



## U.S.-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program

For more than 20 years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have maintained Greenhouse Certification Programs to facilitate the safe trade of greenhouse-grown plants between our countries and prevent the spread of regulated plant pests. In 2016, APHIS and CFIA adopted a single set of program requirements that strengthen pest mitigation measures based on current risk and ensure consistent program delivery across the United States and Canada.

### What Is the Same?

- The program is established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between APHIS and CFIA.
- Authorized facilities produce plants under a systems approach to meet phytosanitary import requirements of Canada and the United States.
- Plants produced in an authorized facility must meet U.S. and Canada entry requirements to be eligible for the U.S.-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program (GCP).
- APHIS and CFIA officials audit authorized facilities to ensure adherence with GCP requirements and allow for corrections as needed.
- Authorized facilities use an Export Certification Label, also called a GCP sticker, in lieu of a phytosanitary certificate to ship plants between the United States and Canada.



### What Has Changed?

- **Program Management:** APHIS and CFIA will co-administer various aspects of the program to ensure consistency, equivalency, and transparency.
- **Equivalent Compliance Agreements:** Compliance agreements issued to U.S. and Canadian facilities will include equivalent requirements.
- **Pest Management Plan:** Facilities are required to have a written Pest Management Plan. Facilities may also be required to include detailed procedures, also called modules, for specific regulated pests. A Pest Management Plan template is provided in Appendix 1 of the GCP Technical Requirements Document. Go to [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/gcp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/gcp) to download the template.
- **Plant List:** The 'Excluded Plant List' has been eliminated. Instead, authorized facilities will be required to maintain a list of plants in production, their origin, and the regulated pests associated with each. In the United States, APHIS officials will review the list with the facility to verify that the plants are eligible for the GCP and determine whether specific pest mitigation measures (modules) need to be included in the Pest Management Plan.
- **Interfacility Stamp:** Companies that ship plants within the United States from one authorized facility to another may use an Interfacility Stamp to demonstrate that the plants are certified and ready for export to Canada.
- **Audits:** United States and Canadian auditors will use equivalent audit checklists. Auditors will decrease the frequency of audits to twice a year for facilities that consistently meet GCP requirements.

## What You Need To Do

**1. Work with APHIS or your State department of agriculture** to transition to the new GCP.

**2. Carefully review the new GCP requirements.** There are several differences from the current program which may affect your facility; not all differences are highlighted in this document. Visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/gcp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/gcp) for complete details.

**3. Complete an application package.** All facilities, including those that are participating in the current GCP, must complete an application package. The application package should include a Pest Management Plan and the list of plants in production. Facilities must submit the completed application package to APHIS or the State department of agriculture. They will review the application package and identify any deficiencies that must be corrected. To get started, contact your State department of agriculture or local APHIS State Plant Health Director.

**4. Correct any issues identified during your audit.** APHIS or the State department of agriculture will schedule an initial audit of your facility. You will be responsible for correcting any problems identified during the audit.

**5. Enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS.** Once all corrective actions are completed, APHIS will enter into a compliance agreement with your facility, authorizing you to ship under the new GCP.

### For More Information

For more information, visit the U.S.-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/gcp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/gcp) or contact your local APHIS State Plant Health Director: [www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/sphd)

Please email questions to: [RCC@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:RCC@aphis.usda.gov)