

Overview of NAPPO RSPM 02 Guidelines for Pre-clearance Programs

Purpose: This standard describes the framework for establishing a pre-clearance program between NAPPO member countries. Imported plants and plant products are frequently inspected at points of entry (air, land, or sea border ports) in the importing country to reduce the risks of pest introduction alongside imported plants or plant products. However, under certain circumstances, a pre-clearance program may be established. In a pre-clearance program, representatives of the importing country's national plant protection organization (NPPO) may conduct and/or monitor plant health procedures/actions at the point of origin to ensure that import requirements are met before the plants or plant products are exported.

Contents: The standard describes the advantages, disadvantages, and criteria for establishing pre-clearance programs; development of bilateral workplans between trading partners; levels of pre-clearance programs; and the review, duration, and costs of these programs.



Summary of RSPM 02: Pre-clearance programs are useful for mitigating the risk of pest introduction - from the exporting to the importing country - through trade; however, they may not be warranted or practical in all cases. They are typically used for importation of new plant commodities presenting significant risk; to establish new market access; or to re-establish confidence after serious non-compliance issues. Pre-clearance programs should be initiated when both countries agree that they are the most effective and efficient way to facilitate safe trade and should be reduced or terminated when they are no longer justified. In most cases, program costs are

borne by the importing country NPPO alongside the exporting industry.

Among the advantages of pre-clearance programs is the ability to conduct a more thorough inspection prior to export, thereby increasing confidence that consignments will not be rejected at the point of entry. Among the disadvantages are that pre-clearance program costs may be prohibitive relative to the volume and value of consignments, and that programs may undermine confidence in the NPPO of the exporting country.

Among the criteria to be considered before establishing a pre-clearance program are the risks associated with the movement of the commodity; the possible presence of pest(s) that are difficult to detect during a point of entry inspection; inspections at entry might negatively affect product packaging or perishability; the NPPO of the exporting country requests a pre-clearance program due to lack of resources and/or ability to conduct inspections; and volume and value of exports relative to pre-clearance program costs.

Technical requirements for a pre-clearance program should be specified in a bilateral workplan developed by the NPPOs of the importing and exporting countries, and typically include responsibilities of all participants; hours of work, duration of the shipping season, provision of facilities and supplies for inspection purposes; program costs and financial responsibilities; reasons for modifying, suspending, or terminating the pre-clearance program; and corrective actions and dispute settlement procedures.

Please read RSPM 02 for more complete guidance on establishing a Pre-clearance Program.

Photo by My Huyen <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/preclearance-program-resumes-to-continue-exporting-vietnamese-fruits-to-u-s/>