

*State.* Any of the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the United States.

*The Act.* The act of Congress entitled “Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944,” approved September 21, 1944 (58 Stat. 735), section 102.

**§ 353.2 Purpose and administration.**

The export certification program does not require certification of any exports, but does provide certification of plants and plant products as a service to exporters. After assessing the phytosanitary condition of the plants or plant products intended for export, relative to the receiving country’s regulations, an inspector issues an internationally recognized phytosanitary certificate (PPQ Form 577), a phytosanitary certificate for reexport (PPQ Form 579), or an export certificate for processed plant products (PPQ Form 578), if warranted. APHIS also enters into written agreements with industry to allow the issuance of industry-issued certificates giving assurance that a plant product has been handled, processed, or inspected in a manner required by a foreign government.

**§ 353.3 Where service is offered.**

(a) Information concerning the location of inspectors who may issue certificates for plants and plant products may be obtained by contacting one of the following regional offices:

Region	States
Northeastern, Blason II, 1st Floor, 505 South Lenola Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057.	CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT, NY, NJ, PA, MD, DE, VA, WI, MN, IL, IN, OH, MI, WV.
Southeastern, 3505 25th Avenue, Building 1, North, Gulfport, MS 39501.	FL, AL, GA, KY, MS, TN, NC, SC, PR, US VI.
Central, 3505 Boca Chica Blvd., Suite 360, Brownsville, TX 78521–4065.	TX, OK, NE, AR, KS, LA, IA, MO, ND, SD.
Western, 9580 Micron Avenue, Suite I, Sacramento, CA 95827.	HI, CA, CO, ID, MT, UT, WY, WA, OR, NV, NM, AZ, AK.

(b) Inspectors who may issue phytosanitary certificates for terrestrial plants listed in 50 CFR part 17 or 23 are available only at a port designated for export in 50 CFR part 24, or at a nondesignated port if allowed by the U.S. Department of the Interior

pursuant to section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1538). The following locations are designated in 50 CFR part 24 as ports for export of terrestrial plants listed in 50 CFR part 17 or 23:

(1) Any terrestrial plant listed in 50 CFR part 17 or 23:

- Nogales, AZ
- Los Angeles, CA
- San Diego, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Miami, FL
- Orlando, FL
- Honolulu, HI
- New Orleans, LA
- Hoboken, NJ (Port of New York)
- Jamaica, NY
- San Juan, PR
- Brownsville, TX
- El Paso, TX
- Houston, TX
- Laredo, TX
- Seattle, WA

(2) Any plant of the family Orchidaceae (orchids) listed in 50 CFR part 17 or 23:

- Hilo, HI
- Chicago, IL

(3) Roots of American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) listed in 50 CFR 23.23:

- Atlanta, GA
- Chicago, IL
- Baltimore, MD
- St. Louis, MO
- Milwaukee, WI

(4) Any plant listed in 50 CFR 17.12 or 23.23 and offered for exportation to Canada:

- Detroit, MI
- Buffalo, NY
- Rouses Point, NY
- Blaine, WA

(5) Any logs and lumber from trees listed in 50 CFR 17.12 or 23.23:

- Mobile, AL
- Savannah, GA
- Baltimore, MD
- Gulfport, MS
- Wilmington and Morehead City, NC
- Portland, OR
- Philadelphia, PA
- Charleston, SC
- Norfolk, VA
- Vancouver, WA

(6) Plants of the species *Dionaea muscipula* (Venus flytrap):

- Wilmington, NC

**§ 353.4 Products covered.**

Plants and plant products when offered for export or re-export.

**§ 353.5 Application for certification.**

(a) To request the services of an inspector, a written application (PPQ Form 572) shall be made as far in advance as possible, and shall be filed in the office of inspection at the port of certification.

(b) Each application shall be deemed filed when delivered to the proper office of inspection at the port of certification. When an application is filed, a record showing the date and time of filing shall be made in such office.

(c) Only one application for any consignment shall be accepted, and only one certificate for any consignment shall be issued.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0052)

**§ 353.6 Inspection.**

Inspections shall be performed by agents, by inspectors, or by employees of a State plant protection agency who are authorized by the agency to perform field inspections in accordance with this part and who have successfully completed training in accordance with paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section. Employees of a State plant protection agency who are not agents may perform field inspections only under the supervision of an inspector.

(a) *Agent.* (1) Agents may conduct phytosanitary field inspections of seed crops in cooperation with and on behalf of those State plant regulatory agencies electing to use agents and maintaining a Memorandum of Understanding with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in accordance with the regulations. The Memorandum of Understanding must state that agents shall be used in accordance with the regulations in this part. Agents are not authorized to issue Federal phytosanitary certificates, but are only authorized to conduct the field inspections of seed crops required as a basis for determining phytosanitary condition prior to the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate for the crops.

(2) To be eligible for designation as an agent, an individual must:

(i) Have the ability to recognize, in the crops he or she is responsible for inspecting, plant pests, including symptoms and/or signs of disease-causing organisms, of concern to importing countries.

(ii) Have a bachelor's degree in the biological sciences, and a minimum of 1 year's experience in identifying plant pests endemic to crops of commercial importance within the cooperating State, or a combination of higher education in the biological sciences and experience in identifying such plant pests, as follows:

0 years education and 5 years experience;  
1 year education and 4 years experience;  
2 years education and 3 years experience;  
3 years education and 2 years experience; or  
4 years education and 1 year experience.

The years of education and experience do not have to be acquired consecutively.

(iii) Successfully complete annual training provided by the State plant regulatory agency. The required training must include instruction in inspection procedures, identification of plant pests of quarantine importance to importing countries, methods of collection and submission of specimens (organisms and/or plants or plant parts) for identification, and preparation and submission of inspection report forms approved by the State plant regulatory agency.

(iv) Have access to Federal or State laboratories for the positive identification of plants pests detected.

(3) No agents shall inspect any plants or plant products in which they or a member of their family are directly or indirectly financially interested.

(b) *Inspector.* (1) An employee of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or a State or county regulatory official designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to inspect and certify to shippers and other interested parties, as to the phytosanitary condition of plants and plant products inspected under the Act.

(2) To be eligible for designation as an inspector, a State or county plant regulatory official must:

(i) Have a bachelor's degree in the biological sciences, and a minimum of 1 year's experience in Federal, State or county plant regulatory activities, or a combination of higher education in the