

Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) Guidelines Amended to Facilitate Research and Field Trials

Effective May 17, 2019, The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) amended the “Canada and United States Guidelines on Surveillance and Phytosanitary Actions for the Potato Cyst Nematodes *Globodera rostochiensis* and *Globodera pallida*,” (PCN Guidelines). The amendment enhances the ability of industry to conduct research while maintaining appropriate safeguarding measures.

Therefore, APHIS and CFIA have, at the request of and in consultation with their stakeholders, updated Section 8 of the guidelines to facilitate field trials (e.g., post-harvest testing, variety evaluations) or other research on potato cyst nematodes (PCN) and to refine the requirements for the movement of small lots of seed potatoes between the United States and Canada with the following amendment:

Current text—Section 8, Paragraph 5 (to be removed):

“Shipments of seed potato samples consisting of 500 tubers or less for trials or research purposes are exempt from these requirements, provided the field has been previously surveyed and found negative for PCN.”

Amended text—To be added to Section 8 as “8.1” at the end of Section 8, after current Paragraph 9:

8.1.0 Seed potato samples for trials or research purposes

Shipments of any class of certified seed potato samples consisting of 500 tubers or less for trials (e.g., post-harvest testing, variety evaluations) or research purposes are exempt from these requirements. The seed potato tuber samples must be harvested from an area not regulated for PCN. Both a phytosanitary certificate and a separate declaration stating the purpose for which the seed is being imported are required. The shipments of seed potato samples must be accompanied by both:

1. A phytosanitary certificate with the following additional declaration:

“These certified seed potatoes were harvested from an area not regulated for potato cyst nematodes (*Globodera rostochiensis* and/or *Globodera pallida*).”

2. A signed declaration from the grower, shipper, processor, dealer or importer, on official letterhead, stating:

“The certified seed potatoes in this shipment are for trials or research purposes, are not for sale, will not be used for increase purposes, and are limited in quantity to 500 tubers or less per lot.”

To see the complete PCN Guidelines document, go to the APHIS PCN Web page at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/nematode/pcn> and click on the text Potato Cyst Nematode Guidelines under the heading Pest Management.

For more information about the PCN Guidelines or requirements for seed potato samples for trials or research purposes, contact Lynn Evans-Goldner, National Policy Manager at (301) 851-2286, or Shelah Morita, Trade Director, Canada at (301) 851-2094.