



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization

Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM)

RSPM 37

Integrated measures for the trade of Christmas trees

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Review

NAPPO Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures are subject to periodic review and amendment. The next review date for this NAPPO standard is 2017. A review of any NAPPO Standard may be initiated at any time upon the request of a NAPPO member country.

Approval

This Standard was approved by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Executive Committee on October 15, 2012 and is effective immediately.

Signed by:



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Canada



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Implementation

See the attached implementation plans for implementation dates in each NAPPO country.

Amendment Record

Amendments to this Standard will be dated and filed with the NAPPO Secretariat. The most recent version will be posted on the NAPPO website at: www.nappo.org/stds_e.htm

Distribution

This Standard is distributed to NAPPO member countries including Sustaining Associate Members and Industry Advisory Groups, the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, and other Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs).

Introduction

Christmas trees are an increasingly important commodity traded between NAPPO member countries and with countries outside the region.

Importing countries are seeking products which comply with their phytosanitary requirements. The exporting industry is seeking transparent and predictable import requirements in order to develop and apply production measures that will enable access to foreign markets. The application of harmonized measures among NAPPO members should facilitate safe trade in Christmas trees and minimize delays at points of entry.

The measures outlined in this standard may be used as the basis for developing more specific and detailed bilateral agreements for trade in Christmas trees. The production, training and certification methods described in this standard are intended to ensure that exported Christmas trees comply with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.

Scope

This standard provides guidelines for the application of integrated phytosanitary measures to facilitate the trade of Christmas trees. These measures are intended to reduce the likelihood of pests moving on Christmas trees.

Christmas trees are coniferous trees usually of the following genera: *Abies*, *Pinus*, *Cedrus*, *Thuja*, *Picea* and *Pseudotsuga*, harvested above the soil line and intended for use in decoration.

Neither branches nor wreaths made from conifers nor coniferous trees with roots and soil are covered by this standard.

References

ISPM 5. (Updated annually). *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

ISPM 13. 2001. *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

ISPM 23. 2005. *Guidelines for inspection*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

RSPM 5. (Updated annually). *NAPPO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*. Ottawa, NAPPO.

Definitions, Abbreviations, and Acronyms

Definitions, abbreviations and acronyms of phytosanitary terms used in the present standard can be found in ISPM 5 and RSPM 5.

Outline of Requirements

This standard provides guidelines for the establishment of an integrated approach to the management of Christmas trees (during production, harvest and the export process) to minimize the movement of quarantine pests. It also includes requirements of the producers as well as of the NPPOs of the importing and exporting countries.

1. Background

It should be recognized that although Christmas trees present a risk of pest movement, their intended use limits that risk. Importing countries should complete a pest risk analysis to determine if any phytosanitary measures are required for the import of Christmas trees or to determine the extent to which the measures described in this standard or other measures should be required of imports to manage pest risks. Exporters should consult with their NPPOs to confirm the requirements of the importing country.

In many cases, a single phytosanitary measure such as inspection or treatment may be used to manage pest risks associated with the trade of Christmas trees. Further guidance is provided in ISPM 23: 2005. Certain treatments, however, may severely damage trees resulting in a shortened period of use. Inspection alone may not effectively address pest risks given the large volumes of trees requiring inspection and the difficulty associated with identifying certain pests through visual examination. NPPOs and producers should therefore consider the use of integrated production measures to better mitigate risk in these situations.

The phytosanitary risks from regulated pests moving with Christmas trees may be best mitigated through a combination of phytosanitary measures applied during production, harvest and export.

2. Requirements of producers

2.1. Integrated pest management

As part of an integrated pest management approach, producers should be required to prepare a documented pest management plan, in cooperation with and approved by the NPPO of the exporting country and based upon the requirements specified by the importing country. The plan may include one or more of the following production activities.

2.1.1 Pest monitoring

Examination of plant material in the production area intended for export should be undertaken at least on an annual basis to determine the location and degree of infestation by regulated pests. Multiple examinations may be required to identify pests whose ideal timing of detection may vary with others also included in the scope of pest monitoring. Examinations should be conducted when detection of pests is most likely to occur.

Documentation (e.g. maps) should be available to describe the fields or lots where the trees are grown, particularly in relation to any surrounding vegetation. Pest monitoring should follow a random pattern through the production area. They should be conducted in an intensive manner in which trees are examined at a frequency and intensity established by their NPPO, based upon regulated pests present in the area of production. Records containing information on the areas examined, the date of examination, any pests detected, the severity of infestations, pest control actions taken in response to infestations and any other relevant information should be maintained for a period of at least three years.

2.1.2 Pest detection

As appropriate, a pest detection program utilizing available monitoring methods (e.g. pheromone based traps, sticky traps, etc.) should be established to monitor for known regulated pests within the production area in order to ensure the early detection of pests. The producers should work with their NPPO to ensure proper identification of the pest and the determination of an appropriate and effective strategy to control it. Areas which present ongoing problems should be identified, documented, and prioritized to develop effective control strategies. Records of pest detection should be maintained for a period of at least three years.

2.1.3 Pest control strategies

Control strategies which may be used to manage pests in the field include:

- i. Cultural controls such as fertilization, plant selection, pruning, culling and weed control can be used to enhance vigour and create conditions unsuitable for pests to survive.
- ii. Physical controls including the use of barriers such as screens, hoop houses, or other modifications made to the growing conditions of the plants to reduce pest populations;
- iii. Biological controls using beneficial organisms, and;
- iv. Chemical controls.

Should producers detect regulated pests they should advise their NPPO. The NPPO will determine if the pest levels in the production area exceed those permitted for exporting Christmas trees from that area. The producers should apply the appropriate strategy (as recommended by the NPPO) to reduce pest presence. Records of treatment application including those identifying the target pest and the efficacy of the strategy as demonstrated through subsequent field examinations should be retained for at least three years.

2.1.4 Harvesting

Trees harvested for export should be free of regulated pests and their signs and symptoms. Producers should handle trees during harvest in such a manner that prevents adhesion of soil or other contaminants onto the cut tree. Producers should limit the period of time cut trees remain in the field to prevent infestation after harvest, utilize handling areas that are free of soil, ensure that harvest equipment is appropriately cleaned, etc.

2.1.5 Shaking of trees

Trees may be required to be shaken or cleaned to further reduce the incidence of pests remaining on the trees. Trees may be mechanically shaken using a motor or tractor driven shaking unit. This method is considered to be effective in reducing the incidence of some pests on trees. Each unbound tree should be shaken with sufficient intensity and duration to dislodge insects and other contaminants, and until most of the dead needle fall is eliminated.

2.1.6 Storage

Trees should be stored in a manner that prevents contact with soil and mixing of products ready for export with those awaiting inspection or shaking, or those for other destinations. Separation and storage of the trees should be sufficient to prevent infestation or re-infestation of the trees following shaking or inspection.

Christmas trees should not be commingled with branches, greenery or wreaths.

2.1.7 Traceability

Where possible, producers and those handling trees for export (e.g. brokers, associations, co-operators, etc.) should keep records to enable traceback to a specific production site or place of production. This traceability documentation provides the NPPOs of the exporting country with information that enables it to prevent the export of infested trees following detection of pests. It also allows the producer in the exporting country to identify the infested area so that appropriate corrective actions can be taken in order to avoid exporting infested trees.

2.1.8 Presentation for inspection prior to shipment

Trees may require inspection by the NPPO of the exporting country in the field or following harvest should other measures fail to mitigate a specific pest risk. Producers should present the trees in a manner that permits effective inspection. Trees should not be bound or packaged and should be presented so that the entire foliage may be inspected.

The surface of the area used for inspection, and conveyance should be free of soil, mud and debris. The trees should be maintained in a manner that avoids contamination by pests, soil and debris while awaiting loading.

3 Requirements of the exporting NPPO

3.1 Audit of the production system

Annual audits of the production system may be required, or alternatively, the NPPO of the exporting country may inspect the product as described in section 3.3. The NPPO of the exporting country may conduct or oversee at least one annual audit of the production system. This may consist of one or more field inspections to verify that regulated pests are being effectively controlled.

The NPPO may also review records, conduct interviews or observe production activities to verify that integrated measures described in Section 2 are undertaken. Timing of onsite visits should correspond with the period(s) when pests are most likely to be detected. Multiple visits may be required to verify that the requirements of the importing country have been met.

3.2 Training

The NPPO of the exporting country should ensure that producers have access to training in pest management, identification of regulated pests, export requirements and other relevant phytosanitary information.

3.3 Inspection of exports

When pest monitoring in the field is not required or not effective in identifying specific regulated pests, the NPPO of the importing country may require that the NPPO of the exporting country conduct an inspection of a random sample of the harvested Christmas trees prior to export. The trees should be free of soil and free of regulated pests.

3.4 Certification

A Phytosanitary Certificate or acceptable alternative should accompany the shipment. The certificate may contain the following additional declaration: *“The products contained in this consignment were produced in accordance with the requirements of NAPPO RSPM 37 Integrated measures for the trade of Christmas trees”*.

4 Bilateral workplans

Specific activities related to the overall integrated production approach should be included in bilateral workplans developed cooperatively by the NPPOs of the exporting and importing countries. General information that may be covered under a bilateral workplan can be found in RSPM 19: 2012. Other relevant topics may include:

- The specifics related to the integrated measures required to address regulated pests;
- The requirements for product inspection by the exporting and importing NPPOs;
- The sample size used in inspections;
- The frequency of inspections;

- The possibility of using an alternative document to a phytosanitary certificate;
- Other phytosanitary measures agreed to by NPPOs.

5 Compliance with the importing country requirements

When import inspections confirm that shipments consistently meet the importing requirements, the frequency of import inspections should be reduced or the requirement for import inspections removed entirely.

6 Non-compliance with the importing country requirements

If regulated pests are detected on the imported Christmas trees, the NPPO of the exporting country should be notified promptly, in accordance with ISPM 13: 2001. This will permit the NPPO of the exporting country to establish more stringent requirements where required for future consignments from that producer. The NPPO may also increase the frequency of inspection, the sampling rate or require other measures, until corrective actions result in compliance. Should regulated pests continue to be detected on shipments from a specific producer, the producer may be suspended or terminated from participating in the program. The producer may be re-instated by the NPPO of the exporting country when once the producer demonstrates the ability to maintain compliance.