

## Overview of NAPPO RSPM 9 Authorization of Laboratories for Performing Phytosanitary Testing

**Purpose:** The National plant protection organizations (NPPOs) of NAPPO member countries may authorize public or private laboratories to perform plant health (or phytosanitary) testing on their behalf. RSPM 9 describes the criteria and guidelines for NPPOs to authorize plant health testing laboratories.

**Contents:** RSPM 9 has two parts: **the body of the standard**, which describes the rights, obligations, and requirements of both the NPPO and an authorized plant health testing laboratory, and **Appendix 1**, which is an audit checklist that NPPOs can use to evaluate a laboratory's ability to perform plant health testing.



**Summary of RSPM 9:** The NPPO has the authority to evaluate, approve, monitor, suspend and revoke a laboratory's authorization to perform plant health testing. The NPPO is responsible for determining a laboratory's area(s) of expertise; setting the minimum performance standards; evaluating, monitoring, and auditing laboratory competence; and addressing any non-compliance issues. To be authorized and to maintain its authorization, a laboratory must develop and follow a quality system for plant health testing that is based on recognized standards and approved methodologies. The laboratory must also meet certain legal and other requirements regarding personnel, facilities, equipment, and record-keeping.

**Summary of Appendix 1:** The tabular checklist in Appendix 1 guides an NPPO as it determines if an applicant laboratory has met the specific requirements for authorization described in each section of RSPM 9.

**Please read RSPM 9** for a more complete description of the criteria and guidelines for authorizing plant health testing laboratories.

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