

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample Policy:
Huanglongbing (HLB)

Overview

A Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS) is a **regulatory sample** from the environment or an APHIS approved exclusionary facility where preliminary diagnostics indicate a USDA regulatory pathogen is present and requires confirmation by the USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST-Beltsville laboratory.

Samples Collected from a Non-Regulated Area

Any **regulatory sample** collected from a non-regulated area that tests HLB positive by a **NPPLAP accredited lab** using the APHIS approved screening test (real-time PCR) Work Instructions is considered a PASS and must be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST-Beltsville laboratory for final determination.

CPHST Beltsville Laboratory
USDA-APHIS-PPQ-S&T Sample
BARC-East, Bldg. 580
Powder Mill Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: (301) 313-9200
APHIS-PPQCPHSTBeltvilleSampleDiagnostics@aphis.usda.gov

Notify APHIS laboratories prior to shipping samples.

Samples Collected from a Regulated Area

A **regulatory sample** collected in a **regulated area** that tests HLB positive in a **NPPLAP accredited lab** using the APHIS approved screening test (real-time PCR) Work Instructions is considered a PASS and must be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST-Beltsville laboratory for final determination under the following conditions:

- The **sample** is an unusual detection (novel symptoms or new host) and/or
- The **sample** will result in the expansion of a previously established regulated area

A NPPLAP certified analyst at a **NPPLAP accredited laboratory** has the authority to make the final determination on a regulatory sample collected from a regulated area (previously confirmed positive by APHIS PPQ S&T) if:

- The laboratory notifies the APHIS national or regional program manager of the positive within 24 hours of the diagnostic result
- APHIS and the state are in concurrence on the list of previously positive regulated areas within the state.

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Definitions

NPPLAP Accredited Lab: A laboratory recognized by APHIS through the National Plant Protection Laboratory Accreditation Program as possessing all the necessary equipment and certified personnel to perform HLB screening tests using the current APHIS work instructions.

Regulated Area: Any APHIS recognized area where HLB has been federally confirmed.

Regulatory Sample: This is a sample of regulatory concern to APHIS for HLB collected by regulatory officials.

Sample: A sample refers to a single bag of leaves or a twig with attached leaves. Each sample is to contain a minimum of 12 symptomatic (unhealthy) leaves; 12-16 leaves if possible. It is strongly encouraged that each sample is from one plant. Regulatory action may commence on one sample confirmed positive.