsible for the following:

1. Establish export certification policy.
2. Maintain current information on the phytosanitary requirements of foreign countries.
3. Analyze and prepare export summaries of the phytosanitary requirements for use by ACOs and other interested parties.
4. Monitor the export program to ensure credibility of the export program.
5. When possible, assist U.S. applicants with held shipments.
6. Ensure only authorized inspectors and ACOs inspect and certify the phytosanitary conditions of commodities offered for export.
Appendix E

Collecting State and County Export Certificate Fees

Setting Up Collection of State and County Fees in PCIT

PCIT has the ability to collect State and county export certificate fees according to their individual regulations as well as the Federal administrative fee. This is an optional feature in PCIT. Any State or county interested in participating in this process must review the following information and follow these steps:

**General Guidelines**

- PCIT collects fees only at the certificate level
- PCIT can collect fees only for issued certificates\(^1\)
- Fees are deducted from an applicant’s account when certificates are in issued or printed status
- ACOs will be unable to complete certificates that lack funds in the applicant’s account

**PPQ Responsibility**

- PPQ will assist any State or county with the initial setup in PCIT
- PPQ will remit any State or county fees by the 15th day of the month
- PPQ will process refunds of balances within PCIT

**State or County Responsibility**

- ACOs must complete Issued-Pending certificates within one month of creation
- Participating States and counties must use PCIT for all Federal export certificates\(^2\)
- States or Counties are responsible for remitting all fees collected with paper checks and money orders to PPQ
- States or Counties must check PCIT for accuracy of fees

---

1. If a State or county charges by time and mileage and an inspection fails to lead to an issued certificate, PCIT cannot collect fees for that time and mileage.
2. When PCIT is down, ACOs may use multipart paper forms. However, the ACO must enter the certificate identification number into PCIT to subtract the necessary fees. ACOs may charge for PPQ Form 578 fees in PCIT.
Appendix E: Collecting State and County Export Certificate Fees
Setting Up Collection of State and County Fees in PCIT

- States or counties can update charges per certificate in PCIT up to the seventh day of the month following issuance of a certificate
- Once fees are remitted, refunds for certificates become the responsibility of the State or county
- State or county effective rates must start on the first of the month and cannot be backdated

**Step 1: Initial Setup of State or County Fee Remittance**
Use the worksheet shown in Figure E-1-1.

**Step 2: Initial Setup of Fee Schedule in PCIT**
Once Step 1 is completed, the State or county contact will be granted the appropriate financial role in PCIT and contacted by PPQ.
Appendix E: Collecting State and County Export Certificate Fees
Setting Up Collection of State and County Fees in PCIT

Figure E-1-1  Initial Setup for State and County Fee Remittance Worksheet

State and County Fee Remittance Worksheet

1. State or County entity name
   (Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Weights and Measures, etc.)

2. Primary Contact Name

3. Address


7. Email

8. Phone Number

9. Fax Number

10. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number

11. Federal Identification Number
   -  -

12. In the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system?
   - Yes
   - No

Note: If you have changes to your EFT information and are registered in CCR, please update your EFT information in the CCR database and submit an updated worksheet.

If fields 10 and 11 are complete and the answer to field 12 is yes, then skip to field 16.

13. Bank Routing Number
14. Bank Account Number

15. Bank Name
   - Checking Account
   - Savings Account

16. Signature __________________________ Date __________

This information may be either e-mailed or faxed to:
Email: Christian Dells (Christian.B.Dellis@aphis.usda.gov) or Marcus McElvaine (Marcus.McElvaine@aphis.usda.gov)
or FAX: 301-734-7639 (Attention Christian Dells or Marcus McElvaine)

Privacy Act Statement: Collection of this information is authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3332(g), 3325(d), and 7701(c). The information will be used by the Government to make payments by electronic funds to a vendor. This information may also be used for income reporting and for collecting and reporting any delinquent amounts arising out of a vendor’s relationship with the Government. Disclosure of the information by the vendor is mandatory. Failure to provide the requested information may result in the delay or withholding of payments to the vendor.
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Supplemental Forms

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction

This appendix includes official forms that are used as part of the export certification process that Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) or applicants may complete (wholly or partially), sign, and distribute. These forms are supplemental to the export certificates that ACOs issue for certifiable commodities offered for export.
AMS Form SC-66, Report of Inspection

Figure F-1-1 Example of AMS Form SC-66, Report of Inspection
AMS Form SC-146E, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods)

AMS Form SC-146E, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) may be used in place of inspection. Refer to Figure F-1-2 for an example of AMS Form SC-146E.

---

**Figure F-1-2 Example of AMS Form SC-146E, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods)**

Pursuant to regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), governing the inspection certification of the product designated herein, I certify that the quality and condition of the product shown by samples inspected on the above date were as shown, subject to any restrictions specified above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICANT ADDRESS</th>
<th>RECEIVER OR BUYER ADDRESS</th>
<th>SOURCE OF SAMPLES PRODUCT INSPECTED</th>
<th>CODE MARKS ON CONTAINERS</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL LABEL MARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Grade:

Remarks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS OF INSPECTION OFFICE</th>
<th>SIGNATURE OF INSPECTOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

SC-146E (08-2017) Original Certificate
Appendix F: Supplemental Forms
AMS Form SC-147CS, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Quality Assurance

AMS Form SC-147CS, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Quality Assurance may be used in place of inspection. Refer to Figure F-1-3 for an example of AMS Form SC-147CS.

Figure F-1-3 Example of AMS Form SC-147CS, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Quality Assurance (blank)
AMS Form SC-149CS, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Continuous Inspection

AMS Form SC-149CS, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Continuous Inspection may be used in place of inspection. Refer to Figure F-1-4 for an example of AMS Form SC-149CS.

**Figure F-1-4** Example of AMS Form SC-149CS, Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods) Continuous Inspection (blank)
AMS Form SC-294, Report on Sanitary Inspection

AMS Form SC-294, Report on Sanitary Inspection may be used in place of inspection. Refer to Figure F-1-5 for an example of AMS Form SC-294.

### AMS Form SC-294, Report on Sanitary Inspection

To Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), this is to report that representative samples of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNT OF CONTAINERS</th>
<th>COMMODITY:</th>
<th>TO ACCOMPANY EXPORT FORM CERTIFICATE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAR NO.:</th>
<th>TRAILER NO.:</th>
<th>PLU/STATE LOT:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICANT:</th>
<th>LOCATION (CITY/STATE):</th>
<th>DATE INSPECTED:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on an examination of representative samples taken from the above-described lot, it is found to be substantially free from insects with 0 percent infestation.

**SAMPLE RATE:**

- [ ] Sample Rate of: ____ %
- [ ] Per Hypergeometric Table
- [ ] Composite Sample: __________________________

**REMARKS:**

This form completed per Joint AMS/APHIS Memo on Proper Use of Report of Sanitary Inspection (7/22/16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSPECTOR’S SIGNATURE:</th>
<th>DATE ISSUED:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WARNING:** This report is not a sanitary certificate and must not be used to accompany shipments of fruit to foreign countries. It is merely a statement of findings which will assist inspectors of PPQ to issue sanitary certificates at the point of departure. For limitations on the acceptability of this report as a basis for foreign certification, see instructions on issuing Export Form Certificates and various sanitary memoranda and information issued by PPQ on the import restrictions on fruits and vegetables of some foreign countries.

SC-294 (05/18) Destroy previous editions. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

---

**Figure F-1-5** Example of AMS Form SC-294, Report on Sanitary Inspection (blank)
AMS Form SC-489e, Memorandum Report of Inspection for Processed Raisins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOT NO.</th>
<th>HANDLER'S COUNT</th>
<th>WHERE LOCATED</th>
<th>TYPE OF CONTAINER</th>
<th>NET WEIGHT</th>
<th>VARIETAL TYPE</th>
<th>MOISTURE CONTENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CODE OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION MARK

GRADE:

REMARKS:

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

Memorandum Report Of Inspection
For Processed Raisins

( DATE )

APPLICANT
ADDRESS

In compliance with the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetables and Related Products (7 CFR Part 52), I inspected samples drawn by me, or by a person authorized by the Administrator, from the lot or lots of product designated herein and, based on such samples, find the quality and condition of said lot or lots, on the above page, to be as stated below:

FEE: SPECIAL AGREEMENT

FORM SC-489e (06/17)

Figure F-1-6  Example of AMS Form SC-489e, Memorandum Report of Inspection for Processed Raisins
Figure F-1-7  Example of APHIS Form 47, Transmittal and Receipt for Accountable Items (blank)
**APHIS Form 94, Record of Public Funds Received**

1. **TRANSMITTAL NO.**

2. **DATE FORWARDED**

3. **TO**
   USDA, APHIS
   P.O. Box 979043
   St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

4. **FROM**

5. **DATE RECEIVED**

6. **AMOUNT**

7. **REMITTER**

8. **PURPOSE/ACCOUNTING CODE**

9. **TOTAL AMOUNT SENT**

10. **SENT BY (Signature)**

11. **RECEIVED BY (Signature)**

12. **DATE**

13. **TITLE**

14. **AMOUNT**

15. **TITLE**

16. **DATE**

(Return copy to sender in Item 4 above)

---

**Figure F-1-8 Example of APHIS Form 94, Record of Public Funds Received (page 1 of 2)**
COLLECTION PROCEDURES

Cash collections must be converted to a money order or cashier's check before submission to USDA-APHIS, P.O. Box 979043, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000. Do not send cash through the mail and do not convert cash to a personal check. Cash collected must not be used to pay for money orders or cashier's checks. If necessary, use personal funds for the cost of purchasing the money order or cashier's check and claim reimbursement on an SF-1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business. Checks and money orders should be made payable to USDA-APHIS. All collections should be transmitted for deposit within 24 hours if practical, but no later than the second workday from date of collection.

COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use this form to document the receipt and transmittal of collections.
2. Complete the original and two copies of the form.
3. Forward the original and one copy of the form along with the collection to: USDA-APHIS, P.O. Box 979043, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000.
4. Retain one copy of the form until a receipted copy is received from APHIS.
5. File the receipted copy.
FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain

FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain, may be used in place of inspection. Refer to Figure F-1-9 for an example of FGIS Form 921-2.

Table: FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Name and Address of Shipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Location of Elevator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Grain/Commodity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Grain Inspection Certificate Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Country of Destination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Name of Carrier/Vessel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Loading Date Start/Date Finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sublot Number/Carrier Identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Date Inspected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Stowage (Hold Nos.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>No. of Live Insects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Lot Infested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Name of Insect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Remarks (Use reverse for additional space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Name of Inspector and name of official service provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Date of Fumigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Type of Chemical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Concentration Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Duration of Exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Commodity Temperature at Time of Fumigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Quantity (metric tons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Name of Inspector</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Form FGIS-921-2 (03-15) Edition 07-10 may be used. Expires January 2018

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control for this information collection is 0580-0013. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Figure F-1-9  Example of FGIS Form 921-2, Inspection Report–Insects in Grain (page 1 of 2)
Additional Remarks: (Additional information from boxes 10 - 17 may be continued on this page, or agency letterhead may be attached. Agency letterhead cannot be used for unit trains or containers where individual identification is needed.)
Instructions for Completing Form FGIS 921-2
“INSPECTION REPORT – INSECTS IN GRAIN.”

1. Name and address of the shipper.
2. Location of elevator where the barge, vessel or carriers (railcars, containers) were loaded.
3. Type of grain/commodity examined for insects.
4. Total quantity (pounds or metric tons) of the grain/commodity that was loaded on the barge or vessel, or the number of trucks, containers, and/or hopper cars.
5. If applicable grain inspection certificate number representing the containers/vessel shown on this report
6. Indicate if this “Insects in Grain Report” is the original or has been corrected.
7. Destination country or territory (ex. Puerto Rico) for the grain/commodity. The information in this block should reflect load order.
8. Name of the vessel or barge identification number/name.
9. Dates the loading of the barge/vessel, unit train, container booking started and completed.
10. Sublot Number or Carrier Identification (e.g., container, railcar, or truck). List individual carrier IDs separately in the space provided on front of form. If the number of sublots or carrier ID’s exceed the available spaces, then use the front of another form for the remainder of sub lots or carrier ID’s. Use the back of the form for unit trains to list the railcar ID’s associated with the sublot listed on front of the form.
11. Applicable for containers only. Date the grain/commodity was loaded and examined for insects.
12. Stowage (Hold Nos.), location where the grain/commodity for that particular sublot is stowed.
13. Enter the approximate quantity (pounds) of the grain/commodity in the bargelot or sublot. For railcars and containers, use the actual weight of the lot or use the appropriate carrier terms (e.g., hopper, carlot, unit train, and container).
14. Number of live insects found in the corresponding sublot or carrier (if any).
15. Check the box if the grain/commodity examined meets the FGIS criteria for “Infested” or “Sample Grade” (SG) because of live insect infestation. **Mark this column only as it applies to insects, not any other SG condition.**

Note: The FGIS designation “Sample Grade” is applicable to beans, lentils, peas, and rice when infested with live weevils or other live insects injurious to stored grain. Sample Grade is also applicable to lots of milled rice that contain dead insects. **Do not report milled rice lots that are “Sample Grade” due to dead insects.** The FGIS designation of “Infested” is applied to the grains, barley, canola, corn, flaxseed, mixed grain, oats, rye sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, triticale, and wheat when they are infested with live weevils or other live insects injurious to stored grain.

16. Name of any insect found in the corresponding sublot or carrier. Identify by using the insect’s common name (e.g., Rice Weevil, Red Flour Beetle). **DO NOT USE TERMS THE TERMS “BRAN BUG” OR “OLL.”**

17. Place any remarks, if needed, in this section. The reverse of the form may be used if additional space is needed.

18. Name of inspector completing this form along with the name of the official service provider or the official service provider’s alpha identifier.

**Note Section 19 - 27:** Complete these sections for fumigation of vessels where official personnel are present to witness the application of the fumigant. For containers or railcars that are fumigated when official personnel are not physically present to witness the fumigation, the required fumigation documentation may be attached to the form.

19. Date that the grain/commodity in the noted sublot/barge/railcar/container was fumigated.

20. Fumigation method used to treat the grain/commodity. **(Leave this space blank)**

21. The stowage space (e.g., hold numbers, container number, rail car number) that was fumigated.

22. Type of chemical used to fumigate the grain/commodity.

23. The concentration level of the fumigant used.

24. Length of time the stowage area (e.g., vessel holds, railcar, container, and barge) needs to be secured for a proper treatment of the grain/commodity.

25. The commodity temperature at the time of fumigation. This should reflect the temperature that is provided by the licensed fumigator.
26. Total quantity of grain/commodity fumigated expressed in metric tons, if known. For railcars and containers, use the actual weight or use the appropriate carrier terms (e.g., hopper, carlot, unit train, and container).

27. Name of the inspector who verified the fumigation process. Complete this block only if official personnel were present to observe the fumigation.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact the field office responsible for the geographic area in which the service will be provided. Details for these locations can be found at:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/resources/fgis-field-offices

For further information on the Inspection Report - Insects in Grain:

Robert J. Dorman
Policies, Procedures Market Analysis Branch
Field Management Division
10383 N. Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153

Telephone: (816) 659-8411
Fax: (816) 872-1258
Email: robert.j.dorman@usda.gov
**Appendix F: Supplemental Forms**
**Held Shipment Worksheet**

**Handling Held Exports Worksheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECS:</th>
<th>State:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Country:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACO:</td>
<td>State:</td>
<td>Phone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Pages:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Date Submitted to ECS:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location of held shipment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country:</th>
<th>Commodity: (common name)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State/Province:</td>
<td>Botanical Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>Plant Part:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Entry:</td>
<td>Intended Use: (consumption, propagation, processing, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exporter’s name:**

Has the exporter had same/similar problem before? Please explain the outcome.

**Name and affiliation of foreign inspector holding shipment:** *(fill in contact information below)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone number:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax number:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Date shipment held:**

Why was the shipment held? *(If available, the exporter should provide official communication from the NPPO stating why the consignment is being detained.)*

**Was a Export Certificate issued?**

- Yes If yes, form number ____________________________ No

If yes, provide a copy of the Export Certificate. Copies of the following must be attached, if pertinent to consignment:

- Bill of Lading
- Import permit or other form of official communication from NPPO stating import requirements
- Inspectional records
- Laboratory analyses
- Field inspection records
- Treatment documentation
- Container numbers

---

**Figure F-1-11 Held Shipment Worksheet**
**Guidance for Submitting Held Shipment Worksheet**

Submit the worksheet illustrated in Figure F-1-11 to ES using the contact protocol (Appendix A on page A-1-1) for help with held shipments.

ES may be able to assist applicants whose shipments are being detained for phytosanitary reasons. In order for ES to assist with consignments being held at the port of destination, ES must have copies of as much of the documentation pertaining to the consignments as possible.

All documentation must be legible and in English. The ACO, not the applicant, must supply supporting documentation pertaining to phytosanitary actions. Examples of these types of documents are inspection records and fumigation documents.

The submitting ECS must fully review all documentation for completeness and accuracy before forwarding to ES. Alert ES of any problems with the documentation.

The Held Shipment Worksheet is available in fillable pdf format as well as fillable Word format.
Appendix F: Supplemental Forms

PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport

PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport

Figure F-1-12 Example of PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport
**Purpose of PPQ Form 576**
PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport is used when the required information for phytosanitary certification **does not** fit on the original PPQ Form 577 or 579. PPQ Form 576 can **only** include information that would normally be included on a PPQ Form 577 or 579. Reference to the attachment **must** be included in the appropriate block of the original PPQ Form 577 or PPQ Form 579. Multiple blocks on the PPQ Form 577 or PPQ Form 579 may reference this attachment sheet (PPQ Form 576).

**NOTICE**
The PPQ 576 attachment sheet **cannot** be used for PPQ Form 578.

**Instructions to Complete PPQ Form 576**
Refer to **Table F-1-1**.

**Table F-1-1  Instructions to Complete PPQ Form 576, Attachment Sheet for Phytosanitary Certificate or Phytosanitary Certificate for Reexport**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the block is:</th>
<th>Then follow these instructions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ADDENDUM TO NO.</td>
<td>ENTER the serial number of the PPQ 577 or PPQ 579 that the attachment references.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. DATE</td>
<td>ENTER the date the attachment was issued by the certifying officer (<strong>must</strong> be the same date as the issuance date of the PPQ 577 or PPQ 579).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. PAGE NO.</td>
<td>ENTER the page number of the attachment (if one attachment page, 1/1; if two attachment pages, 1/2 and 2/2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</td>
<td>ENTER the additional information. Be sure to first reference the corresponding section of the PPQ 577 or PPQ 579. If more than one section is included on the attachment sheet, a single horizontal line will indicate the start of another section. Line out any unused portions of the form (refer to example below).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER</td>
<td>TYPE or PRINT the name of the ACO who will sign the certificate. The signature on the PPQ 576 <strong>must</strong> be the same as the name on the original PPQ 577 or PPQ 579.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER</td>
<td>SIGN your name. The signature <strong>must</strong> match the name entered in NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

Use this *Glossary* to find the meaning of specialized words, abbreviations, acronyms, and terms used in export certification. To locate where in the manual a given definition, term, or abbreviation is mentioned, use the Index.

Some definitions have references such as Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM). These definitions are taken directly from the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms (2012) published in ISPM No. 5.

Also refer to the complete glossary of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) published in RSPM No. 5.

Definitions, Terms, and Abbreviations

**accreditation.** official recognition of proficiency resulting in the approval and authority to perform specific tasks or provide specific services in full or partial support of fulfilling official obligations (RSPM No. 8) and RSPM No. 9).

**accountability system.** system established to maintain the credibility of PPQ’s entire export program, to deter forgeries and control public misuse of the export certificates.

**additional declaration (AD).** statement required by an importing country on an export certificate that provides specific additional information on a consignment in relation to regulated pests (ICPM, 2005).

**additional official phytosanitary information.** official information that can be included in the AD block of a phytosanitary certificate for facilitating future reexports of plants or plant products. Exporters **must** request this information be attested to on a phytosanitary certificate and the request **must** be supported by lab results, field inspections, etc.

**affiliated island.** island associated with the United States but **not** fully integrated as a State (i.e., American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Puerto Rico (PR), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)). Affiliated islands are insular areas monitored by the U.S. Department of the Interior.
**agent.** individual who meets the eligibility requirements set forth in 7 CFR 353.6 and who is designated by USDA–APHIS–PPQ to conduct phytosanitary field inspections of seed crops to serve as a basis for issuing export certificates (refer to 7 CFR 353.1).

**Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).** Federal agency responsible for inspecting, grading, classing, standardizing, regulating, sampling, testing, and reporting market news for specific agricultural and food commodities; refer to Table 3-4-2 on page 3-4-2 for a list of acceptable inspection certificates.

**agricultural seed.** specific varieties of grass, forage, and field crop seed used for seeding purposes in the United States; refer to 7 CFR 361.1 for a list of agricultural seed.

**antagonist.** organism (usually pathogen) that does no significant damage to the host, but its colonization of the host protects the host from significant subsequent damage by a pest (ISPM No. 3).

**approved name.** approved names of countries must be used when completing export certificates. The correct approved country name is populated automatically by PCIT when processing a phytosanitary certificate. The approved name of the country found in the PExD summary drop-down list is based on ISO Standard 3166-2.

**area.** officially defined country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries (CEPM, 1999; based on the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures).

**area of low pest prevalence.** area, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries, as identified by the competent authorities, in which a specific pest occurs at low levels and is subject to effective surveillance, control, or eradication measures (IPPC, 1997).

**artificially propagated.** CITES recommends that this term only apply to plants grown by humans from seeds, cuttings, callus tissue, spores, or other propagules under controlled conditions. The artificially propagated stock must be established and maintained in a manner not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild, and managed in a manner designed to maintain the artificially propagated stock indefinitely.

**authority.** National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) or other entity or person officially designated by the government to deal with matters arising from the responsibilities set forth in the Code (ISPM No. 3).

**Authorized Certification Official (ACO).** public officer authorized by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and accredited for signing phytosanitary certificates, who 1) possesses the required education, experience, and training; and 2) has written confirmation of having
successfully passed an approved examination (RSPM No. 8); also refer to accreditation on page Glossary-1-1.

**authorized entity (AE).** applicant authorized by a Federal, State, or county duty station to complete the information on PPQ Forms 577 or 579, including the additional declaration and treatment blocks.

**authorized port.** specific port identified by the importing country to direct the entry of commodities; also called approved port and point of entry.

**bark-free wood.** wood from which all bark, excluding the vascular cambium, ingrown bark around knots, and bark pockets between rings of annual growth, has been removed (ISPM No. 15).

**blended commodities.** commodities that have been mixed together from different sources.

**bran.** pericarp of grain.

**brewers dried grains.** dried extracted residue of barley malt alone or in a mixture with other cereal grain or grain products resulting from the manufacture of wort or beer and may contain pulverized spent hops.

**cake.** mass resulting from seed pressing in order to remove oils, fats, or other liquids.

**certificate.** official document attesting to the phytosanitary status of any consignment affected by phytosanitary regulations (FAO 1990).

**certified true copy.** endorsement of an official document (e.g., phytosanitary certificate) by an Authorized Certification Official (ACO) accurately describing a commodity that entered U.S. commerce from a foreign country.

**citrus certification/registration program.** officially approved program for producing citrus propagative material according to the applicable NPPO standards.

**commercial shipment (CITES).** according to 7 CFR 355.2, anyone engaged in business as an importer, exporter, or reexporter of terrestrial plants. To import, export, or reexport terrestrial plants for the purpose of selling, bartering, collecting, or otherwise exchanging or acquiring the plants as a livelihood or enterprise engaged in for gain or profit. This term shall not include persons engaged in business merely as carriers or customhouse brokers.

**commodity.** type of plant, plant product, or other article being moved for trade or other purpose (ICPM, 2001).

**commodity class.** category of similar commodities that can be considered together in phytosanitary regulations (FAO, 1990).
commodity pest list. list of pests occurring in an area that may be associated with a specific commodity (CEPM, 1996).

confidentiality. holding information in strict confidence. Authorized Certification Officials (ACOs) are to hold in strict confidence the information in export certificates to protect buyers and applicants; also refer to Confidentiality on page 2-1-4.

consignment. quantity of plants, plant products, and/or other articles being moved from one country to another and covered, when required, by a single phytosanitary certificate (a consignment may be composed of one or more commodities or lots) (ICPM, 2001).

consignments in transit. consignment that passes through a country without being imported, and that may be subject to phytosanitary measures (CEPM 1999; ICPM, 2002; ISPM No. 25).

contact protocol. plan for personnel to follow regarding communicating questions, concerns, and unresolved issues about export certification.

containment. application of phytosanitary measures in and around an infested area to prevent the spread of a pest (FAO, 1995).

contaminating pest. pest that is carried by a commodity and, in the case of plants and plant products, does not infest those commodities (CEPM, 1999).

contamination. presence in a commodity, storage place, conveyance, or container of pests or other regulated articles, not constituting an infestation (refer to infestation (of a commodity) on page Glossary-1-8) (CEPM, 1999).

control (of a pest). suppression, containment, or eradication of a pest population (FAO, 1995).

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). multinational treaty regulating the export and reexport of listed species of wild fauna and flora. CITES provides three appendixes for listing plants:

◆ CITES Appendix I—any genus, species, subspecies, or variety globally threatened with extinction through trade

◆ CITES Appendix II—any taxon (the entire family—all genera and all species) that must be regulated in order to avoid the threat of extinction through trade

◆ CITES Appendix III—any species, subspecies, or variety listed by one country in order to enlist the cooperation of other countries to reinforce domestic conservation measures by regulating trade

cooperator. plant regulatory officials designated under the Federal-State Cooperative Program. Cooperators are authorized by the PPQ to inspect and certify the phytosanitary conditions of commodities offered for export and to
issue export certificates. Officials designated as cooperators must meet or exceed the basic requirements as detailed in Special Programs • Federal-State Cooperative Export Program on page 5-1-1.

country of origin (of a consignment of plant products). country where the plants from which the plant products are derived were grown (CEPM, 1999).

country of origin (of a consignment of plants). country where the plants were grown (CEPM, 1999).

country of origin (of regulated articles other than plants and plant products). country where the regulated articles were first exposed to pest contamination (CEPM, 1999).

cube. refer to pellets. on page Glossary-1-11

cut flowers and branches. commodity class for fresh parts of plants intended for decorative use and not for planting (ICPM, 2001).

debarking. removing bark from round wood (debarking does not necessarily make the wood bark free) (FAO, 1990).

dehulled. outer covering from seeds has been removed.

detection. discovery of a specimen of the target pest.

devitalization. procedure rendering commodities incapable of germination, growth, or further reproduction (ICPM, 2001).

distillers’ dried grain. commodity obtained after removing ethyl alcohol by distilling from the yeast fermentation of a grain or grain mixture by separating the resultant coarse grain fraction of the whole stillage and drying it by methods employed in the grain distilling industry. The predominating grain shall be declared as the first word in the name.

domestic products. those plants and unprocessed or unmanufactured commodities grown or produced in the United States or affiliated islands.

dried. materials from which water or other liquid has been removed.

dunnage. wood packaging material used to secure or support a commodity, but that does not remain associated with the commodity (ISPM No. 15).

duty station. official work location of an ACO.

ELISA. Enzyme Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay (RSPM No. 3).

endangered area. area where ecological factors favor the establishment of a pest whose presence in the area will result in economically important loss (FAO, 1995).

Endangered Species Act (ESA). enabling legislation that provides for the protection of listed species in two categories:
1. Endangered—any species, subspecies, or variety that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

2. Threatened—any species, subspecies, or variety that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**entry (of a consignment).** movement through a point of entry into an area (FAO, 1995).

**entry (of a pest).** movement of a pest into an area where it is not yet present, or present but not widely distributed or being officially controlled (FAO, 1995).

**eradication.** applying phytosanitary measures to eliminate a pest from an area (FAO, 1995; formerly eradicate).

**establishment.** perpetuation, for the foreseeable future, of a pest within an area after entry (IPPC, 1997; formerly established).

**exotic.** not native to a particular country, ecosystem, or ecoarea (applied to organisms intentionally or accidentally introduced as a result of human activities). As the Code is directed at the introduction of biological control agents from one country to another, the term “exotic” is used for organisms not native to a country (RSPM No. 3).

**experience.** in reference to ACO accreditation, a minimum of 1 year experience in plant protection regulatory activities working with or under the supervision of an ACO. This experience must occur prior to becoming an ACO (RSPM No. 8).

**export certificate.** any one of three accountable certificates, including PPQ Form 577, 578, or 579 used for exporting commodities.

**Export Certification Specialist (ECS).** USDA–APHIS–PPQ specialist who is responsible for maintaining the quality and credibility of the export program.

**Export Services (ES).** headquarters unit within USDA–APHIS–PPQ that maintains a phytosanitary certification system for exported U.S. agricultural commodities.

**export summary.** interpretation of the plant quarantine import requirements of a foreign country. Export summaries are not to be considered legally authoritative; they are written from translated plant quarantine regulations, official instructions, and other information provided by officials in foreign countries.

**Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS).** service program within the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) providing inspection of grain exports certified by PPQ Form 577 or 579. Also, FGIS is responsible for inspecting,
grading, classing, standardizing, sampling, witnessing treatments, and testing specific agricultural and food commodities.

**feed.** edible materials consumed by animals.

**field.** plot of land with defined boundaries within a place of production where a commodity is grown (FAO, 1990).

**find free.** to inspect a consignment, field, or place of production and consider it to be free of a specific pest (FAO, 1990).

**flakes.** ingredient rolled or cut into flat pieces with or without prior steam conditioning.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).** An organization that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, the FAO is a source of knowledge and information and acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy.

**foreign plant products.** those plants and unprocessed or unmanufactured plant products that have officially entered U.S. commerce, but were grown or produced in countries other than the United States and its affiliated islands.

**free of.** without pests (or a specific pest) in numbers or quantities that can be detected by applying phytosanitary procedures (FAO, 1995; CEPM, 1999).

**fresh.** living; not dried, deep frozen, or otherwise conserved (FAO, 1990).

**fruits and vegetables.** commodity class for fresh parts of plants intended for consumption or processing and not for planting (ICPM, 2001).

**fumigation.** treatment with a chemical agent that reaches the commodity wholly or primarily in a gaseous state (FAO, 1995).

**germplasm.** plants intended for use in breeding or conservation programs (RSPM No. 3).

**grain.** commodity class for seeds intended for processing or consumption and not for planting (refer to seeds on page Glossary-1-17) (ICPM, 2001).

**Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA).** a former Federal agency that facilitated the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural commodities, and promoted fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture; GIPSA is now part of AMS.

**grits.** coarsely ground grain from which the bran and germ have been removed; usually screened to uniform particle size.

**groats.** grain from which the hulls have been removed.
**growing medium.** any material in which plant roots are growing or intended for that purpose (FAO, 1990).

**growing season.** period or periods of the year when plants actively grow in an area, place of production, or production site (ICPM, 2003).

**growing season inspection.** examining plants during active growth to verify freedom from specific pests or pathogens; also may include the growing media or soil.

**heat treatment.** process in which a commodity is heated until it reaches a minimum temperature for a minimum period of time according to an official technical specification (ISPM No. 15).

**high-quality specialty grain (HQSG).** defined in 7 CFR 800.0 as grain sold under contract terms that specify quality better than the grade limits for U.S. No. 1 grain, except for the factor test weight, or specify “organic” as defined by 7 CFR Part 205.

**hitchhiker pest.** refer to contaminating pest on page Glossary-1-4.

**hybrid.** for CITES purposes, hybrid is the offspring of two genetically dissimilar taxa where at least one parent is listed in a CITES Appendix. This would include the offspring of parents belonging to different species, different genera, and crosses made between a species and a hybrid. Offspring from parents of the same species (i.e., intraspecific crosses) are regulated as species and are not considered hybrids.

**import permit (IP).** official document authorizing the importation of a commodity in accordance with specified phytosanitary import requirements (FAO, 1995; ICPM, 2005).

**inactivation.** rendering micro-organisms incapable of development (ISPM No. 18).

**in bulk.** commodity not in packages or boxes, usually transported in large volume.

**infestation (of a commodity).** presence in a commodity of a living pest of the plant or plant product concerned; infestation includes infection (CEPM, 1999).

**infested area.** area that has been determined to have an established pest population.

**inspection.** official visual examination of plants, plant products, or other regulated articles to determine if pests are present and/or to determine compliance with phytosanitary regulations (FAO, 1995; formerly inspect).

**inspection certificates.** cooperating agencies, such as Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), perform export inspections for specified commodities and issue certificates that may be accepted by USDA–APHIS–
PPQ in place of inspection. These certificates are based on officially drawn samples and export inspections conducted by designated FGIS personnel. While not all certificates are accepted by PPQ in place of inspection, a list of acceptable inspection certificates issued by FGIS and other agencies is in Table 3-4-2 on page 3-4-2.

**inspection date.** date an Authorized Certification Official (ACO) or other authorized entity conducts the phytosanitary inspection.

**inspector.** person authorized by a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) to discharge its functions (FAO, 1990).

**integrity (of a consignment).** composition of a consignment as described by its phytosanitary certificate or other officially acceptable document, maintained without loss, addition, or substitution. (CPM, 2007).

**intended use.** declared purpose for which plants, plant products, or other regulated articles are imported, produced, or used (ISPM No. 18).

**interception (of a consignment).** refusal or controlled entry of an imported consignment due to failure to comply with phytosanitary regulations (FAO, 1995).

**interception (of a pest).** detecting a pest during inspection or testing an imported consignment (CEPM, 1996).


**International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM).** an international standard adopted by the Conference of FAO, the Interim Commission on phytosanitary measures, or the Commission on phytosanitary measures established under the IPPC (CEPM, 1999).

**international standards.** international standards established in accordance with Article X paragraph 1 and 2 of the IPPC (IPPC, 1997).

**introduction.** entry of a pest resulting in its establishment (FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997).

**issuance date.** date a certificate is signed.

**kiln drying (KD).** process in which wood is dried in a closed chamber using heat and/or humidity control to achieve a required moisture content (ISPM No. 15).

**laboratory.** public or private facility that calibrates, tests, identifies, or conducts diagnoses (RSPM No. 9).

**lead time.** amount of time needed to inspect or examine a shipment before its shipping date (some countries interpret shipping date as the date a commodity physically leaves the exporting country).
legislation. any act, law, regulation, guideline, or other administrative order promulgated by a government (ISPM No. 3).

letter of credit. document issued by a bank authorizing an applicant to draw a stated amount of money from the issuing bank. Letters of credit are strictly fiduciary documents. For the purposes of phytosanitary certification, letters of credit cannot be considered official notifications of changes or exceptions to plant quarantine regulations, which must come from the plant protection services of the foreign countries. Therefore, letters of credit are not phytosanitary documents and cannot be referenced on an export certificate.

limited generation system. certification scheme wherein the planting stock for each seed class is limited as to eligibility by compliance with established disease tolerances and the number of increases made in the field. The classes or generations of the limited generation system included are: prenuclear, nuclear, Generation 1, Generation 2, Generation 3, Generation 4, and Generation 5; where prenuclear is laboratory production, nuclear is greenhouse production and Generations 1 through 5 are the first and subsequent field increases.

lot. number of units of a single commodity, identifiable by its homogeneity of composition, origin etc., forming part of a consignment (FAO, 1990).

malt. sprouted and steamed whole grain from which the radicle has been removed. Though malted grains may look like the unprocessed grain from which they are derived, their processing can be determined through handling: the grains will be sticky and lighter or have a strong, distinctive odor grain that has not been malted does not have.

mark. official stamp or brand, internationally recognized, applied to a regulated article to attest to its phytosanitary status (ISPM No. 15).

meal. grain that has been ground or otherwise reduced in particle size.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). formal document specifying the responsibilities and areas of cooperation mutually understood and agreed to by the parties involved; for an example of an MOU, refer to Special Programs • Federal-State Cooperative Export Program on page 5-1-1.

micro-organism. protozoan, fungus, bacterium, virus, or other microscopic self-replicating biotic entity (ISPM No. 3).

microplantlet. plantlet produced in vitro on a defined medium (RSPM No. 3).

microtuber. tuber produced in vitro (RSPM No. 3).

middlings. byproduct of flour milling comprising several grades of granular particles containing different proportions of endosperm, bran, and germ.

minituber. tuber produced in a protected environment from pathogen-free parent material (RSPM No. 3).
monitoring. official process to verify phytosanitary situations. (CEPM, 1996); also refer to treatment on page Glossary-1-18.

National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). official service established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC PPQ serves as NPPO for the United States.

nonquarantine pest. pest that is not a quarantine pest for an area (FAO, 1995).

North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). regional Plant Protection Organization of the International Plant Protection Convention that coordinates the efforts among Canada, the United States, and Mexico to protect plant resources from the entry, establishment, and spread of regulated plant pests, while facilitating intra/interregional trade (also refer to NAPPO).

official. established, authorized, or performed by a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) (FAO, 1990).

official communication. phytosanitary requirements from a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) that must be met to import a commodity. Official communication in the form of an import permit (IP), letter of authorization, etc. supersedes or supplements information contained in PExD.

official control. actively enforcing mandatory phytosanitary regulations and applying mandatory phytosanitary procedures with the objective of eradication or containment of quarantine pests or for the management of regulated nonquarantine pests.

Official State Seed Potato Certification Agency. State agency duly authorized by State law to provide seed potato certification services; also refer to Commodity • Seed Potatoes on page 4-5-1.

organism. any biotic entity capable of reproduction or replication in its naturally occurring state (ISPM No. 3).

packaging. material used in supporting, protecting, or carrying a commodity (ISPM No. 20).

parent material. in vitro, pathogen-free propagules used to increase a clone of potatoes for producing commercial quantities of microplantlets, microtubers, or minitubers (RSPM No. 3).

pathogen. micro-organism-causing disease (ISPM No. 3).

pellets. agglomerated feed formed by compacting and forcing through die openings by a mechanical process; similar terms: pelleted feed, hard pellet.

pest. any species, strain, or biotype of plant, animal, or pathogenic agent injurious to commodities (IPPC, 1997); also refer to quarantine pest on page Glossary-1-15 and nonquarantine pest on page Glossary-1-11.
pest-free area (PFA). area in which a specific pest does not occur as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained (FAO, 1995).

pest-free place of production (PFPP). place of production in which a specific pest does not occur as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained for a defined period (ISPM No. 10).

pest-free production site (PFPS). defined portion of a place of production in which a specific pest does not occur as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained for a defined period and that is managed as a separate unit in the same way as a pest-free place of production (ISPM No. 10).

pest record. document providing information concerning the presence or absence of a specific pest at a particular location at a certain time, within an area (usually a country) under described circumstances (CEPM, 1997).

pest risk. that level and probability of harm a plant pest could cause in an endangered area a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) identifies by performing a pest risk analysis (PRA) or other internationally acceptable plant risk assessment process (RSPM No. 3).

pest risk analysis (PRA). process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated, and, if so, the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it (IPPC, 1997).

pest status (in an area). presence or absence, at the present time, of a pest in an area, including, where appropriate, its distribution as officially determined using expert judgment on the basis of current and historical pest records and other information (ICPM, 1998).

phytosanitary action. official operation, such as inspection, testing, surveillance, or treatment, to implement phytosanitary measures (ICPM, 2005).

phytosanitary certificate. certificate patterned after the model certificates of the IPPC (FAO, 1990). In the United States, this is an official document (PPQ Form 577) attesting to commodities’ phytosanitary condition and is issued by an Authorized Certification Official (ACO).

Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT). preferred method of generating PPQ Forms 572, 577, and 579. PCIT tracks the inspection of agricultural products and certifies compliance with plant health standards of importing countries. This capability provides USDA–APHIS–PPQ better security, reporting functions, and monitoring capabilities for exported commodities.
**phytosanitary certification.** Using phytosanitary procedures that lead to issuing a phytosanitary certificate (FAO, 1990).

**Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD).** Repository of phytosanitary import requirements of U.S.-origin commodities to foreign countries. PExD enhances Plant Protection and Quarantine’s (PPQ’s) ability to maintain the export program for U.S. exporters. PExD supports PPQ’s Phytosanitary Issues Management (PIM) Export Services (ES) with entering export summaries for foreign countries. PExD provides reusable text to facilitate uniform entry of export summaries. PExD also provides PPQ staff, State and county cooperators, and exporters easy access to export summaries via direct user queries. PExD interfaces with the PCIT application processing. During application processing, users are provided with pertinent export summaries based on the consignee country, applicable commodities, and other data contained in an application.

**phytosanitary import requirements.** Specific phytosanitary measures established by an importing country concerning consignments moving into that country (ICPM, 2005).

**phytosanitary measure (agreed interpretation).** Any legislation, regulation, or official procedure with the purpose of preventing the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, or limiting the economic impact of regulated nonquarantine pests (ISPM, 2002).

**phytosanitary procedure.** Any official method for implementing phytosanitary measures including inspections, tests, surveillance, or treatments in connection with regulated pests (ICPM, 2005).

**phytosanitary regulation.** Official rule to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests or to limit the economic impact of regulated nonquarantine pests, including establishing procedures for phytosanitary certification (ICPM, 2001).

**place of production.** Any premises or collection of fields operated as a single production or farming unit. This may include production sites that are separately managed for phytosanitary purposes (CEPM, 1999).

**plant products.** Unmanufactured material of plant origin (including grain) and those manufactured products that, by their nature or that of their processing, may create a risk for introducing and spreading pests (IPPC, 1997; formerly plant product).

**Plant Protection Act.** Legislation providing the authority to prohibit or restrict imports, exports, interstate and intrastate movement of plant pests, plants, plant products, noxious weeds, biological control agents, and means of conveyance.
**Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ).** organizational unit within USDA–APHIS accountable for assisting applicants in meeting the plant quarantine import requirements of foreign countries.

**plant protection organization (national).** refer to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) on page Glossary-1-11.

**plant quarantine.** all activities designed to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests or to ensure their official control (FAO, 1995).

**planting (including replanting).** any operation for placing plants in a growing medium, or by grafting or similar operations, to ensure their subsequent growth, reproduction, or propagation (CEPM, 1999).

**plantlets.** as relates to seed potatoes, plantlets are small plants produced under aseptic culture conditions in a laboratory.

**plants.** living plants and parts thereof, including seeds and germplasm (IPPC, 1997). Any plant (including any plant part) for or capable of propagation, including a tree, tissue culture, plantlet culture, pollen, shrub, vine, cutting, graft, scion, bud, bulb, root, and seed. (Plant Protection Act). As relates to seed potatoes, plants are rooted plants produced under a screenshow, greenhouse, or field environment.

**plants for planting.** plants intended to remain planted, to be planted, or replanted (FAO, 1990).

**plants in vitro.** commodity class for plants in an aseptic medium in a closed container (CEPM, 1999; ICPM, 2002; formerly plants in tissue culture).

**point of entry.** airport, seaport, or land border point officially designated for importing consignments and/or passenger entrance (FAO, 1995).

**PPQ Form 572.** application of Inspection and Certification of Domestic Plants and Plant Products for Export. Official form providing the information needed to complete an export certificate and serving as a worksheet for the Authorized Certification Official (ACO) conducting the inspection. Refer to Completing Application for Export Certification (PPQ Form 572) on page 3-2-1 for directions on how to complete the application.

**PPQ Form 577.** accountable inspection certificate used to certify domestic plants and unprocessed or unmanufactured agricultural commodities for export that have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures. These commodities are considered to be free of quarantine pests specified by the importing country and conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing country, including those for regulated, nonquarantine pests.

**PPQ Form 578.** accountable certificate used to certify eligible processed plant products.
**PPQ Form 579.** accountable form used to certify, based on an original foreign phytosanitary certificate and/or an additional inspection, commodities that officially entered the United States are considered to conform to the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country, and have not been subjected to the risk of infestation or infection during storage in the United States. PPQ Form 579 may also be used to certify commodities of foreign origin intended for reexport to a U.S. affiliated island.

**PRA area.** area in relation to which a pest risk analysis (PRA) is conducted (FAO, 1995).

**practically free.** of a consignment, field, or place of production, without pests (or a specific pest) in numbers or quantities in excess of those that can be expected to result from, and be consistent with, good cultural and handling practices employed in the production and marketing of the commodity (FAO, 1995). As a working definition for export certification purposes, “practically free” means not to exceed a 2% infestation level unless otherwise stated by the importing country. Also, “practically free” refers to a judgment that the pests are not in excess of the amount expected to result from, and be consistent with, good culturing and handling practices employed in the production and marketing of the commodity. When FGIS inspection certificates are used as supporting documentation for certifying grain, “practically free” refers to FGIS’s acceptance standards for insects found in grain.

**processed plant product.** commodity derived from a plant subjected to a procedure believed to have rendered the commodity free of plant pests; refer to PExD for a list of processed products eligible for certification.

**propagative plant material.** plants or plant parts for planting or multiplication (RSPM No. 3).

**propagules.** any plant part used for asexual propagation (RSPM No. 3).

**protocol.** plan for communicating questions, concerns, and unresolved issues about export certification; refer to Appendix A on page A-1-1.

**Potato Virus X (PVX).** most widespread of all potato viruses; it is also referred to as latent mosaic, potato latent virus, and potato mottle virus.

**quarantine.** official confinement of regulated articles for observation and research or for further inspection, testing, and/or treatment (FAO, 1995; CEPM, 1999).

**quarantine area.** area within which a quarantine pest is present and is being officially controlled (FAO, 1995).

**quarantine pest.** pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered and not yet present, or present, but not widely distributed and officially controlled (FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997). As relates to the U.S./Canada Greenhouse Certification Program, quarantine pests are identified by each
importing country and are listed as prohibited pests in the importing country’s plant quarantine import requirements (export summary). Quarantine pests are those of potential economic importance to the area endangered, and are not present, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

**reeported consignment.** Consignment imported into a country from which it is then exported. The consignment may be stored, split up, combined with other consignments, or have its packaging changed (formerly country of reexport) (CEPM, 1999; ICPM, 2002).

**refusal.** Forbidding entry of a consignment or other regulated article when it fails to comply with phytosanitary regulations (FAO, 1995).

**Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO).** Intergovernmental organization with the functions laid down by Article IX of the IPPC (FAO, 1995; CEPM, 1999; formerly plant protection organization (regional)).

**regional standards.** Standards established by a Regional Plant Protection Organization for instructing the members of that organization (IPPC, 1997).

**regulated article.** Any plant, plant product, storage place, packaging, conveyance, container, soil or any other organism, object, or material capable of harboring or spreading pests, requiring phytosanitary measures, particularly where international transportation is involved (FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997).

**regulated nonquarantine pest (RNQP).** Nonquarantine pest whose presence in plants for planting affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party (IPPC, 1997).

**regulated pest.** Quarantine pest or a regulated nonquarantine pest (IPPC, 1997).

**replacing certificates.** Term “replace” refers to substituting a new certificate for a previously issued certificate. The replacement may be the result of ACO errors or at the request of an applicant for various reasons.

**release (of a consignment).** Authorization for entry after clearance (FAO, 1995).

**replanting.** Refer to planting (including replanting) on page Glossary-1-14.

**restriction.** Phytosanitary regulation allowing the importation or movement of specified commodities subject to specific requirements (CEPM, 1999).

**round wood.** Wood not sawn longitudinally, carrying its natural rounded surface, with or without bark (FAO, 1990).

**sawn wood.** Wood sawn longitudinally, with or without its natural rounded surface, with or without bark (FAO, 1990).
**seed potato certification.** officially adopted scheme for producing potato propagative materials meeting prescribed requirements for potato pest freedom and varietal purity (*RSPM No. 3*).

**seed potatoes.** potato plantlets, plants, microtubers, minitubers, tubercles, and tubers.

**seeds.** commodity class for seeds for planting or intended for planting and not for consumption or processing (refer to *grain* on page *Glossary-1-7*) (ICPM, 2001).

**shipment.** as a working definition for export certification purposes, “shipment” means one exportation of commodities from one applicant to one consignee in one country on one means of conveyance. In most cases, only one export certificate is issued per shipment; also refer to *consignment* on page *Glossary-1-4*.

**shipping date.** date a shipment physically leaves the exporting country.

**soil.** loose surface material of the earth in which plants grow, in most cases consisting of disintegrated rock with an admixture of organic material (Soil Movement Position Paper) (NAPPO, 2004).

**spread.** expanding the geographical distribution of a pest within an area (FAO, 1995).

**standard.** document established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines, or characteristics for activities or their results aimed at achieving the optimum degree of order in a given context (FAO, 1995; ISO/IEC GUIDE 2:1991 definition).

**State phytosanitary certificate.** document issued by a plant regulatory official of a State Department of Agriculture attesting to the phytosanitary condition of commodities. State phytosanitary certificates are not to be used for international trade.

**State Plant Health Director (SPHD).** administrator within USDA–APHIS–PPQ responsible for pest prevention and the export certification program within their assigned State(s).

**State Plant Regulatory Official (SPRO).** administrator of the section of their state’s Department of Agriculture who deals with pest prevention and export certification. The main administrator in conjunction with the Federal-State Cooperators’ Memorandum of Understanding.

**stored product.** unmanufactured plant product intended for consumption or processing, stored in a dried form (this includes grain and dried fruits and vegetables) (FAO, 1990).
**suppression.** applying phytosanitary measures in an infested area to reduce pest populations (CEPM, 1999).

**surveillance.** official process collecting and recording data on pest occurrence or absence by survey, monitoring, or other procedures (CEPM, 1996).

**survey.** official procedure conducted over a defined time period to determine the characteristics of a pest population or to determine which species occur in an area (CEPM, 1996).

**terrestrial plants.** any plants (including epiphytic plants), except marine plants.

**test.** official examination, other than visual, to determine if pests are present or to identify pests (FAO, 1990).

**third country requirements for reexports.** foreign import requirements for the destination country from the country of origin.

**time limit.** maximum time allowed between the date of inspection of the commodity and the issuance date of an export certificate unless otherwise specified by the importing country. This limit is established by the importing country or PPQ.

**treatment.** official procedure for killing, inactivating, or removing pests, or for rendering pests infertile or for devitalization (FAO, 1995; ISPM No. 15; ISPM No. 18; ICPM, 2005).

**tubercles.** small tubers produced in leaf axils of leaf bud cuttings.

**tubers.** as relates to seed potatoes, potatoes produced under field conditions.


**vegetable seed.** specific seed of the kinds and varieties that are or may be grown in gardens or on truck farms and are or may be generally known and sold under the name of vegetable seed; refer to 7 CFR 361.1 for a list of vegetable seed.

**visual examination.** physical examination of plants, plant products, or other regulated articles using the unaided eye, lens, stereoscope, or microscope to detect pests or contaminants without testing or processing (ISPM No. 23).

**wood.** commodity class for round wood, sawn wood, wood chips, or dunnage, with or without bark (ICPM, 2001).

**wood packaging material (WPM).** wood or wood products (excluding paper products) used in supporting, protecting, or carrying a commodity (includes dunnage) (ISPM No. 15 and 7 CFR 319.40-1).
**workplan.** official document specifying the phytosanitary measures agreed to by the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) of both importing and exporting countries, intended to prevent the movement of regulated pests while facilitating trade of plants and plant products (*RSPM No. 19, Bilateral Workplans*).

**World Trade Organization (WTO).** global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations (also refer to *WTO*).

**wort.** liquid portion of malted grain; it is a solution of malt sugar and other water-soluble extracts from malted mash.

**XPM.** Initials representing the *Export Program Manual*. 
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