



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas
MEXICO - USA - CANADA

Specifications for a Standard on Transfer of Oversight Programs

Specification number NAPPO 2012 - 01

Title or proposed title: Transfer of Oversight Programs within NAPPO Countries

Reason for the document

Since the early 1990's there has been a proliferation of agricultural export programs using a wide variety of phytosanitary measures to mitigate pest risk. Increasingly, importing countries have required oversight by official representatives of their NPPO of the phytosanitary measures imposed in the exporting country.

In certain cases, such as the pest free areas in Northern Mexico and apple export program in the Pacific Northwestern United States, the importing country agreed to turn over oversight to the NPPO of the exporting country. But in many export programs, oversight of the export program by the importing country's NPPO remains. These oversight programs are costly and present a significant barrier to trade, especially in small developing export programs with limited financial resources.

Oversight programs could easily be performed by the NPPOs of the exporting country. All three NPPOs of the NAPPO countries are fully developed and staffed with outstanding plant health professionals, capable of enforcing any pest risk mitigation program. All actions or activities done by the importing country's NPPO in the exporting country could more effectively and efficiently be done by the NPPO of the exporting country, in conjunction with a system of auditing by the importing NPPO. Such oversight is possible for all export programs, whether new or pre-existing; whether based on treatments, systems approaches, or just regulatory inspections.

Such a transition in oversight simply needs a clear definition of success, clear expectations, and a mutually agreed system of quality assurance.

Relevance to fulfillment of the NAPPO Strategic Plan:

This proposal is fully within the spirit of NAPPO, as well as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to reduce barriers to commerce across the borders and to build trust and promote economic cooperation and trade.

This document will address the following NAPPO Strategic Goals:

- No. 1, Protecting Plant Resources and the Environment, by developing a guideline to respond to trade issues and trends, and advocating the implementation of harmonized phytosanitary measures to protect North America from the introduction of regulated pests;
- No. 4, Building Partnerships, by developing closer working relationships with other stakeholders to seek their active participation in and support for NAPPO activities in international trade.

Scope and purpose:

Using the framework of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), this standard will provide a clear timetable and a process on how to reduce involvement in oversight programs in NAPPO member countries. Upon implementation of this program, the NPPO of the exporting country will be able to conduct all sustained oversight activities in support of phytosanitary programs which mitigate pest risk of agricultural products for export to another NAPPO member country.

Oversight by an NPPO in the exporting country is often needed to ensure that phytosanitary measures are properly applied in the exporting country. This reduces the pest risk to the importing country since risk mitigation activities are conducted prior to the product arriving at the border. This process would allow oversight of the application of phytosanitary to be transferred to the NPPO of the exporting country. The process will be defined in a jointly developed and approved work plan which will clearly define the procedures that must be followed. Upon evaluation of a current oversight program, pest risks that can be adequately handled by port of entry inspection should be exempt and not require a work plan.

Tasks:

Experts should discuss and produce a document which outlines the procedure for oversight reduction.

Key issues that should be addressed in the document may include:

- Develop a guidance for transferring oversight phytosanitary activities from officials of the importing country to officials in the exporting country
- Describe the level of oversight and the specific duties of the NPPO in the exporting country, cooperators and industry
- Define expectations, including a description of success and failure of the program
- Define audit procedures (i.e. internal audits and audits at port of entry)
- Prescribe corrective actions, as needed
- Develop standard procedures for handling major failures detected in the system, such as survival of live quarantine pests
- Describe in the document suspension, reinstatement and recourse for programmatic failures
- Provide guidance on developing a procedure that outlines how the NPPO of the exporting country could measure and demonstrate successful oversight of the program

(e.g. number of cartons shipped, number of cartons inspected, number of fruit inspected, quarantine pests detected during inspection, etc.) .

Expertise:

Panel expertise may include:

- Experience with work plans that utilize systems approaches for pest risk management
- Phytosanitary programs management
- Bilateral negotiations
- Pest surveys
- Field sanitation
- Phytosanitary security
- Packing house procedures, including pesticide applications and inspections
- Post-harvest quarantine treatments including fumigation, irradiation, hot water, vapor heat, and cold treatment
- Regulatory inspection

Participants:

1-2 experts from each NAPPO country with required experience to accomplish the tasks.

References:

ISPM 1. 2006. *Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

ISPM 4.1995. *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

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

ISPM 14. 2002. *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

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

ISPM 24. 2005. *Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.


RSPM 2. 2008. *Guidelines of Pre-clearance programs*. Ottawa, NAPPO.

RSPM 19. 2003. *Guidelines for Bilateral Workplans*. Ottawa, NAPPO.

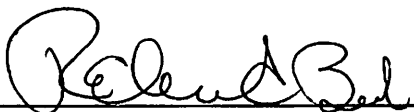
Approval:

This Specification was approved by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Executive Committee on February 28, 2012 and is effective from this date.

Approved by:



Greg Stubbings
Executive Committee Member
Canada



Rebecca A. Bech
Executive Committee Member
United States



Javier Trujillo Arriaga
Executive Committee Member
Mexico