



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

Ann Gibbs, President
Division of Plant Industry
Maine Dept. of Agriculture
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
(207) 287-3891

Carol Holko, Secretary-Treasurer
Plant Protection and Weed Management
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 841-5920

2006 Resolution No. 8 Export Certification and Inspection

Increased workloads and decreased staffing have placed burdens on state and federal resources. It is becoming increasingly difficult for state and federal inspectors in many states to meet the certification needs of the export community in a timely manner. In a large part this is due to the increased federal emphasis on inspection of each individual load of product prior to issuance of phytosanitary certificates, regardless of pest risk associated with the product. The inability to provide timely export certification service can put local exporters at a competitive disadvantage and have negative impacts on state and local economies. It is not economically viable for many exporters in remote areas of states to seek certification at ports of export.

Time spent by state and federal inspectors on inspection and issuance of phytosanitary certificates is taking away from time devoted to essential pest detection and intervention functions that are vital to the safeguarding of American agriculture and natural resources.

Commodities with a low risk of harboring pests and a high degree of consistency are routinely allowed to be eligible for certification under compliance agreements and/or memoranda of understanding.

Resolved: By the Eastern Plant Board at its 81st annual meeting in Rehoboth Beach, DE, on April 6, 2006, to request that USDA-APHIS-PPQ conduct a review of risk-based options, including the use of compliance agreements and/or memoranda of understanding, to reduce the frequency of inspections required for export certification of commodities such as machined and kiln dried lumber, flour, and other low risk products.

Distribution:

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Regional Directors, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Alan Green, Executive Director, Plant Health Programs
Narcy Klagg, PPQ
Ken Rauscher, National Plant Board President
Regional Plant Board Presidents

Member States

Connecticut • Delaware • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • New Hampshire
New Jersey • New York • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • Vermont • West Virginia