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| Main Topic: | Export Certification Workgroup – Meeting |
| Date: | March 18, 2015 |
| Time: | 2:30pm EST |
| Facilitator: | Maggie Smither |
| Scribe: | Julie Clapp |
| Location: | Conference Call Number: 888.844.9904; Code: 3774032 |

Participants:

| Name | Contact Information | Present |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Christian Dellis, Director of Export Services | Christian.B.Dellis@aphis.usda.gov | - |
| Matthew Rhoads, PHP Associate Executive Director | Matthew.A.Rhoads@aphis.usda.gov | - |
| Marcus McElvaine, Senior Export Specialist | Marcus.McElvaine@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Julie Clapp, Export Specialist | Julie.L.Clapp@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Maggie Smither, Export Specialist | Margaret.R.Smith@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Michael Perry, Export Specialist | Michael.J.Perry@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Terrance Wells, Export Specialist | Terrance.D.Wells@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Dick Schading, Export Specialist | Richard.L.Schading@aphis.usda.gov | - |
| Wendy Beltz, Acting Field Operations Director | Wendolyn.beltz@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Camille Morris, Field Operations Outreach Coordinator | Camille.E.Morris@aphis.usda.gov | - |
| Laney Campbell, National Operations Manager | Laney.E.Campbell@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Brad White, National & Western Plant Board Representative | BWhite@agr.wa.gov | X |
| Carl Harper, Southern Plant Board Representative | carl.harper@uky.edu | X |
| Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner, CACASA Representative | mkinoshi@co.tulare.ca.us | X |
| Mike Bryan, Central Plant Board Representative | bryanm@michigan.gov | X |
| Sarah Scally, Eastern Plant Board Representative | Sarah.H.Scally@maine.gov | X |
| Geir Friisoe, Plant Board President, MN SPRO | geir.friisoe@state.mn.us | - |
| Aurelio Posadas, Plant Board Executive Secretary | aureliop@elkgrove.net | - |

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| Clint McFarland, Associate Director for North East (PPQ-FO) | Clint.D.Mcfarland@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Zaida Ortiz, Trade Specialist | Zaida.Ortiz@aphis.usda.gov | - |
| Susan Kostelecky, Export Certification Specialist | Susan.p.kostelecky@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Les Wright, CACASA Representative | lwright@co.fresno.ca.us | - |
| Ingrid Watson, Phytosanitary Issues Management Deputy Director | Ingrid.E.Watson@aphis.usda.gov | X |
| Calvin Schuler, Field Operations Associate Executive Director | Calvin.H.Shuler@aphis.usda.gov | X |

Agenda:

| No. | Topic | Lead |
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| 1. | <p>Introduction of New Participant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ingrid Watson, Phytosanitary Issues Management Deputy Director, Western Hemisphere <i>Ingrid introduced herself and will probably be joining the next few calls to address export issues or take issues back to PIM be resolved. Particularly interested in the ISPM 15 issue with foreign notices on non-compliance.</i> Calvin Schuler, Field Operations Associate Executive Director <i>Maggie covered what Calvin is responsible for</i> PHP Chiefs of Staff (Julie Spaulding and Sharla Jennings) <i>Participated on this call to see what we discuss here – will not be on future calls</i> Dick Shading (PHP Career Ladder Rotational Assignment Program candidate) <i>Dick has been with Export Services for four months on a rotational assignment. This will be his last meeting.</i> | Maggie Smither |
| 2. | <p>PCIT/PExD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>PCIT/PExD Updates</u> <i>PCIT 6.5 update will be coming soon. The exact release date is not known.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Changes will include splitting/combining PCs and how attachments will work. Splitting will make PCs work independently.</i> <i>Minor error fixes</i> <i>What's New messages would be posted based on user roles</i> <u>Electronic Exchange</u> <i>More flexibility with international exchange. Moving forward with Mexico.</i> | Maggie |

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| | <p><i>Continue to work with IPPC regarding hub concept and having members agree to how PCs are coded for e-exchange</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>PCIT Signature Image Use</u> <p>Reminder to ACOs- Submit signature images for use with PCIT if desired; the use of signature images is voluntary.</p> <p>The following link provides the document needed to submit a physical signature to be converted to a signature image in PCIT: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/PCIT_signature_image_form.pdf</p> <p>Completed forms may be sent by mail to Export Services at: USDA, Plant Health Programs – Export Services 4700 River Road, Unit 131 Riverdale, MD 20737</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Aglearn Training</u> <p>The FY 2015 Information Security Awareness (ISA) course and assessment is due soon. Users have until March 31, 2015, to complete the training. A pretest is available for this course. If the user passes the pretest, they do not need to take the course. There is no extension for the March 31, 2015 deadline to complete the training.</p> <p><i>Make sure your ACOs take training. If you miss the deadline, ACOs will be blocked from PCIT.</i></p> <p><i>Carl – how is reaccreditation coming along? Are people still having a hard time getting in? Marcus said it could be settings on individual computers. PCIT developers working with Aglearn to make systems compatible, but if it is a computer setting issue, there’s not much that we can do.</i></p> <p><i>People who are due in the next month or two have been giving an extension. If anyone needs an extension, let ES know.</i></p> | <p>Marcus McElvaine</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p>Chilean Import Requirements for Seed for Planting</p> <p>SAG Chile has revised phytosanitary import requirements for seed (for planting) from all origins. New requirements include laboratory testing, field inspection and treatments for certain botanical species. PIM has secured additional options for satisfying the requirements which will be captured in PEXD commodity summaries. The name of the new import regulation is N.7386/2014 it is available on the SAG webpage, http://www.sag.cl/sites/default/files/res_7386_2014_semillas_hortícolas_y_otras.pdf</p> <p><i>Maggie reiterated that mother plants need field inspection and lab testing. PIM has</i></p> | <p>Maggie Smither</p> |

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| | <p><i>negotiated other options. PExD has been updated. AD option expires at the end of this year. Start working on field inspection and lab testing of mother plants. Spread the word to exporters so they can be in compliance.</i></p> | |
| <p>4.</p> | <p>ISPM 15</p> <p><u>Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade</u></p> <p>Phytosanitary Issues Management has concerns with ISPM 15 non-compliance for US exports and would like to discuss with Export Services a method to decrease non-compliance of wood packaging materials associated with US exports.</p> <p><i>PIM staff has concerns on the volume of FNNC's we get for ISPM15 violations for export. We can't do much for non-agriculture commodities, but we need to determine what we can do to help this issue.</i></p> <p><i>Ingrid- would like to decrease noncompliant WPM that comes into the US so conversely we would like to decrease those going out.</i></p> <p><i>Susan mentioned she's done a lot of outreach. Maybe it's time to go back to those people we've reached before to remind them.</i></p> <p><i>Susan mentioned that she's heard of CBP ports that will give warnings for the first 5 violations and gives violation notices on the 6th strike. Ingrid will ask QPAS about it. There is nothing in the standard about giving chances.</i></p> <p><i>Ingrid asked what we did for exports. What happens when a commodity is presented for inspection and it's not on ISPM 15-compliant pallets?</i></p> <p><i>All we can do is advise the exporter that using noncompliant WPM could cause rejection or delays. We still issue the PC.</i></p> <p><i>Mike Perry suggested reaching out to brokers, freight forwarders, shippers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Maggie reported that companies (Brazil) are aware but it is cheaper to treat non-compliant pallets in a foreign country than to purchase the correct pallets here.</i></p> <p><i>Laney - if pallets are "cargo", they need PCs. If a country sends us pallets, a PC is issued saying the wood is compliant but the pallets themselves may not be marked with the ISPM15 stamp. The PC is the certification.</i></p> | <p>Maggie</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Ineligible Commodity List- Revision by Export Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commodities Ineligible for Certification list is not all inclusive, nor is it intended to perform the exhaustive task of containing all commodities which are considered ineligible for an export certificate. Rather, this list simply addresses the most common queries Export Services has received over the years in determining commodity eligibility. Guidance is provided in the Export Program Manual (XPM). If the product is not listed here and ACOs have questions concerning commodity eligibility, contact | <p>Maggie Smither</p> |

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| | <p>Export Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items on the ineligible commodity list which have traditionally been ineligible for export certification are now eligible. The current list will be revised by Export Services in order to display current eligibility of commodities for export certification. After revision, the new Ineligible Commodity List will be shared with ECW. <p><i>The published list has been distributed with agenda. They're extremely processed, mixed with oil or other. Please take a look and provide feedback.</i></p> | |
| 6. | <p>Official Sampling Method for Seed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it a possibility to officially sample ears of corn for laboratory analysis? The ability to officially collect seed (ears of seed) prior to harvesting all the seed would allow more time for laboratory analysis to be conducted and completed. If sample collection & testing is initiated after harvest the exporter doesn't have adequate time to ship the material. <p><i>Big companies want to harvest, pack, and ship. Could they pick a composite representing all the lines in the field and do a lab analysis? What if one line was found positive, would the whole lot be rejected?</i></p> <p><i>Currently, they harvest the lines, dry the seed and the seed sits in large envelopes. They're sampled and sent to the lab. The company needs to wait for all the individual lab tests to come back before they can ship.</i></p> <p><i>Firm (seed company) needs to know the risk of having the whole lot rejected.</i></p> <p><i>Mike Perry said we would get back to the ECW on this issue.</i></p> | Mike Bryan |
| 7. | <p>Opportunities in Phytosanitary Irradiation for Fresh Produce Workshop March 25-26, 2015</p> <p>Offered by USDA-APHIS and Chapman University</p> <p>The fifth annual "Opportunities in Phytosanitary Irradiation for Fresh Produce Workshop" will take place March 25-26, 2015 at Chapman University in Orange, CA. Over the past five years, Chapman University has partnered with US produce industries and USDA APHIS PPQ to conduct quality studies on a variety of fresh fruit. This project is funded by a USDA FAS Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Grant and is designed specifically to assist in developing export markets for US commodities.</p> <p>The meeting will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Presentation of APHIS trade initiatives •Trade potential for irradiated produce •Results of research on quality of fruit and effects on invasive species •Grocery industry success stories <p>Please register for this event at: www.chapman.edu/food-irradiation-workshop Contacts: Dr. Anuradha Prakash, Prakash@Chapman.edu</p> | Maggie Smither |

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| | <p>Ms. Margaret Smither, Margaret.R.Smith@aphis.usda.gov</p> <p><i>Mike asked about existing facilities. There is Sadex in IA, Gateway America in MS, and the National Center for E-Beam research (Texas A&M). There was a certified facility in FL, but it needs to be recertified due to changes of source material. As far as interstate movement, are there any facilities that do that? Maggie will look into it and report back (individual ears of popcorn that they would rather not MB)</i></p> | |
| 8. | <p>Consistency for Export Certification across the Nation</p> <p>If there are inconsistency issues with export certification across the US, the following should be reported to Export Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commodity and Type ○ Certification Type ○ Duty Station ○ Destination country ○ Explanation of specific event or issue ○ Date of occurrence(s) ○ Explanation provided to applicant from authorized certifying official (ACO) or other official. <p><i>ES continues to try and track inconsistencies. If you hear of anything, please let ES know. Providing as much detail as possible would be helpful.</i></p> <p><i>Mike mentioned they hear a lot of complaints about the inconsistencies in charging fees. Not much we can do about it. Example is trying to resolve a consistency issue within MI about how things are done in the Upper Pen as compared to the Lower Pen.</i></p> <p><i>Susan mentioned that individual states accept a particular Russian document as an IP where other states will not. Mike Perry mentioned official communications is always going to be an issue.</i></p> | Maggie All |
| 9. | <p>Open Discussion</p> <p><i>Feedback from the field (NPB) has been positive re: the webinars. Plant board tomorrow on re-exports. Next ECS call will be on WPM. Laney will be presenting. If you have topics you'd like to see covered, let Susan know. Susan would also like to know how many people are viewing the presentations once they're posted.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Mike Perry will be in CA next week CA Seed Assoc. Meeting to discuss a seed health pilot.</i> ○ <i>Central Plant Board (April 13-16) – Christian and Mike Perry have both been asked to go.</i> | All |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda topics or ideas for next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>ECS webinars – What can be done to improve the webinars? Please solicit feedback from your people and provide and feedback or additional topic ideas to Susan Kostelecky.</i> ○ <i>Export Treatment Update from the ETAG (advisory group)</i> | |
| 10. | <p>Next ECW Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled for Wednesday May 20, 2:30-4:30 PM EST Is that date OK for the group? • Future 2015 ECW Meetings Wednesday July 15th 2:30-4:30 PM EST Wednesday September 16th 2:30-4:30 PM EST Wednesday November 18th 2:30-4:30 PM EST | <p>Maggie Smither</p> <p>All</p> |