

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION  
DA-2006-14  
April 5, 2006

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS) System to Enhance Diagnostic Procedures for the *Phytophthora ramorum* Program

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

In 2005, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) established provisional approval for certain laboratories to conduct initial diagnostics for the *P. ramorum* program. To further refine the diagnostic program, we are establishing new policies for the submission of samples to APHIS' laboratories from those laboratories which have been provisionally approved. We have created two documents to communicate this new policy; both are posted to PPQ's *P. ramorum* website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/>. The documents are accessed via the link: "Protocols".

The two documents are:

- **"Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS) System – *Phytophthora ramorum*;"** and,
- **"Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS) System - Comments from Stakeholders and APHIS Response".**

The PASS System is to provide clarity for what samples must be submitted to APHIS by laboratories that have been provisionally approved, including laboratories which have been given identification authority for *P. ramorum* cultures. In addition, this policy will reduce the number of samples submitted so we expect that the time needed to determine if *P. ramorum* is present in samples will be reduced and reporting of results will be faster.

This policy is effective immediately.

**/s/ Paul R. Eggert for**

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