



## PPQ—International Plant Health Management

International trade in agricultural products feeds the world and supports nearly 1 million American jobs. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)—a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—creates economic opportunity for U.S. exporters in the global marketplace and safeguards U.S. agriculture and natural resources. PPQ accomplishes this by setting international plant health (phytosanitary) standards, resolving trade barriers related to plant health, and certifying U.S. products for export.

### Setting Standards for Global Trade

PPQ is at the negotiating tables of two of the world’s renowned plant health standard-setting organizations: the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). To promote a safe, fair, and predictable global trading system in plants and plant products, PPQ:

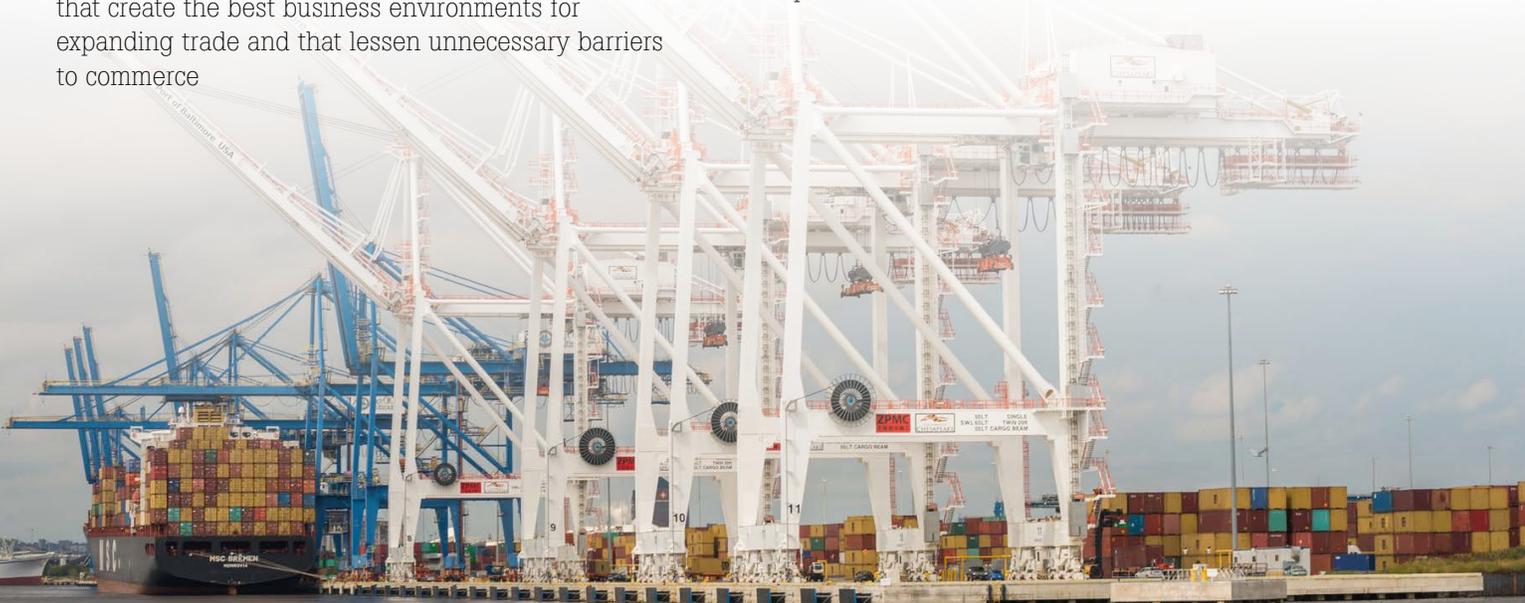
- Develops and maintains strategic long-term relationships with regulatory and technical counterparts at the IPPC and NAPPO and in foreign governments’ agricultural and trade offices
- Makes sure trading partners don’t exchange pests and diseases through commerce by promoting global plant health standards that are rigorous, technically sound, clear, and based on the best science available
- Advances globally consistent phytosanitary standards that create the best business environments for expanding trade and that lessen unnecessary barriers to commerce

- Has led global partners in creating universal standards for evaluating pest risk in traded plant products, forming “pest-free” areas for exporting products, and enhancing the biosecurity of traded wood and wood products
- Heads efforts to develop and adopt new standards for treatments and measures that manage pest risks
- Consults often with industry to determine if new health standards are needed to resolve ongoing trade concerns

### Resolving Plant Health Barriers to Trade

Agricultural exports are vital to the success of local and regional economies across America. USDA’s Economic Research Service estimates that every \$1 billion worth of agricultural exports supports an estimated 7,550 jobs and \$1.27 billion in economic activity. To help U.S. exporters sustain, expand, or gain access to overseas markets, PPQ works to strike down plant health-related barriers to American products that can’t be justified by science. Specifically, PPQ:

- Negotiates bilaterally with trading partner nations to gain new market access for U.S. exporters and to resolve outstanding plant health trade barriers
- Provides technical expertise to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service as they fight against unfair trade barriers at the World Trade Organization and through diplomatic channels





PPQ works closely with international trading partners to reach critical plant health agreements and eliminate trade barriers—sustaining and expanding U.S. export markets valued at more than \$2 billion annually.

- Helps trading partners and U.S. growers identify practical solutions that ensure American crops can continue being exported when plant health issues arise
- Maintains effective domestic control and surveillance programs for pests and diseases with government and industry partners, ensuring that U.S. plants and plant products can be exported
- Helps secure the urgent release of U.S. agricultural shipments wrongly held at foreign ports of entry
- Works with a broad domestic and international network of industry representatives, plant protection officials, and scientists to help exporters develop, submit, and follow up on requests for new market access

## Certifying Exports

U.S. exporters rely on PPQ and its State and county partners to inspect and certify plants and plant products being shipped to markets overseas—all at the speed of international commerce. PPQ:

- Maintains a nationwide team of export certification specialists and database that provide up-to-the-minute information on foreign countries' rules and regulations for the entry of plants and plant products
- Works with State and county partners to inspect U.S. plant and plant product exports, ensuring they are healthy, safe, and comply with foreign requirements
- Manages a fully modernized, internationally accepted system for processing plant health export certificates—issuing hundreds of thousands of certificates every year
- Is piloting a new system that automatically transfers export certificate data directly to the governments of foreign countries receiving U.S. exports, reducing fraud and streamlining the certification process



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Program Aid No. 2202d

Issued September 2016