



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Conference Call Report

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| Expert Group: | Revision of RSPM 26 | |
| Location: | Zoom video conference | |
| Date: | August 23 and 24, 2023 | |
| Chairperson | Bruno Gallant (CFIA) (August 23 and 24) | |
| Participants: | | |
| Heather Cumming (CFIA) (August 23) | Peter Mason (Agric. Can) (August 23 and 24) | Bob Pfannenstiel (APHIS PPQ) (August 23 and 24) |
| Kirk Martin (APHIS PPQ) (August 23) | Ron Weeks (APHIS PPQ) (August 23 and 24) | John Goolsby (APHIS PPQ) (August 23 and 24) |
| Vicente Rosas Medina (SENASICA) | Carlos Lázaro Castellanos (SENASICA) (August 23 and 24) | Brian Spencer (Canada industry) (August 23 and 24) |
| Melissa Tacolla (US Industry) (August 23 and 24) | Hugo Arredondo (Mexico industry) (August 23 and 24) | Kim Riley (Canada industry) (August 24) |
| Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO) (August 23 and 24) | Alonso Suazo (NAPPO) (August 23 and 24) | Stephanie Dubon (APHIS – PPQ; AMC member) (August 24) |
| Summary | | |
| Project: | Revision of RSPM 26 (<i>Certification of commercial arthropod biological control agents moving into NAPPO member countries</i>) | |
| General comments: | The following report highlights the discussions on the background study paper to review RSPM 26 with the NAPPO expert group. These discussions took place in two two-hour sessions on August 23 and 24, 2023 as an alternative to a face-to-face meeting. | |
| Item 1: | Discussions on the “Background Study Paper” | |
| Consensus: | <p>Important points discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson provided an overview of the status of the background study paper and indicated the sections that need to be completed. • Implementation of RSPMs in the NAPPO region. The chairperson inquired about the implementation of regional standards in the NAPPO region. NAPPO informed that implementation is not required. The standard provides a guide for the NPPOs, but it is up to the NPPO to implement it. EG members indicated that the standard is useful as a guidance document for the NPPOs and industry. • EG members that worked drafting the standard provided a historical overview of the standard and indicated that the | |

purpose of the standard was to provide guidance for the importation of BCAs.

- Peter Mason suggested including in the standard a section indicating, using clear language, the purpose of an RSPM and specifically of this standard.
- EG should consider updating the taxonomy and names of the biological control agents in the Appendix (List of biological control organisms of plant pests approved for commercial importations within the NAPPO region).
- The industry provided information on its status and indicated that inspectors are more aware now about BCAs and plant pests which is important to speed the importation process.
- The industry expressed the following concerns:
 - regulations established by different government agencies regarding the importation of BCAs and suggested coordinating a meeting with the different government organizations involved in the importing permit process.
 - some agencies are unfamiliar with the BCAs. This results in delays and losses of shipments because shipments are not cleared for an extended period. This also provides an opportunity for RSPM 26 to be a guidance document for government agencies unfamiliar with the BCAs and plant pests.
- Consider including a definition for “*Farm raised*” or an equivalent term in the revised standard.
- EG suggested inviting Mrs. Courtney Stonehouse from the USFWS to participate in a video conference call with the EG and address important questions related to the process for the import of BCAs in the U. S. The TD suggested that the NAPPO Secretariat, the EG chairperson, and the US AMC representative organize this special session.
- EG suggested providing specific questions for discussion with Mrs. Stonehouse. Mellisa Tacolla (industry representative) will email questions to the Secretariat.
- The standard should be revised taking into consideration that it only addresses commercially produced BCAs and not wild-caught BCAs.
- The standard should address only import issues within the NAPPO region only.
- Nematodes will not be included in the standard.
- Options considered for the BCA table in the standard:
 - Industry proposed to generate a list of regulations in each NAPPO country that contains lists of BCAs and refer to those regulations in the standard.
 - Regularly update the list (yearly or every two years) to ensure the industry uses the correct taxonomic names. This should include synonyms.

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| Other subjects: | The NAPPO TD encouraged the EG to use the MS TEAMS channel to work on the updates to the background study paper. | |
| Next Steps | | |
| Responsible Person | Action | Date |
| NAPPO and Chairperson | Coordinate an invitation for Mrs. Courtney Stonehouse from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services to participate in a video conference call with the NAPPO EG to help understand the process associated with importing BCA from the USFWS perspective. This meeting will be coordinated with the AMC assistance (Stephanie Dubon – US AMC member). | |
| Melissa Tacolla | Provide questions to the EG for discussion with Mrs. Courtney Stonehouse from the USFWS. | |
| Peter Mason and Bruno Gallant | Update the background study paper and send a copy to the Secretariat for translation. The document will be uploaded onto the EG MS TEAMS channel for additional feedback. | |
| NAPPO Secretariat | Translate the updated background study paper and share it with the EG. | |
| NAPPO Secretariat | Resend the link to the EG MS TEAMS channel. | |
| EG | Provide information to complete the “Current status” section of the background study paper. | |
| Next Meeting | | |
| Location: | TBD the Secretariat will coordinate with the chairperson and send a poll. | |
| Date: | Zoom or MS TEAM video conference | |
| Proposed Agenda Items | | |
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