

# ◆ **EPPO Standards** ◆

## **PHYTOSANITARY PROCEDURES**

### **GENERAL EXPORT INSPECTION PROCEDURE FOR GLASSHOUSE AND NURSERY ENTERPRISES**

**PM 3/29(1) English**



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## **APPROVAL**

EPPO Standards are approved by EPPO Council. The date of approval appears in each individual standard.

## **REVIEW**

EPPO Standards are subject to periodic review and amendment. The next review date for this set of EPPO Standards is decided by the EPPO Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations.

## **AMENDMENT RECORD**

Amendments will be issued as necessary, numbered and dated. The dates of amendment appear in each individual standard (as appropriate).

## **DISTRIBUTION**

EPPO Standards are distributed by the EPPO Secretariat to all EPPO member governments. Copies are available to any interested person under particular conditions upon request to the EPPO Secretariat.

## **SCOPE**

EPPO Phytosanitary Procedures are intended to be used by National Plant Protection Organizations, in their capacity as bodies responsible for the inspection, testing and treatment of plants and plant products moving in trade, or for the implementation of surveys against quarantine pests.

## **REFERENCES**

OEPP/EPPO (1996) Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms. *EPPO Technical Documents* no. 1026.

CABI/EPPO (1997) Quarantine Pests for Europe, 2nd edition (Ed. by Smith, I.M.; McNamara, D.G.; Scott, P.R.; Holderness, M.), CAB International, Wallingford, UK.

OEPP/EPPO (in preparation) Specific Quarantine Requirements. Available as electronic documents from the EPPO Web Site.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Phytosanitary procedure: Any officially prescribed method for performing inspections, tests, surveys or treatments in connection with plant quarantine.

Inspection: Official visual examination of plants, plant products or other regulated articles to determine if pests are present and/or to determine compliance with phytosanitary regulations.

Survey: An official procedure conducted over a defined period of time to determine the characteristics of a pest population or to determine which species occur in an area.

Test: Official examination, other than visual, to determine if pests are present or to identify pests.

Treatment: An officially authorized procedure for the killing, removal or rendering infertile of pests.

## **OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS**

EPPO Phytosanitary Procedures describe the methods to be followed for performing inspections, tests, or treatments of commodities moving in trade, or surveys against quarantine pests. For many quarantine pests, a reference to the relevant EPPO Phytosanitary Procedure is made in the corresponding EPPO Specific Quarantine Requirements. The development of EPPO phytosanitary procedures started many years ago, and these methods have been published in the Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin under several titles: 'Fumigation standards', 'Quarantine Inspection Procedures' and 'Quarantine Procedures'. All of them are now appearing under the title 'EPPO Phytosanitary Procedures' and are being edited into EPPO Standard format. The numbering of these procedures will continue to follow the sequence described in the Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin 20(2), 229-233, which corresponds approximately to the chronological order of appearance of the Phytosanitary Procedures.

## Phytosanitary procedure

### GENERAL EXPORT INSPECTION PROCEDURE FOR GLASSHOUSE AND NURSERY ENTERPRISES

#### Specific scope

This standard describes the general export inspection procedure for glasshouse and nursery enterprises.

#### Specific approval and amendment

First approved in September 1989.  
Edited as EPPO Standard in September 1997.

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#### Note

This quarantine procedure concerns enterprises which are producing plants for export. In the sense of the FAO Core Vocabulary of Phytosanitary Terms, whose terminology is followed, this means plants for planting (except seeds, or bulbs and tubers). It may, as appropriate, include pot plants. It is not suitable for the inspection of plants in enterprises whose export product is not plants for planting (fruits and vegetables, cut flowers). The procedure is intended primarily for use in countries which do not regularly export their production, or for countries which intend to start exporting. It is presumed that regular exporting countries have already drawn up such guidelines for their inspectors. The procedure has been designed as a step-by-step guide which is meant to lead the inspectors through the labyrinth of export procedures and ensure that all the relevant requirements have been met.

#### Introduction

All enterprises must apply for export certification sufficiently in advance of export to ensure that the importing country's phytosanitary regulations can be met. It is recommended that exporting enterprises should be registered annually.

The series of checks to be made can be divided as follows: (1) pre-visit checks made following receipt of the application for export certification; (2) general visit to the place of production to ensure that overall conditions are satisfactory; (3) one (or several) visit(s) to carry out any required growing season inspections; (4) a visit just before despatch to check that all the earlier checks are in order and to make the final pre-export phytosanitary inspection for delivery of the phytosanitary certificate.

#### Pre-visit checks

1. From the application of the enterprise and from the importing country's phytosanitary regulations, what is the list of organisms which need to be covered by the phytosanitary certificate?
  - 1.1. Which organisms can be certified as not occurring in the country/area/place of production?
  - 1.2. Which organisms require a radius freedom or an area survey beyond the boundaries of the place of production?
  - 1.3. Which organisms require laboratory examination?
    - 1.3.1. Sampling and laboratory testing of the plants.
    - 1.3.2. Sampling and laboratory testing of the mother plants from which the consignment is to be derived.
  - 1.4. Does the enterprise use only sterile soil or growing media?
    - 1.4.1. If there is no sterilization, is sampling and laboratory examination of soil or growing media necessary?
    - 1.4.2. Is post-planting or post-harvest sampling and laboratory examination of soil or growing media necessary?
  - 1.5. Which organisms require only visual inspection (and perhaps laboratory confirmation)?

- 1.5.1. Which organisms require growing-season inspections? Are there any particular requirements regarding timing of inspection or growth stage of the plants (e.g. prior to flowering; in flower; prior to leaf fall; if more than one inspection is required)?
- 1.5.2. Which organisms require pre-export inspection only?
- 1.6. Do any organisms require:
  - 1.6.1. inspection of plants and mother plants over several years?
  - 1.6.2. that the plants should have been derived from tested/accredited stock except in the current season as required at 1.3.2?
- 2. Where exactly are the plants for export to be grown or growing?
  - 2.1. If all the plants are not to be grown at one site, what conditions must be met to ensure that a mixed consignment can be regarded as a unit?
  - 2.2. Can requirements over several years (see 1.6) be met?
    - 2.2.1. What is the origin of the mother-plant material, by area, country or continent?
    - 2.2.2. Are there any additional organisms which need to be covered by the phytosanitary certificate because of 2.2.1?
    - 2.2.3. Are there health-status claims (e.g. virus-free) and how can these claims be substantiated?
- 3. Prepare a schedule for the inspection of plants in active growth (see 1.5.1) and selection of plant samples for laboratory testing (1.3.1 and 1.3.2):
  - 3.1. young vegetative plants;
  - 3.2. plants in flower;
  - 3.3. plants in fruit;
  - 3.4. plants approaching dormancy/leaf fall.
- 4. What treatments are required by the importing country?
  - 4.1. What treatments have been made?
  - 4.2. What treatments will be required before/at export?
  - 4.3. Will fumigation avoid the need to inspect in detail for any organism?
- 5. At what place will pre-export certification be undertaken and are suitable facilities available for:
  - 5.1. pre-export fumigation or other treatments, if applicable?
  - 5.2. pre-export inspection and final certification?

### **Visit of the place of production**

- 6. Are the checks for 1.1, 1.2, 1.4.1, 1.6.1 and 1.6.2 in order?
- 7. Check the general lay-out of the place of production noting:
  - 7.1. plants intended for export;
  - 7.2. other plants which may require inspections to satisfy requirements that the place of production should be free from quarantine pests;
  - 7.3. plants in the immediate vicinity of the plants intended for export, possibly including those beyond the boundary of the place of production.
- 8. Is sampling and testing of soil or growing media complete (see 1.4.1 and 1.4.2)?
- 9. Is the soil or growing-medium sterilization regime adequate and are there arrangements sufficient to avoid re-contamination after sterilization?
- 10. Is the fumigation schedule satisfactory (see 4.3)?

### **Growing-season inspection regime**

- 11. Unless the importing country's regulations specify otherwise, the following regime should be adopted for uniform lots of plants (i.e. plants growing at a single site, of a single species, cultivar, selection or clone, and of a single origin).

- 11.1. Prior to the inspection of individual plants, make a general appraisal of the lot, noting patches of uneven growth or lack of uniformity.
- 11.2. Examine in detail a few plants selected both at random and from any patches observed in (11.1).
  - 11.2.1. What is the range of pests or symptoms present, also on the roots of the plants if appropriate?
  - 11.2.2. Are any of the above quarantine pests or do they occur at a level greater than the 'practical freedom from other injurious pests', stipulated in the phytosanitary certificate?
  - 11.2.3. Do any of the above pests require laboratory diagnosis or confirmation (select a range of samples accordingly)?
  - 11.2.4. Does the presence of other (non-quarantine) pests, or the physiological or cultural state of the crop, make the inspection for quarantine pests impossible?
- 11.3. Finally make a close visual inspection of individual plants.
  - 11.3.1. For small lots, examine every plant.
  - 11.3.2. For large lots of plants, select plants at random examining a minimum number of plants based on the predicted risks of the quarantine pest(s) concerned. As a guide, 300 plants will ensure at the 95 % level<sup>1</sup> the detection of the presence of a pest where 1%, or more plants in a lot are affected and 3000 plants will detect 0.1% or more. For plants in pots, individual plants can be selected but for field-growing plants the total number to be selected may be divided into 10-20 sub-lots of plants in the form of patches or short runs within the nursery row (in such cases, a slight increase in the number of plants inspected should be considered).

### **Pre-export checks and inspection**

- 12. Are the checks for 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5.1, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 4.2, 4.3 in order?
- 13. Are the records for the growing-season inspections (para. 7-11) in order?
- 14. Are the facilities for inspection satisfactory?
- 15. Proceed to the inspection prior to despatch. The same general procedures set down in para. 11 should be followed with particular attention being paid to the examination of a minimum sample of plants as set down in 11.3.1 and 11.3.2.
- 16. Where inspections have entailed the opening of sealed packages, they should be resealed under official supervision.
- 17. Were the treatment and fumigation arrangements and schedules satisfactory (see 4.2) and are the records or other checks satisfactory?
- 18. Are the entries, official statements and additional declarations on the phytosanitary certificate correct?
- 19. If required, is the official sealing of the consignment complete?

### **Enquiries**

May be directed to: A. Pemberton, Harpenden Laboratory (GB) or M. Hille, BBA Braunschweig (DE).

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<sup>1</sup> I.e. 95% probability of detection / 5% probability of not detecting; or 19 out of 20 times the pest will be detected / 1 out of 20 times, the pest will not be detected. However the general survey for pests present, undertaken in 11.1 and 11.2 will ensure a higher overall level of detection.