

<b>Main Topic</b>	Export Certification Workgroup – Meeting
<b>Date:</b>	July 22, 2014
<b>Time</b>	3:30pm EST
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Maggie Smither
<b>Scribe</b>	Julie Clapp
<b>Location:</b>	Conference Call Number: 888.844.9904; Code: 3774032

**MEMBERS:**

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**Agenda:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Export Certification Specialist Area Coverage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussion about new proposed state coverage by ECS.</li><li>• Provide feedback to ECW members about the proposed changes and how changes could affect various states.</li><li>• Relay concerns from SPHDs, Industry or other groups about this change.</li></ul> <p>Decisions were based on balancing workload and making sure every state had ECS coverage (there is at least one state, maybe Oregon? That has been without ECS coverage for a year)</p> <p>Boundaries for each ECS were mainly decided by numbers, but also considered types of certificates issued in the area</p> <p>Time zone coverage could be an issue in some of the areas (I think the ECS territory that included Texas was mentioned where this might be a problem)</p> <p>While this change will be happening for now (not sure when, still needs Union approval), Export Services will be revisiting and possibly revising or revamping ECS coverage areas after 6 months.</p>	Craig Southwick All
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Lumber Certification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peru: New Regulations for Pressure-treated/impregnated wood &amp; lumber</li></ul> <p>Now a PC is required for the material. Historically the material was unrestricted (no PC was required for import into Peru). PIM Trade Director has submitted comments to SENASA. The new publication is named Resolution No. 0012-2014-MINAGRI-SENASA-DSV and may be found at: <a href="http://www.senasa.gob.pe/0/sanidad_vegetal.aspx">http://www.senasa.gob.pe/0/sanidad_vegetal.aspx</a></p>	Maggie Smither
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>PCIT/PExD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PCIT Signature Image Use</li></ul> <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: <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/PCIT_signature_image_form.pdf">http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/domestic/downloads/PCIT_signature_image_form.pdf</a></p> <p>Completed forms may be sent to Michael Perry.</p> <p>There have been some recent changes to the EU summary in PExD – EU’s definition of bark freedom now requires bark removal to a depth of 1 inch and the EU has now recognized that they have brown rot of stone fruit and have de-regulated the disease</p>	Michael Perry

<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Export Certification Manual XPM, Policy</b></p> <p><b>Field Inspections</b></p> <p>States, Counties, and entities accredited under the National Seed Health System conduct field inspections to meet foreign import requirements for various U.S. commodities. Often, foreign countries require a growing season inspection by an official certifying agency in the country of origin, and the results of the inspection may be recorded on a phytosanitary certificate. For the purpose of export certification, USDA-APHIS-PPQ recognizes all State and County field inspection reports as well as those issued by entities accredited under the National Seed Health System. Those with a question pertaining to a field inspection report should contact the issuing State or County for clarification.</p> <p><b>Time Limits</b></p> <p>“Time limits” refer to the amount of time that is allowed between inspections and certificate issuance. PPQ’s policy on time limits is that an export certificate <b>must</b> be issued within 30 days of the phytosanitary inspection.(Footnote) 2</p> <p>It is preferred that exporters request certificates before the shipment leaves the country. Once the product leaves the U.S., options such as re-inspection and treatment are no longer available. In addition to PPQ’s policy on time limits, each importing country may specify its own time limit requirements. PPQ policy <b>must</b> be met even if a country’s time limits refer to the time period between certificate issuance and exportation. If an importing country’s time limit is more restrictive than PPQ’s policy, the importing country’s time limit requirement takes precedence. In order to ensure time limits are met, it is important to understand the difference between each type of date. In order to ensure time limits are met, it is important to understand the difference between each type of date.</p> <p>(Footnote 2): If a consignment leaves the country within the 30 day time limit, then a phytosanitary certificate may still be issued upon request up to 60 days post inspection.</p> <p><a href="#">Any comments? send them soon. Will take written comments so the changes can be implemented before next ECW conference call in August</a></p>	<p>Christian Dellis All</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Consistency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have been working toward the goal of consistency with Export Certification across the nation since it was identified as being problematic to Industry and Industry representatives. Training and emphasis on PPQ policy has provided additional guidance and awareness to people involved with Export Certification.</li> <li>• Does ECW or the Plant Board members have an update about consistency with export certification? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○How are operations since the request for improved consistency among duty stations? What commodities are problematic? What has improved?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Export Services has received input that Accredited Certifying Officials are being overly strict with application details according to policy- have ECW members received the same input?</li> <li>• Export Services has received input that decreased decision making ability and increased work related stress have resulted from the identified “lack of consistency”.</li> </ul> <p>It would be good to evaluate if better consistency has been achieved or where we</p>	<p>Maggie Smither All</p>

	<p>are in this goal and effort to provide feedback to Field Operations</p> <p>Working on fixing problems of consistency. Strategies for improving consistency have included more training as well as pairing ECS with different strengths together to help mentor each other.</p> <p>Looking for a progress report since the issue of consistency was brought to their attention by the NPB. Could use specific feedback on what has improved and what still needs work.</p> <p>Also if there are issues of consistency or problems with states working with particular ECS those concerns (along with specific examples of what the problems are) should be brought to the attention of Laney Campbell (<a href="mailto:Laney.E.Campbell@aphis.usda.gov">Laney.E.Campbell@aphis.usda.gov</a>) so that they can work on correcting any weaknesses and improving ECS service to customers.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p> <p>Unprecedented number of PCIT outages due to issues at NITC, even the backup PCIT site has also not been working. Working on fixes and hopefully will be fewer outages in future</p> <p>AGLEARN training – changes in how people register has caused issues with state and county cooperator getting access for trainings. Working on resolutions and the possibility of having a paper test available. If you are nearing your expiration date and need training it may be possible to get an extension, contact your ECS.</p>	All
7.	<p><b>Next ECW Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled for Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Is that date OK for the group?</li> <li>• How about the upcoming dates?</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup></p>	Maggie Smither