

Main Topic:	Export Certification Workgroup – Meeting
Date:	Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Time:	2:30 - 4:30 PM Eastern
Facilitator:	Sarika Negi
Scribe:	Julie Clapp
Location:	Teleconference Access: 888-844-9904; Code: 3774032

Meeting Invitees:

Name	Contact Information	Present
National Plant Board		
Ann Gibbs, President	ann.gibbs@maine.gov	-
John Caravetta, Vice President	jcaravetta@azda.gov	-
Aurelio Posadas, Executive Secretary	aureliop@elkgrove.net	-
Julie VanMeter, Secretary - Treasurer	Julie.vanmeter@nebraska.gov	X
Brad White, Western	BWhite@agr.wa.gov	X
Carl Harper, Southern	carl.harper@uky.edu	X
Mike Bryan, Central	bryanm@michigan.gov	X
Sarah Scally, Eastern	Sarah.H.Scally@maine.gov	X
CACASA		
Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County	mkinoshi@co.tulare.ca.us	-
Christopher Greer, Tulare County	CGreer@co.tulare.ca.us	X
Tom Tucker, Tulare County	ttucker@co.tulare.ca.us	X
State Department of Agriculture		
Charles Elhard, North Dakota Dept. of Agriculture	celhard@nd.gov	
PPQ Field Operations		
Clint McFarland, Associate Director for North East	Clint.D.Mcfarland@aphis.usda.gov	-
Gwen Servies, National Operations Manager	Gwen.A.Servies@aphis.usda.gov	-
Laney Campbell, National Operations Manager	Laney.E.Campbell@aphis.usda.gov	-
Bob Bishop, National Operations Manager	Robert.M.Bishop@aphis.usda.gov	X
Wendy Beltz, Field Operations Director	Wendolyn.Beltz@aphis.usda.gov	-
Katherine Hough, Associate Executive Director	Katherine.P.Hough@aphis.usda.gov	-
PPQ Policy Management / Trade		
Ingrid Watson, PIM Deputy Director	Ingrid.E.Watson@aphis.usda.gov	-
Jill Wallace, PIM Deputy Director	Jill.Wallace@aphis.usda.gov	-
George Galasso, PIM Trade Director (Grain)	George.Galasso@aphis.usda.gov	X
Export Services Staff (SN, MP, AD, TW, CD)	ppqexportservices@aphis.usda.gov	X

Agenda:

No.	Topic	Lead
1.	<p>PCIT/PExD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCIT/PExD Updates <p>PCIT 8.1.1 Release: Correction to the QR Code generated for 577 certificates printed by applicants with Original Certificate Print Authorization.</p> <p><i>Fixed the QR Code generated for 577 certificates printed by applicants with Original Certificate Print Authorization.(code glitch from previous release)</i></p> <p>Next release, 8.2, will include functionality for increased handling and tracking of foreign notices of noncompliance and held shipments and enhanced reporting ability</p> <p><i>This function will allow ES to identify problems and trends.</i></p> <p>No updates are currently pending for PExD.</p> <p><i>If you have any issues, please let us know.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic Exchange <p>In September, eCert version 1.7.3 was released to PCIT.</p> <p><i>ECert Release 1.7.3 consists of the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>NETHERLANDS WSDL Update: Integrated Netherlands new version of Production and Testing WSDL with ECert application.</i> <i>ISRAEL Profile Setup: Added ISRAEL credentials and integrated ISRAEL profile with ECert application.</i> <p><i>This will allow both countries to do some testing.</i></p> <p><i>Global hub – in a few weeks, we should be able to use this virtual hub. We will be able to send the first PC. In the second quarter of 2018, we will be able to use the generic system. For countries that don't have robust systems, they will be able to pull software from online.</i></p> <p><i>We are taking info that we get from foreign countries and send to CBP so they can put it in their Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) system.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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> <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/manua</p>	Export Services (Mike Perry)

	<p>ls/domestic/downloads/PCIT_signature_image_form.pdf</p> <p>Completed forms may be sent by mail to Export Services at: USDA, Plant Health Programs – Export Services 4700 River Road, Unit 131. Riverdale, MD 20737</p>	
2.	<p>FY2018 USDA Information Security Awareness Training</p> <p>The mandatory course is now available in Aglearn. Please share with those who need to complete the course in order to avoid work disruption.</p> <p><i>Please get this info out to your people. We are trying to avoid waiting till the last minute. There is a way of opting out by taking a short test. If you pass the test, you do not have to complete the entire course.</i></p> <p><i>ES would love to have everyone done by January. (internal deadline)</i></p> <p><i>Deadline is March 30, 2018, but we'd love to have an earlier internal deadline.</i></p>	Mike Perry
3.	<p>Did You Know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to view Debit Transactions in PCIT <p>Organizations can use the Debit Transaction function in PCIT to obtain a report of transactions (debit/credit). Select “View Reports” from the left menu, select “Debit Transaction” listed under Financial Reports, enter the Org ID or Applicant Organization Name, click “search”, click “select” next to the appropriate Applicant Organization Name, enter a transaction date range, select the preferred report format from the dropdown, click “Generate Report”.</p> <p><i>Please review how this report works and what it shows. ACO might find it useful to see how an org was charged and what certs they received.</i></p>	Export Services Mike
4.	<p>Phytosanitary Certificates, Use of “Other” Fields</p> <p>The selection of “other” on drop down lists in PCIT can complicate PCIT reporting efforts. ES strives to capture entries cited in “other” fields for incorporation into the dropdown selection lists. ES encourages users not to use “other” if possible. Requests to ES for additional entries to dropdown lists must not reference quality, condition, trade names, or commercial terms.</p> <p><i>Some of the others added are against policy. It also makes it difficult to run reports because all information is not captured. We encourage people not to use OTHER. ACOs tend to process applications without carefully reviewing and encouraging applicants not to use other.</i></p> <p><i>Mike Perry suggested that ES may need to do a webinar and explain why this is a problem and do more outreach. Carl added that we may ultimately just need to give a cut-off date. ES agrees that at some point we need to shut it off, but we would need to give a lot of advanced notice.</i></p>	Mike Perry

5.	<p>Export Certification Specialist (ECS) & Trade Specialist (TS) Meeting</p> <p>Held in Riverdale, MD (week of Sept. 11 & Sept 25) included ECS Functions in PCIT to improve quality assurance of the Export Program</p> <p><i>Two separate meetings were held where ECS and TS came to Riverdale. Feedback was very positive. We'd like to have a meeting where all the ECS can come in together and expand the topics. Also do more exercises.</i></p>	
6.	<p>U.S.- Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program (GCP)</p> <p>APHIS and CFIA adopted a single set of program requirements that strengthen pest mitigation measures based on current risk and ensure consistent program delivery across the United States and Canada. An updated GCP Info Sheet is available at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/fsc-greenhouse-plant-cert-program.pdf</p> <p><i>Program started in 2016. An updated fact sheet has been published that shows "What is the same?", "What has changed?" and "What You Need To Do" for what nurseries need to do to sign up again. Please review and feel free to reach out to Sarika, Laney or your Trade Specialist. A nursery in FL is piloting the authorization process.</i></p> <p><i>The info sheet is available to the public/industry on the APHIS website.</i></p>	Sarika Negi
7.	<p>Export Certification Regulations 7 CFR 353 Revision</p> <p>The revision is being done to update the regulations to reflect current operational practices, and to remove provisions that are no longer relevant.</p> <p><i>We've been revising our regulations due to a lot of outdated information and locations. Parts of the regulations were written so that they tied our hands (ie. we were not able to recognize 3rd parties)</i></p> <p><i>The regulation is changing to more accurately reflect current operational practices</i></p> <p><i>This will be a long term initiative.</i></p>	Sarika Negi
8.	<p>Grain Commodity Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China interceptions of weed seeds • Special programs for grain commodities • Potential policy changes <p><i>Protocols for grain shipments is becoming more and a more the norm (DDGs to VMN, beet pulp pellets to CHN, etc.) Protocol based activities is going to be the new way forward.</i></p> <p><i>Christian and George have been traveling for 3 weeks to address the number of weed seeds present in grain going to china. The focus is on soybean right now. We're working with industry to reduce the number of weed seeds. So far there is no good correlation between foreign material and the number of weed seeds which they hoped was part of the problem. We don't know what it going to lead to, but something has to happen. (The US does \$16B a year in soy beans to China.)</i></p>	Christian Dellis/George Galasso

	<p><i>Can States canvas their members for a list of all the programs where FGIS would normally do inspection but for whatever reason, the company has elected to go with a state inspection?</i></p> <p><i>We need to know where FGIS is NOT doing inspections. (popcorn in IN, DDGS in IL, etc)</i></p> <p><i>Brad – should this request go out to regional plant boards or NPB? Brad thinks the request may need to be for formal. CD said we would write something up and send it to whoever Brad thinks would be the best contact for it.</i></p> <p><i>Mike Bryan clarified that this applies to all grain. He agrees with Brad that this needs to be done through the national plant board as well as regional. Ann Gibbs needs to be aware of this. Mike suggested that the responses could be funneled to ES through the regional reps.</i></p> <p><i>Christopher Greer added that he would make Marilyn Kinoshita aware of the situation.</i></p> <p><i>CHINA wants to see improvements and they want us to tell them what we’re going to do to fix it. We need to get this under control now before China imposes more restrictive measures.</i></p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming/Past Meetings <p>NAPPO annual meeting, Oct. 16-19 2017 in Merida, Yucatan Mexico</p> <p><i>Mike Bryan attended. It was quite a meeting with a packed agenda. Some of the surveillance presentations were amazing to see the sheer depth of those systems. New technology that will be introduced at Plant Inspection Stations to check incoming material.</i></p> <p>Plant Board Annual Meeting, Aug. 12-16 2018 in Cleveland, OH Chapman Phytosanitary Irradiation Forum, June 13-15 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Changes/Announcements • Ideas for agenda topics for next ECW • Other Issues Bangladesh import permits 	<p>All</p> <p>Mike Bryan</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Next ECW Meeting</p> <p>Scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2018 2:30-4:30 PM Eastern Is that date OK for the group?</p> <p><i>If you can’t make the calls, please arrange for an alternate to represent your area.</i></p> <p>Future ECW Meetings:</p> <p>May 16, 2018 2:30-4:30 PM Eastern; August 15, 2018 2:30-4:30 PM Eastern</p>	<p>All</p>

LAST MINUTE TOPICS

- DDGs to Myanmar (Mike Bryan)

DDGs to Myanmar- how to certify this commodity? If just a PC or if need IP also. I was told by ES that it had to have IP (like corn grain summary), but then exporter went to another duty station and was able to get them issued without IP. Clarification in PEXD on how these need certified would be helpful so everyone is on same page

Zea sp "grain" says "Commodity is prohibited. Do not certify unless an Import Permit (IP) is presented."

Restricted Products says "All other commodities - Unless specified elsewhere in this summary, all products eligible for phytosanitary certification require a Phytosanitary Certificate."

11/15 - Added "This requirement includes distiller's dried grains (DDGs)." to additional information.

- Corn grain to India (Mike Bryan)

Corn grain to India. Exporter presented a general memo from India's Ministry of Ag that says these shipments can just pay a penalty fee instead of doing MB fumigation here. ES accepted that memo as official and said we could ignore the fumigation requirements and certify without fumigation. However, PEXD does not reference any of this info. So if this practice is acceptable, can PEXD be updated to offer this option to other exporters? Right now, it is only being allowed if the exporter pursues it.

Mike Perry asked if the memo is addresses directly to exporter or is it general. We'll look at it but it sounds like the time is very limited according to the memo. If org doesn't have a problem with MB being done at POE, go ahead and certify. If they do, encourage them to work with their importer on the other options. PEXD will be updated once we vet the memo with IS and PIM Trade.

- Inspecting logs to China (Sara Scally)

Can I add a last minute topic to the ECW call this afternoon? Can we talk about how log inspections are conducted, specifically for logs destined to China? I've had a couple of conversations with different inspectors over the last month or so and it is clear that how these inspections are conducted is not consistent between states, PPQ and sometimes different offices within the same states. At least in one state, this is leading to pressure from industry to change how the phytosanitary inspections are conducted to a method that is friendlier to the industry, but may or may not be sufficient to determine phytosanitary cleanliness. Others have indicated to me that finding guidance on how to conduct log inspection is at best difficult to find and at worst, may be non-existent. Is it possible for Export Services to issue some guidance on how to conduct log inspections?