

Plan for the implementation

1. Name of Standard

RSPM 37 – Integrated measures for the trade of Christmas trees

2. Country Reporting

Canada

3. Relevant Authority

3.1 Canada:

3.1.1 *Plant Protection Act and Plant Protection Regulations*

Under the authority of this *Act* and *Regulations*, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has the mandate to control the import into, export from or movement within Canada of any “thing” that is a pest, that is or could be infested with a pest...” This includes movement of Christmas trees which pose a risk for the movement of quarantine pests. The regulation of exports is based upon the import requirements of trading partners.

3.1.2 Revisions to authority

No revisions to relevant *Act* or *Regulations* are thought to be required.

4. Obtaining Authority to Adopt the Standard

Changes to Legal Authority: no changes to *Acts* or *Regulations* are expected to be required.

5. Implementation of Standard

Many of Canada’s trading partners regulate the import of Canadian Christmas trees by requiring inspection and phytosanitary certification or treatments and/or inspection and phytosanitary certification. In many cases, Canadian exporters are unable to fulfill obligations for treatment given that the application of certain required chemicals reduces the viability of the trees. Based upon the outcome of consultations between the CFIA and the Christmas tree export sector, the CFIA may enter into bilateral discussions with trading partners to establish specific trade based upon RSPM 37.

The movement of serious pests, particularly those of an adventitious nature, is in some cases not well addressed by visual inspection alone. Particularly, with the objective of preventing/eliminating the movement of potentially serious quarantine pests from Canada, the use of a system approach may provide more effective management of pests and may offer significant risk mitigative advantages in trade. The CFIA in cooperation with producers, importers and other stakeholders will evaluate the benefits of implementing RSMP 37 within Canada.

Proposed timeline: based upon outcomes in stakeholder consultations:

- In cooperation with Canadian Christmas tree exporters, the CFIA is in the process of developing and piloting a Christmas Tree Export Certification Program that is an integrated systems approach to the management of pest risk in the movement of Christmas trees in accordance with RSPM 37. Based on internal and bilateral discussions, full implementation of the program (and correspondingly the standard), is anticipated to occur in 2015.

Last updated: July, 2013