

Main Topic	Export Certification Workgroup – Meeting
Date:	February 12, 2014
Time	2:30pm EST
Facilitator:	Maggie Smither
Scribe	Julie Clapp
Location:	Conference Call Number: 888.844.9904; Code: 3774032

MEMBERS:

Name	Contact Information	Meeting Participant
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Agenda:

No.	Topic	Responsible
1.	<p data-bbox="277 300 418 331">PCIT/PExD</p> <ul data-bbox="326 380 781 411" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="326 380 781 411">• PCIT/PExD General Information <p data-bbox="326 457 1097 569"><i>A call for bids was put out in Dec 2013 for the PCIT contract. There were 8 responses. We hope to have new contract in place by end of March 2014.</i></p> <p data-bbox="326 615 1097 726"><i>The packages look pretty good. We're (ES) is too close to be allowed to view packages. From what Christian has heard, one came in really low and may not even be a serious bid.</i></p> <p data-bbox="326 772 1122 884"><i>Once a new contract is in place, the amount of enhancements may slow down as it has recently. Trying to bring more countries into the e-exchange process.</i></p> <p data-bbox="326 930 1130 1073"><i>There are currently some issues with funding. Since the export program has been running in a deficit. Field personnel may see slower responses from help desk as we try to identify ways to save money and keep up support.</i></p> <ul data-bbox="326 1119 1114 1892" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="326 1119 683 1150">• Initial Training – Update<ul data-bbox="423 1199 1114 1892" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="423 1199 1114 1272">○ Provide any update related to Aglearn progress/PDC<p data-bbox="467 1318 1114 1461"><i>It has been a challenge for the developers to beta test course since APHIS is updating security settings on user computers. Ag Learn keeps locking up.</i></p><p data-bbox="467 1507 1114 1692"><i>Lessons 1-4 are working properly. Lessons 5-7 are being tested and hope to be done by the end this week. Once the PDC is completely done with testing, it should be about a week and a half for it to be uploaded to AgLearn.</i></p><li data-bbox="423 1745 1114 1892">○ If at all possible, please encourage people to wait until training is online. Training being conducted now may have outdated references to EXCERPT and other information.	<p data-bbox="1157 380 1341 411">Michael Perry</p> <p data-bbox="1157 531 1398 562">Marcus McElvaine</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reccreditation Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please report course errors/ issues to the Helpdesk and ES. • PCIT Signature Image Use <p>Reminder to ACOs- Submit signature images for use with PCIT if desired; the use of signature images is voluntary.</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>2.</p>	<p>Lumber Certification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KD/HT Lumber – Update on effect of certification guidance document. <p><i>Feedback that that is going well.</i></p> • Bark tolerance on lumber exported to Mexico- How is the total percent bark determined by ACOs for certification? <p><i>Mike had some staff asking about how to do the percent (calculating surface area). They learned quite a bit. It seems to come down to staff getting good at estimating after they've done measurements on some. Definitely a learning curve involved.</i></p> <p><i>According to Maggie, it is left up to the ACO's judgment on how they determine percentage. Some do it mathematically; some just use visual judgment, experience, training, etc. ES doesn't have a chart that they can provide.</i></p> <p><i>We've not heard anything recently about lumber being rejected at the Mexican border due to bark.</i></p> <p><i>Could be that the new bark tolerance policy by Mexico is more of a quality issue than a phytosanitary issues.</i></p> 	<p>Terrance Wells</p> <p>Requested by Mike Bryan (bark tolerance)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US-Mexico Workplan Update- Workplan to allow import of US lumber to Mexico using the certificate of treatment provided by the mill. <p><i>Canada has proposed the same thing. Mexico is reviewing the proposals. Indicated that they would accept it. We received a request from Mexico that they wanted to see our bark requirements in the APHIS regulations. Tyrone Jones has sent them information in 319.40-6 and 40-7. We're waiting for a response.</i></p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Re-Export Certification Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the 2011 policy change which states that foreign origin commodity import requirements (third country requirements) are not stored in PExD be accessible through PExD? It is the responsibility of the exporter to present official communication of third country requirements to ACOs for certification of foreign origin commodities <p><i>EXCERPT contained some third country requirements. When ES migrated the data to PExD, all of the third country information was pulled. A policy was distributed to the field that PExD should not be used for certifying re-exports. The question was raised that should we put the policy doc in PExD somewhere?</i></p> <p><i>According to Mike Perry, this policy is already in the XPM. 2nd step for certifying a commodity. Could possibly include the document in the functionality being developed for external docs. ES will come up with some ideas on how to make it clearer that PExD should not be used for re-exports. Maybe Mike could include information in the XPM definition in PExD external links.</i></p>	<p>Requested by Carl Harper</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Meeting Announcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities in Phytosanitary Irradiation for Fresh Produce Workshop, March 25-26 at Chapman University http://www.chapman.edu/SCST/news-and-events/phytosanitary-irradiation-workshop.aspx <p><i>Workshop is a FAS Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) grant program to create export programs to use irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment. Just an opportunity to share information. (particularly with fresh</i></p>	<p>Maggie Smither</p>

	<p><i>produce)</i></p> <p><i>(This is the same week as the Western PB meeting.)</i></p>	
5.	<p>Open Discussion</p> <p><i>Food to Panama</i> <i>Recurring topic of sending food to Panama. Everything seems to be working well.</i></p> <p><i>What do members of this group want for 2014</i> <i>Anything you want differently? General consensus is that things are going well. (frequency, duration, etc) Reserve the right to cancel if there are no agenda topics. If anything comes up that's pressing, we can always call an ad-hoc meeting. We don't have to wait for the next scheduled ECW.</i></p> <p><i>Big issues have slowed down as more people use PCIT and appreciate the functionality. ES always appreciates it when our users let management know how well PCIT is working for them.</i></p> <p><i>State Phytos</i> <i>MM please remind state offices that state phytos should not be used for international shipment. We had an issue. It was not a PCIT issued phyto.</i></p> <p><i>Issuing Phytos for Frozen Commodities</i> <i>Trade staff still wants us to pursue the option of certifying frozen commodities. Only aware of China requiring a PC for frozen. It's an issue in OR and WA and apparently Canada is issuing phytos (it's the only way to get the product in)</i></p> <p><i>Questions raised by Christian: If we said tomorrow that we could do it, how would we do it? Based on temperature only? Would we even inspect it?</i></p>	<p>Maggie Smither</p> <p>Maggie Smither</p> <p>Michael Perry</p> <p>All</p>
6.	<p>Next ECW Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled for Wednesday April 9th • Is that date OK for the group? <p><i>April 7 -10 is the week of the Eastern Plant Board Annual Meeting</i></p>	<p>Maggie Smither</p>