

(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.

(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 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.

(d) *Industry-issued certificate*. A certificate issued under the terms of a written agreement between the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and an agricultural or forestry company or association giving assurance that a plant product has been handled, processed, or inspected in a manner required by a foreign government. The certificate may be issued by the individual who signs the agreement or his/her delegate.

(1) *Contents of written agreement*. In each written agreement, APHIS shall agree to cooperate and coordinate with the signatory agricultural or forestry company or association to facilitate the issuance of industry-issued certificates and to monitor activities under the agreement, and the concerned agricultural or forestry company or association agrees to comply with the requirements of the agreement. Each agreement shall specify the articles subject to the agreement and any measures necessary to prevent the introduction and dissemination into specified foreign countries of specified injurious plant pests. These measures could include such treatments as refrigeration, heat treatment, kiln drying, etc., and must include all necessary preshipment inspections and subsequent sign-offs and product labeling as identified by Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), APHIS, based on the import requirements of the foreign country.

(2) *Termination of agreement*. An agreement may be terminated by any signatory to the agreement by giving written notice of termination to the other party. The effective date of the termination will be 15 days after the

date of actual receipt of the written notice. Any agreement may be immediately withdrawn by the Administrator if he or she determines that articles covered by the agreement were moved in violation of any requirement of this chapter or any provision of the agreement. If the withdrawal is oral, the decision to withdraw the agreement and the reasons for the withdrawal of the agreement shall be confirmed in writing as promptly as circumstances permit. Withdrawal of an agreement may be appealed in writing to the Administrator within 10 days after receipt of the written notification of the withdrawal. The appeal shall state all of the facts and reasons upon which the appellant relies to show that the agreement was wrongfully withdrawn. The Administrator shall grant or deny the appeal, in writing, stating the reasons for granting or denying the appeal as promptly as circumstances permit. If there is a conflict as to any material fact and the person from whom the agreement is withdrawn requests a hearing, a hearing shall be held to resolve the conflict. Rules of practice concerning the hearing shall be adopted by the Administrator. No written agreement will be signed with an individual or a company representative of the concerned agricultural or forestry company or association who has had a written agreement withdrawn during the 12 months following such withdrawal, unless the withdrawn agreement was reinstated upon appeal.

(e) *Certificate of heat treatment (PPQ Form 553)*. For each consignment containing coniferous packing materials for which certification is requested, the exporter or his or her representative shall complete blocks 1 through 4 of PPQ Form 553 and submit the original form and one copy to an inspector. The inspector shall complete and sign both the original form and the copy.

(2) The original certificate of heat treatment 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.

(4) The exporter or his or her representative must keep on file at his or her office a copy of each certificate

issued in his or her name and documentation showing that heat treatment was performed on packing materials in the shipment referred to in the certificate. If the coniferous solid wood packing materials were heat treated in Canada, this documentation must include a certificate issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency stating that the packing materials have been heat treated through a treatment process that increased the minimum core wood temperature to 56 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes. The exporter must make these documents available to an inspector upon request for a period of 1 year following the date of issuance of the certificate.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0052 and 0579-0147)

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§ 353.8 Accreditation of non-government facilities.

(a) The Administrator may accredit a non-government facility to perform specific laboratory testing or phytosanitary inspection services if the Administrator determines that the non-government facility meets the criteria of paragraph (b) of this section.¹

(1) A non-government facility's compliance with the criteria of paragraph (b) of this section shall be determined through an assessment of the facility and its fitness to conduct the laboratory testing or phytosanitary inspection services for which it seeks to be accredited. If, after evaluating the results of the assessment, the Administrator determines that the facility meets the accreditation criteria, the facility's application for accreditation will be approved.

(2) The Administrator may deny accreditation to, or withdraw the accreditation of, any non-government facility to conduct laboratory testing or phytosanitary inspection services upon a determination that the facility does

¹A list of accredited non-government facilities may be obtained by writing to Phytosanitary Issues Management, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236.