



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

Illinois · Indiana · Iowa · Kansas · Michigan

Minnesota · Missouri · Nebraska · North Dakota

Ohio · South Dakota · Wisconsin

2013 Annual Meeting
Mahattan, Kansas

Export Certification Program

The USDA-APHIS-PPQ is responsible for administering the Export Certification Program, to facilitate the trade in U.S. plants and plant products, and ensure that these products being shipped from the U.S. meet the entry requirements of the receiving country. USDA has entered into cooperative relationships with individual states, through Memorandums of Understanding, to perform export certification duties, including inspections and issuance of certificates. This cooperative relationship has been beneficial to both regulatory parties and also the nation's agricultural industries.

However, members of the Central Plant Board are concerned by significant discrepancies in the content of direction being provided to states by USDA, and in inconsistencies in how procedures and protocols are implemented by state and federal officials. Currently, responses to questions are often highly variable between Export Certification Specialists (ECS). The protocols and methods by which certification is determined also can be highly variable, between both state and federal Accredited Certifying Officials. These discrepancies and inconsistencies are confusing for state regulatory officials and exporters, create conflict between states, put exporters at a competitive disadvantage, and impede and disrupt trade.

Additionally, a review of the National Seed Health System (NSHS) was completed in 2010, yet no action appears to have been taken by USDA on the recommendations from that review. This review was a high priority for states, the findings and recommendations were significant, and implementation of these recommendations could lead to great improvements in the NSHS.

RESOLVED, by the Central Plant Board at its 89th annual meeting in Manhattan, Kansas, May 2, 2013, request USDA-APHIS-PPQ to implement training and coordination activities for the ECS's, necessary to improve the accuracy and consistency of information being provided to states related to export certification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NSHS program review recommendations be implemented as soon as practicable and the results reported at the 2014 National Plant Board Annual Meeting.

Distribution:

Kevin Shea, Administrator, USDA-APHIS

Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Rebecca Bech, Field Operations Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Jeff Grode, Policy Management Associate Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Paula Henstridge, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Alan Dowdy, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Jason Hancock, Deputy Chief of Staff, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Mike Watson, Executive Director, Plant Health Programs, USDA APHIS PPQ

Matt Royer, Executive Director, Field Operations

Christian Dellis, Export Services Deputy Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Geir Friisoe, National Plant Board President

Carol Holko, Eastern Plant Board President

Mitch Yergert, Western Plant Board President

Mike Evans, Southern Plant Board President

Ric Dunkle, Senior Director, ASTA

David T. Buckingham, President, AASCO

Chet Boruff, CEO, AOSCA