



United States Department of Agriculture

NPAG/DEEP Reviews: Purpose and Value

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PERAL

Risk assessments and decision tools supporting all aspects of the PPQ mission

- Commodity Risk Assessments supporting imports
 - Pest lists and risk assessments supporting exports
 - Weed risk assessments
 - Pathway risk analysis
 - Pest prediction modeling
 - Survey guidelines and sampling plans
 - Economic analysis (e.g. of pest programs)
 - New Pest Response Guidelines (NPRG)
 - Pest prioritization (OPEP)
 - IPPC and NAPPO support
 - Capacity building
 - NPAG
 - DEEP
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- About 150 projects active at any one time
 - Prioritization is a constant challenge



New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG) and Deregulation Evaluation of Established Pests (DEEP)

analytical processes designed to provide pest information and recommend technically justified regulatory positions

NPAG

- Designed to help answer the question: What regulatory actions may be appropriate in the early stages of pest introduction (or to prevent introduction)?
- **New Pests**—recently detected in the continental United States, Hawaii, or any of the U.S. Territories, and PPQ’s National Identification Services (NIS) has officially confirmed the pest’s identification.
- **Exotic Pests**—not yet present in the United States but a new (unregulated) pathway for their introduction has been identified. This includes pests newly introduced into Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.
 - NPAG is linked into the PestLens process

NPAG

- Uses all available relevant information:
 - primary literature,
 - internal and external databases,
 - online materials, and
 - subject matter experts (both within and outside government).
- Partners with Global Pest and Disease Database (GPDD) to obtain complete data on host and distribution ranges.
- Generally has to extrapolate from what is known about the pest's distribution and impact in other countries to potential distribution and impact in the United States.

NPAG

- Makes recommendations to PPQ:
 - **Regulatory status of the pest**
 - Research
 - Risk analysis
 - Surveys
 - Other PPQ actions

DEEP

- Focuses on pests that are established in the United States, but are still actionable at the United States ports-of-entry.
- Does established pest still meet the definition of a quarantine pest?
- Focuses on information relevant to regulatory status, concentrating on known impacts in the United States, in order to evaluate justification for current port of entry policies.
- Results in recommendation on regulatory status

Why do we need technical justification?

- Article 5.1 of the SPS Agreement states that WTO Members “shall” ensure that phytosanitary measures are based on an assessment of risk.
- Risk assessment is a systematic process for gathering, evaluating, documenting, and communicating scientific and other information.
- This involves consideration of economic as well as environmental aspects of pest risk.

What is a quarantine pest?

“a pest of potential **economic importance** to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being **officially controlled.**”
(ISPM No. 5)

What is official control?

“The active enforcement of mandatory phytosanitary regulations and the application of mandatory phytosanitary procedures with the objective of eradication or containment of quarantine pests ...”
(ISPM No. 5)

Justified Phytosanitary Measures

- Under the IPPC phytosanitary measures may be applied to **quarantine pests** that pose an unacceptable risk to agriculture and/or the natural environment.
- Once a pest has become established, measures can be taken if the pest poses an unacceptable risk and efforts are made to **maintain the quarantine status** (*i.e.*, official control)

Phytosanitary Measures not justified if

- The risk is the same or below comparable existing risks that are being accepted.
- The risk is unchangeable and therefore must be accepted.
Phytosanitary measures will not prevent establishment, or eradicate, contain or prevent further spread of the pest.



Uncertainty

Probable versus possible

Impact must be reasonably likely

NPAG

- Quarantine status of the pest
 - Evidence that the pest is/is not already established in United States
- Potential for establishment and spread
 - Establishment potential based on climate and hosts
 - Spread potential based on biology and human-mediated movement

NPAG

- The potential impact in the United States
 - Evidence that the pest is significant in other countries
 - Evidence that the pest will likely cause significant impacts to hosts or an industry in the United States
 - Evidence that the pest will likely disrupt trade
 - Evidence that pest will impact endangered species or natural environments

NPAG

- Necessity and Feasibility of Federal response
 - Evidence that the pest needs control in most settings
 - Evidence that standard practices or controls are insufficient
 - Evidence that eradication or containment is attainable

NPAG

- Assesses if further analysis is needed to determine impact of pest versus cost of regulation
 - inspections and surveys
 - quarantines
 - stop sales
 - destroying plants
 - requiring domestic treatments

NPAG

Carries out a comprehensive survey of relevant available information about a pest to help ensure that PPQ actions are technically justified and compliant with international agreements.

DEEP reports

Designed to determine if it is technically justified to continue action at the ports.

- Evidence that the pest causes significant economic or environmental damage where it occurs in the United States?
- Evidence that the pest is likely to spread and cause damage in additional areas?
- Evidence that containment or eradication of the pest are feasible?

Both NPAG and DEEP...

- Provide **technical justification** for regulations and actions.
- **Only make recommendations**, but do not set policy.



Both NPAG and DEEP

follow a Consultation Process

1. Internal PPQ consultation

Science and Technology

Policy Management

Field Operations

2. National Plant Board members

(for deregulation)

3. Other federal agencies

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

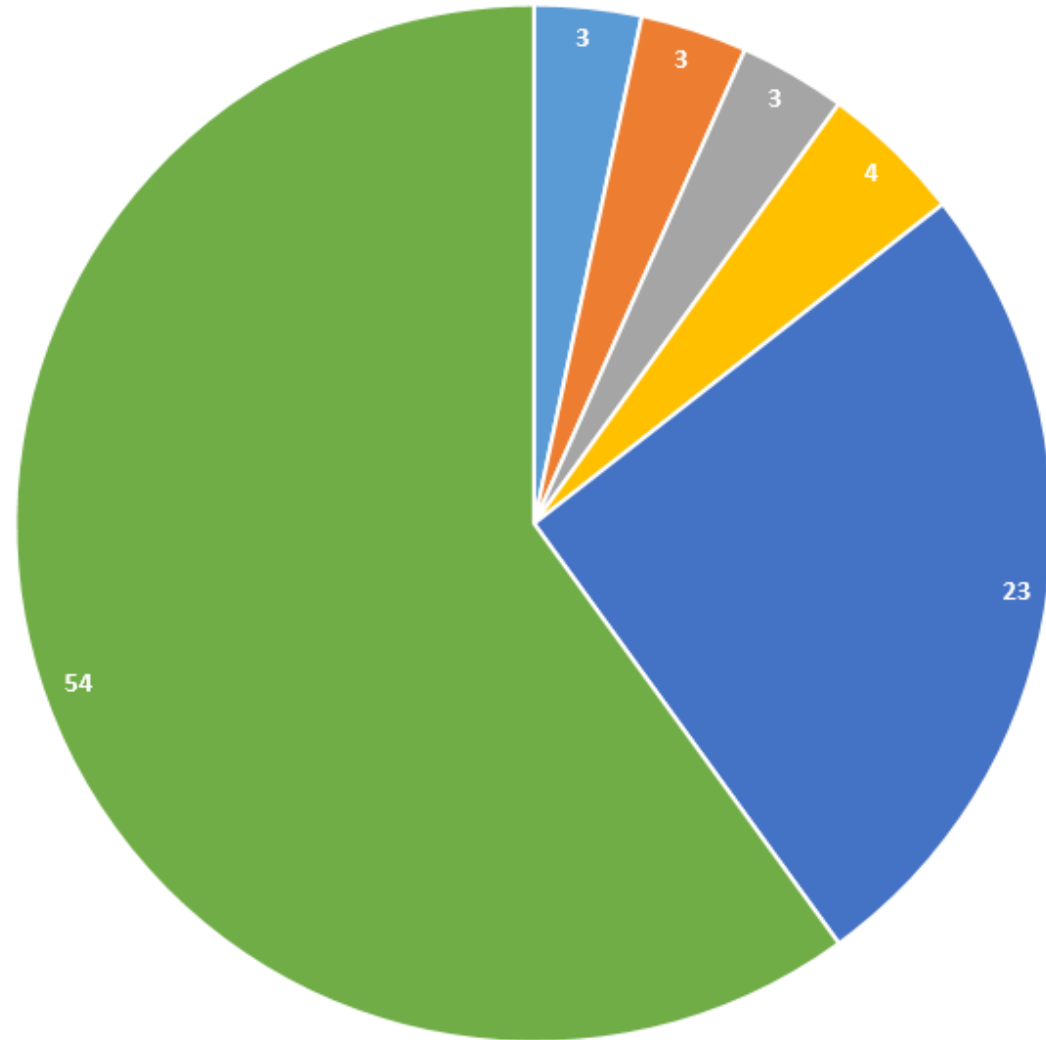
U.S. Forest Service



Some numbers

Types of Pests Analyzed

NPAG has analyzed
91
 pests in the last 3 years



■ Bacteria ■ Mite ■ Nematode ■ Virus ■ Fungus ■ Insect

DEEP Reports (2010-17)

- 261 pests evaluated
- 124 qualified as quarantine pests (not presented to NPB)
- 137 did not qualify as quarantine pest (presented to the NPB)

DEEP Reports (2015-18)

- Pests presented to NPB: 22
- Pests that changed status: 19
- Pests that did not change status: 3