



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization

Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM)

RSPM 37

Phytosanitary measures to facilitate the trade of Christmas trees
(DRAFT)

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Contents

Review.....	3
Approval.....	3
Implementation.....	3
Amendment Record.....	3
Distribution.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Scope.....	4
References.....	4
Definitions, Abbreviations, and Acronyms.....	5
Outline of Requirements.....	5
1. General Requirements.....	5
2. Specific Requirements of Producers.....	5
2.1. Integrated pest management.....	6
2.1.1. Annual growing season monitoring of pests.....	6
2.1.2. Pest detection.....	6
2.1.3. Pest control strategies.....	6
2.1.4. Harvesting.....	7
2.1.5. Shaking of trees.....	7
2.1.6. Storage.....	7
2.1.7. Traceability.....	7
2.1.8. Presentation for official inspection prior to shipment.....	7
3. Requirements of the NPPO exporting country.....	7
3.1. Audit of the production system.....	8
3.2. Training.....	8
3.3. Inspection of exports.....	8
3.4. Certification.....	8
4. Compliance with the importing country requirements.....	8
5. Non-compliance with the importing country requirements.....	8

Review

NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures are subject to periodic review and amendment. The next review date for this NAPPO standard is YY XXXX 20XX. A review of any NAPPO Standard may be initiated at any time upon the request of a NAPPO member country.

Approval

This Standard was approved by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Executive Committee on YY XXXX 20XX and is effective immediately.

Signed by:

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Implementation

See the attached implementation plans for implementation dates in each NAPPO country.

Amendment Record

Amendments to this Standard will be dated and filed with the NAPPO Secretariat.

Distribution

This standard is distributed by the NAPPO Secretariat, to the Industry Advisory Group (IAG) and Sustaining Associate Members (SAM), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, and to other Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs).

Introduction

Christmas trees are increasingly important commodities traded between NAPPO members and countries surrounding the NAPPO region.

Importing countries are seeking products which comply with phytosanitary import requirements and the exporting industry is often seeking stable import requirements and in particular production measures that may be applied to products to ensure consistent market access. The development of harmonized measures among NAPPO members allows for safe trade in Christmas trees with little disruption at points of entry. Harmonized measures could also be used as the basis of bilateral trade between NAPPO countries and trading partners outside of the NAPPO region. Standardized production, training and certification methods in accordance with import requirements may ensure that trees move in a manner consistent with phytosanitary import requirements.

It should be recognized that although Christmas trees present a risk of pest movement, the intended use is limited and occurs within a specific period of the year when forest pest establishment may be less likely in some areas. The measures prescribed are intended to reduce the risk of pests moving on Christmas trees.

Scope

This standard provides guidelines for the application of phytosanitary measures to facilitate the trade of Christmas trees.

Branches and wreaths made from conifers which may or may not accompany Christmas trees, or potted trees intended for use as Christmas trees, which include roots and soil, are not covered by this standard but may be regulated. Exporters should consult with their National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) regarding the import requirements for these commodities.

References

IPPC. 1997. International Plant Protection Convention. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

ISPM 1. 1995. *Principles of Plant Quarantine as Related to International Trade*, Rome, IPPC, FAO.

ISPM 5. (updated annually). *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

ISPM 13. 2001. *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

ISPM 23. 2005. *Guidelines for inspection*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

NOM-013-SEMARNAT, 2010. *Que regula sanitariamente la importación de árboles de navidad naturales de las especies de los géneros Pinus y Abies; y la especie Pseudotsuga menziesii*. SEMARNAT, Mexico City, Mexico.

SEMARNAT, 2009. *Estudio de analisis de riesgo de plagas de los insectos y patogenos exoticos que pueden entrar en los arboles de navidad que se important de Estados Unidos y Canada a Mexico*. Mexico City, Mexico.

RSPM 5. (updated annually). *NAPPO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*. Ottawa, NAPPO.

RSPM 19. 2012. *Bilateral workplans*. Ottawa, NAPPO.

Definitions, Abbreviations, and Acronyms

Definitions, abbreviations and acronyms of phytosanitary terms used in the present standard can be found in ISPM 5 and RSPM 5.

Outline of Requirements

1. General Requirements

This standard provides guidelines on integrated measures applied during the production, harvest and export of Christmas trees which are intended to address the phytosanitary risks associated with the international movement of the commodity. Christmas trees covered by this standard are those which are free of cones, roots and soil and include but are not limited to the following species: *Abies*, *Pinus*, *Cedrus*, *Thuja*, *Picea* and *Pseudotsuga*. Importers should consult with their NPPOs to confirm the requirements of the importing country.

As an alternative to integrated measures described in this standard, in some cases, a single measure such as inspection or treatment may be sufficient to manage the pest risks associated with a specific movement of Christmas trees. Requirements for inspection or treatment should be based upon technical justification. Further guidance is provided in ISPM 23: 2005. Certain treatments may severely damage trees resulting in a shortened period of use. NPPOs should consider the use of integrated measures as an alternative to treatment in these situations.

This standard may be used as the basis for the movement of Christmas trees. It includes specific requirements of producers and the NPPO of the importing and exporting countries. Bilateral arrangements will determine the extent of the integrated measures required.

Importing countries should complete a pest risk analysis to determine if any phytosanitary measures are required for the import of Christmas trees or to determine the extent to which the measures described in this standard or other measures should be required of imports to manage pest risks.

The phytosanitary risks from regulated pests moving with Christmas trees may be reduced by a combination of measures contained in this standard. Import requirements to address specific pests may be established by NPPOs through bilateral arrangement leading to the development of bilateral workplans (as per RSPM 19: 2012).

2. Specific Requirements of Producers

2.1. Integrated pest management

Producers should develop a documented pest management plan, in cooperation with and approved by the NPPO of the exporting country based upon the requirements specified by the importing country. The plan may include one or more of the following production activities.

2.1.1. Annual growing season monitoring of pests

Examination of plant material in the production area intended for export should be undertaken at least on an annual basis to determine the location and degree of infestation by regulated pests. Multiple examinations may be required to identify pests whose timing varies with other pests being surveyed for. Examination should be conducted when detection is most likely to occur. Documentation (e.g. maps) should be available to describe the fields or lots where the trees are grown, particularly in relation to any surrounding vegetation. Examinations should follow a random pattern through the production area. Examinations should be conducted in an intensive manner in which trees are examined at a frequency and intensity established by their NPPO, based upon regulated pests present in the area of production. Records of the examinations conducted containing information on the areas examined, the date of examination, any pests detected, the severity of infestations, pest control actions taken in response to infestations and any other relevant information should be maintained for a period of two years.

2.1.2. Pest detection

As appropriate, a pest detection program utilizing available monitoring traps (e.g. pheromone based, sticky traps or semio-chemical traps) should be established to monitor for known regulated pests within the production area in order to ensure the early detection of pests. The producer should work with their NPPO to ensure proper identification of the pest and the determination of an appropriate strategy effective in controlling the pest. Areas which present ongoing problems should be identified, documented, and prioritized to develop effective control strategies. Records of pest detection should be maintained for a period of at least two years.

2.1.3. Pest control strategies

Control strategies which may be used to manage pests include:

- i. Cultural controls including the use of fertilization, plant selection, pruning, culling and weed control can be used to enhance vigour and create conditions unsuitable for pests to survive. The strategy may be limited where pests are detected once plants are established and the pests are transient;
- ii. Physical controls including the use of physical barriers such as screens, hoop houses, or other modifications made to the growing conditions of the plants to reduce pest populations;
- iii. Biological controls using beneficial organisms to control pests, and;
- iv. Chemical controls.

Producers should consult with their NPPO to determine if pest levels in the production areas exceed those permitted for exporting Christmas trees from that area. The producers should apply the appropriate strategy to reduce pest incidences when detected. Records of

treatment application including records identifying the target pest and the success of the strategy as identified through subsequent field examinations should be retained for a period of two years.

2.1.4. Harvesting

Trees harvested for export should be free of regulated pests and their signs and symptoms. Producers should handle trees during harvest in such a manner that prevents the introduction of soil or other contaminants onto the cut tree. Producers should limit the period of time cut trees remain in the field to prevent infestation after harvest, utilize handling areas that are free of soil; ensure that harvest equipment is appropriately cleaned, etc.

2.1.5. Shaking of trees

Trees may be required to be shaken or cleaned to further reduce the incidence of pests remaining on the trees. Trees may be mechanically shaken using a motor or tractor driven shaking unit. This method is considered to be effective in reducing the incidence of pests on trees. Each unbound tree should be shaken for a period of time sufficient to dislodge any insects and other contaminants, and until most of the dead needle fall is eliminated.

2.1.6. Storage

Trees should be stored in a manner that prevents contact with soil and mixing of products readied for export with those awaiting inspection or shaking, or those for other destinations. Separation and storage of the trees should be sufficient to prevent infestation or re-infestation of the trees following shaking or inspection.

2.1.7. Traceability

Producers and those handling trees for export (e.g. brokers, associations, co-operators, etc.) should keep records to enable trace-back to the original production area. This traceability documentation provides the importing country with information to prevent the import of infested trees following detection of pests. It also allows the producer in the exporting country to identify the infested area so that appropriate corrective actions can be taken in order to avoid exporting infested trees.

2.1.8. Presentation for official inspection prior to shipment

Trees may be inspected by the NPPO of the exporting country in the field or following harvest based upon specific bilateral work plans. Producers should present the trees in a manner that permits effective official inspection. Trees should not be bound or packaged and should be presented so that the entire foliage may be inspected.

The surface of the area used for inspection, and conveyance should be free of soil, mud and debris. The trees should be maintained in a manner that ensures that they remain free of pests, soil and debris while awaiting loading.

3. Requirements of the NPPO exporting country

3.1. Audit of the production system

Under the bilateral work plan annual audits of the production system may be required, or alternatively, the NPPO of the exporting country may inspect the product as described in section 3.3. The NPPO of the exporting country may conduct or oversee at least one annual audit of the production system. This may consist of one or more inspections of the production site to verify that regulated pests are being effectively controlled. The NPPO may review records, conduct interviews or observe production activities to verify that integrated measures described in section 2 are met. Timing of production site inspections should correspond with the period(s) when pests are most likely to be detected. Multiple inspections may be required to verify that the requirements of the importing country have been met.

3.2. Training

NPPO's of the exporting country should ensure that producers have access to training in pest management appropriate to the pest risks, identification of regulated pests, export requirements and other phytosanitary information.

3.3. Inspection of exports

Where annual inspections are not required or where annual inspections are not effective in identifying specific regulated pests, the NPPO of the importing country may require that the NPPO of the exporting country conduct an inspection of a random sample of the harvested Christmas trees prior to export. The sample size should be determined through consultation with the NPPO of the importing country based upon pest status, biology, prevalence, etc. The trees should be free of soil and free of regulated pests. Generally the trees for export should be free of signs and symptoms of pests.

3.4. Certification

A Phytosanitary Certificate or acceptable alternative as established through bilateral arrangements should accompany the shipment. The certificate may contain the following additional declaration: *"The products contained in this consignment were produced in accordance with the requirements of NAPPO RSPM 37 Phytosanitary measures to facilitate trade in Christmas trees"*.

4. Compliance with the importing country requirements

Trees shipped under the provisions of this standard may be inspected for signs of regulated pests upon arrival in the importing country. Where inspections confirm that shipments meet the requirements of the importing country, the frequency of import inspections should be reduced or the inspections removed entirely.

Countries may have additional requirements outside of phytosanitary concerns, i.e. human health, the environment, etc.

5. Non-compliance with the importing country requirements

If pests are detected on the imported Christmas trees, the NPPO in accordance with ISPM 13: 2001 should notify the NPPO of the exporting country promptly, to permit the NPPO of the exporting country to establish more stringent inspection requirements for future consignments from that producer (which may include increased frequency of inspection or increased sampling of Christmas trees) until corrective actions result in the shipment of trees in compliance. Should pests continue to be detected by the NPPO of the importing country from a specific producer, the producer may be suspended or terminated from participating in the program prescribed in this standard until appropriate corrective actions have been enacted to satisfaction of the NPPOs of the exporting and importing countries.

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