Certification Programs

Last Modified:

U.S.-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program

Export of greenhouse-grown plants to Canada is simplified by the revised U.S.-Canada Greenhouse Certification Program (GCP). A cooperative greenhouse certification program has been in place between the United States (as the USCGP) and Canada (as the CGCP) since 1996. The program facilitates the trade of greenhouse-grown plants between the United States and Canada by allowing authorized facilities to use an Export Certification Label (ECL, also called a “GCP Sticker”) in lieu of a phytosanitary certificate. To improve the consistency and effectiveness of the program (previously called the USGCP), APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have revised the program requirements. This revised program will replace the previous agreement (USGCP) over a 2-year transition. The GCP also joins the Canadian Greenhouse-Grown Certification Program (CGCP) and the USGCP into one program. The Technical Requirements document outlines the responsibilities of the participating facilities and of APHIS and CFIA under the revised GCP.

- Technical Requirements (654.77 KB), U.S.-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program

Background information on the greenhouse program, an overview of the revised Technical Requirements, and a questions and answers document are provided below to assist participants in meeting the requirements.

- Background: U.S.-Canadian Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program
- Overview and Highlights of the Revised Technical Requirements
- Questions and Answers

The comments and concerns identified by stakeholders during the 2014 consultation period were taken into account during the revisions.

To facilitate an orderly transition to the revised program, APHIS, CFIA, and their cooperators are providing training and assistance to participants. Authorized Facilities in the United States can continue to use their existing USGCP export certification labels to ship to Canada through the transition period. At the end of the transition period, USDA and APHIS will collect the export certification labels and interfacility stamps of any facilities that have not completed the transition to the GCP.

- USDA Approved Facilities Authorized to Participate in GCP (GCP, Revised 2016)
- CFIA Approved Facilities Authorized to Participate in GCP (GCP, Revised 2016)

For More Information

For more information, or if you have questions about the GCP, please send inquiries to ppqexportservices@usda.gov.

See More See Less

U.S. Nursery Certification Program (USNCP) Pilot

The USNCP is a pilot phytosanitary certification program for United States nurseries that ship nursery stock to Canada. The USNCP uses a Phytosanitary Management System (PSMS) to minimize pest risks so that plants consistently meet Canadian import requirements. The program offers an alternative to traditional phytosanitary certification for shipments to Canada.

- USNCP Certification Standards (574.76 KB)

For More Information

For more information, or if you have questions about the USNCP, please send inquiries to ppqexportservices@usda.gov.

European Union (EU) Ash Systems Approach Program

The EU Ash Systems Approach Program provides an alternative treatment to required 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) bark and material beneath the bark that is currently required for ash lumber shipments to the European Union. Companies are able to enroll in an APHIS-approved certification program with the National Hardwood Lumber Association. Member companies may then ship KD lumber with limited amounts of bark present.

View the Participant List for approved facilities.

Print