

SUBJECT: PPQ Postentry Quarantine (PEQ) Release Policy

TO: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Purpose:

This policy clarifies the release of restricted plant material under PEQ.

Background:

The intent of PEQ is to detect actionable plant pests and pathogens on restricted plant material and prevent dissemination of infested/ infected plant material as codified in the regulations.

This notice applies to:

- a. Active PPQ Permit holders who are authorized to import restricted plant material pursuant to Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 319.37-7, Postentry Quarantine;
- b. The APHIS PPQ National PEQ Coordinator in Riverdale, MD who is responsible for authorizing release of PEQ material;
- c. APHIS PPQ PEQ liaisons in APHIS field offices;
- d. APHIS PPQ PEQ program managers in APHIS regional offices; and
- e. State Plant Regulatory Officials (SPRO) or their designated representatives responsible for PEQ oversight in their respective States.

Authorities and References

Plant Protection Act as amended, 2000; 7 CFR 319.37-7;

- a. PEQ Manual for State Inspectors;
- b. PPQ Form 546 Agreement for Postentry Quarantine; and
- c. PPQ Permit to Import Plants and Plant Products.

Policy:

It is the policy of USDA APHIS to operate the PEQ program consistent with 7 CFR 319.37-7.

Policy Clarification:

APHIS will consider authorizing release of restricted plant material in postentry quarantine before the end of 2 consecutive calendar years under the following conditions:

1. All restricted plant material under PEQ targeted for release shall meet the inspection and testing requirements for the plant pests and pathogen(s) of concern and must complete 2 sequential growing season inspections occurring within 2 consecutive calendar years;
2. The results of the inspections and testing shall be negative for the plant pests and pathogen(s) of concern; and
3. The request shall be accompanied by a written recommendation from the SPRO or their designated representative.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

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Plant Protection and Quarantine