

(b) Each application shall be deemed filed when delivered to the proper office of inspection. 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)

[61 FR 15368, Apr. 8, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 72264, Dec. 27, 1999]

### § 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 biological sciences and experience in State plant regulatory activities, 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.

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(ii) Successfully complete, as indicated by receipt of a passing grade, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service training course on phytosanitary certification.

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

(c) *Applicant responsibility.* (1) When the services of an agent or an inspector are requested, the applicant shall make the plant or plant product accessible for inspection and identification and so place the plant or plant product to permit physical inspection of the lot for plant pests.

(2) The applicant must furnish all labor involved in the inspection, including the moving, opening, and closing of containers.

(3) Certificates may be refused for failure to comply with any of the foregoing provisions.

**§ 353.7 Certificates.**

(a) *Phytosanitary certificate (PPQ Form 577).* (1) For each consignment of domestic plants or unprocessed plant products for which certification is requested, the inspector shall sign and issue a separate certificate based on the findings of the inspection.

(2) The original certificate shall immediately upon its issuance be delivered or mailed to the applicant or a person designated by the applicant.

(3) One copy of each certificate shall be filed in the office of inspection at the port of certification, and one forwarded to the Administrator.

(4) The Administrator may authorize inspectors to issue certificates on the basis of inspections made by cooperating Federal, State, and county agencies. The Administrator may also authorize inspectors to issue a certificate on the basis of a laboratory test or an inspection performed by a non-government facility accredited in accordance with § 353.8.

(5) Inspectors may issue new certificates on the basis of inspections for previous certifications when the previously issued certificates can be canceled before they have been accepted by the phytopathological authorities of the country of destination involved.

(b) *Export certificate for processed plant products (PPQ Form 578).* (1) For each consignment of processed plant products for which certification is requested, the inspector shall sign and issue a certificate based on the inspector's findings after inspecting submitted samples and/or by virtue of processing received.

(2) The original certificate shall immediately upon its issuance be delivered or mailed to the applicant or a person designated by the applicant.

(3) One copy of each certificate shall be filed in the office of inspection at the port of certification.

(4) The Administrator may authorize inspectors to issue certificates on the basis of inspections made by cooperating Federal, State, and county agencies. The Administrator may also authorize inspectors to issue a certificate on the basis of a laboratory test or an inspection performed by a non-government facility accredited in accordance with § 353.8.

(5) Inspectors may issue new certificates on the basis of inspections/processing used for previous certifications.

(c) *Phytosanitary certificate for reexport (PPQ Form 579).* (1) For each consignment of foreign origin plants or unprocessed plant products for which certification is requested, the inspector shall sign and issue a certificate based on the original foreign phytosanitary certificate and/or additional inspection or treatment in the United States after determining that the consignment conforms to the current phytosanitary regulations of the receiving country and has not been subjected to the risk of infestation or infection during storage in the United States.

(2) The original certificate shall immediately upon its issuance be delivered or mailed to the applicant or a person designated by the applicant.

(3) One copy of each certificate shall be filed in the office of inspection at the port of certification, and one forwarded to the Administrator.

(4) The Administrator may authorize inspectors to issue certificates on the basis of inspections made by cooperating Federal, State, and county agencies. The Administrator may also authorize inspectors to issue a certificate on the basis of a laboratory test or an