§ 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. An industry-issued certificate includes an ISPM 15 quality/treatment mark.

[61 FR 15368, Apr. 8, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 72264, Dec. 27, 1999; 72 FR 35917, July 2, 2007]

§ 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:

(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

[61 FR 15368, Apr. 8, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 72264, Dec. 27, 1999; 72 FR 35917, July 2, 2007]
§ 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

§ 353.4 Products covered.

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