

Summary of RSPM 37 **Integrated Measures for the Trade of Christmas Trees**

Purpose: Single measures, such as inspection or treatment, may not be sufficient to manage the pest risks associated with the international movement of Christmas trees. The risks may be better managed through a combination of measures applied during production, harvest, and export. This standard provides guidelines for an integrated approach to managing the pest risks associated with the trade of Christmas trees.

Contents: The standard describes the integrated pest management (IPM) measures that are the responsibility of Christmas tree producers, including pest monitoring, detection, and control measures; tree harvesting, storage, and presentation for inspection prior to shipment; and traceability. The requirements for national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) include audit of production systems; training; export inspection; and certification. The standard also describes the components of bilateral workplans and compliance issues.



Summary of RSPM 37: Producers should examine Christmas trees regularly to determine the degree and location of pest infestations. Maps and records should be kept to indicate areas examined, pests detected, and control actions taken. Pest detection should include monitoring methods such as insect pheromone-based or sticky traps. Pest control measures may include cultural controls (e.g., variety selection, pruning, culling, weed control), physical controls (e.g., barriers to reduce pest populations), biological controls (e.g., release of beneficial organisms), or chemical controls. Christmas trees harvested for export should be free of regulated pests and

their signs and symptoms. Trees may be shaken or cleaned to reduce the incidence of pests. Harvested trees should be safeguarded (e.g., stored separately) to prevent infestation or re-infestation following inspection. Records should be kept allowing traceback to a particular production site or place of production in the event that pests are detected during inspection. Trees to be inspected should not be bound or tied.

NPPOs should conduct Christmas tree production system audits, and/or review records, conduct interviews, or observe production practices to ensure that requirements have been met. They should also ensure that Christmas tree producers have access to training on pests, pest management, and export requirements. Export inspections should include random sampling of harvested trees to determine freedom from soil and regulated pests.

Bilateral Work Plans should be developed cooperatively by the NPPOs of the importing and exporting countries and should include requirements for integrated measures and requirements for product inspection. The frequency of inspections may be reduced or removed when import inspections confirm that IPM requirements are being consistently met. Conversely, corrective actions, suspension, or termination from the export program may result for producers who consistently violate IPM requirements.

Please read RSPM 37 for a more complete description of integrated measures for the trade of Christmas trees.

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