Seed Export Workshop

General Guidelines for Seed Inspections, Pathogen Testing, and Issuance of Phytosanitary Certificates

Plant Health Program
https://oda.direct/PlantHealth

Seed Regulatory Program
https://oda.direct/SeedLaws

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Overview

- **Introduction to ODA**
  - Who we are & what we can do for you
- **Overview of Phytosanitary Requirements**
  - What are the importing countries asking for?
- **USDA Export Services – PCIT, PExD, XPM**
  - Overview of tools & processes
- **Country Requirements**
  - Discussion of requirements and how to find them
- **Other Challenges for Seed Exports**
  - What we can control (or try to) and what we cannot

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ODA Services for the Seed Industry

- Seed Sampling
- Seed Verification
- Seed Testing
- Field Inspections
- Phytosanitary Certificates
- Export Assistance
- Outreach & Education
- Seed Law Enforcement

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Seed Sampling & Verification Services

Sampling

- Provide official sampling for phytosanitary inspections, endophyte tags or sod quality tags
- Provide ISTA sampling (Agri Seed and OSU)

Verification Services

- Treatment, Blends, Fumigation, Package Weight, Shipment count/quantity

Email: SeedServices@oda.oregon.gov
Phone: 503-986-4620

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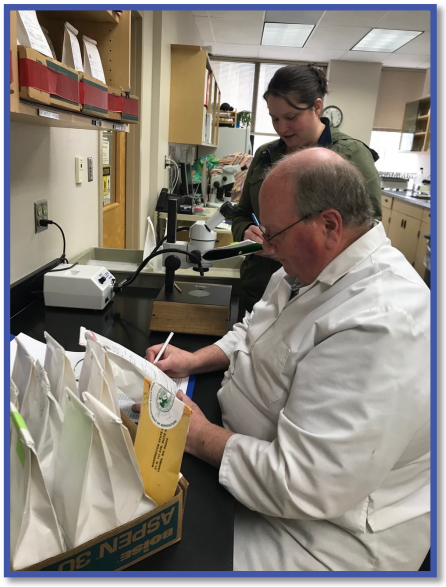
Plant Health Seed Testing Laboratory

Services Provided
Pest & Disease (P&D) inspection (untreated or treated seed; includes soil visual inspection)
Bacteria tests (isolation or molecular test; per species)
Endophyte testing (50 seed immunoblot)
Fungal isolation (per species)
Fungal molecular test (per species)
Fungal spore wash or blotter test (per species)
Korean spore wash
Nematode testing (seed, soil, or tissue)
Nematode molecular test (per species)
Soil testing (percentage by weight)
Virus testing (ELISA or other molecular test)
Weed testing (molecular test; Amaranthus, Glyceria, or Orobanche)



Testing questions: Dr. Maria Marquez (Maria.Marquez@oda.oregon.gov)
Website: www.oda.direct/SeedTesting

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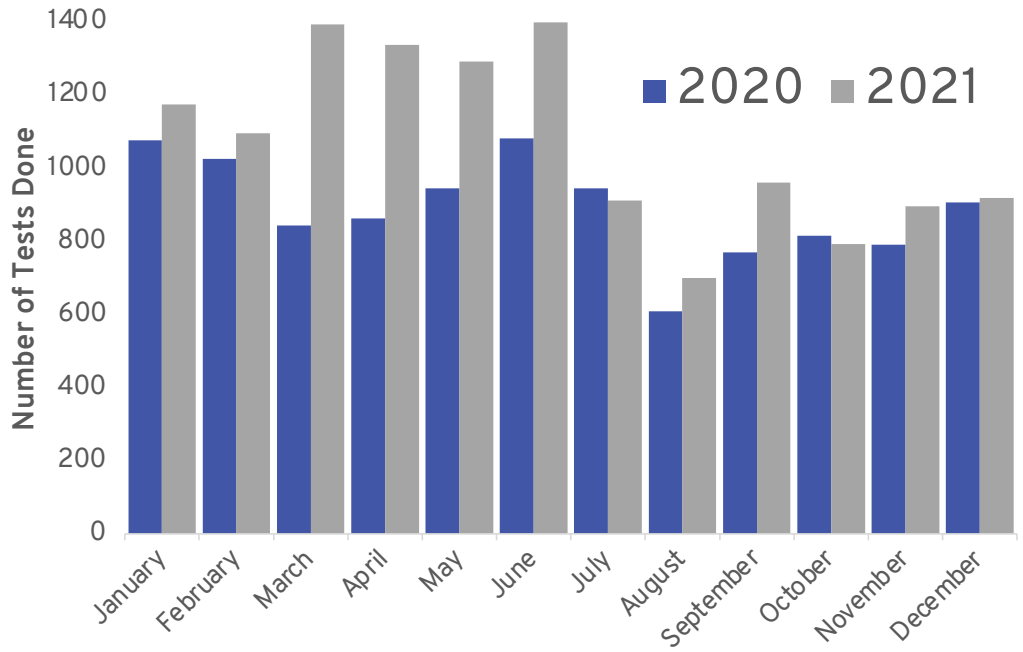
Plant Health – Export Seed Testing



2019: 10,735 tests
2020: 10,828 tests
2021: 12,276 tests

- ~13.4% increase in overall testing in 2021
- Likely attributable to two things:
  1) Nematode testing for China and South Korea
  2) Repeated P&D inspections due to shipping delays

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Oregon Department of Agriculture Contacts for Seed Industry Services

Phytosanitary Certificates (Seed, Hay & Straw)

Connie Williams, Administrative Specialist

503.991.2655 | Connie.Williams@oda.oregon.gov

Seed Sampling & Verification Services

Kevin Bailey, Salem District Manager

503.508.6733 | Kevin.F.Bailey@oda.oregon.gov

Steve Finch, Program Assistant

503.986.4620 | Steven.Finch@oda.oregon.gov

Seed Testing www.oda.direct/SeedTesting

Maria Marquez, PhD, Lab & Research Lead

971.388.7301 | Maria.Marquez@oda.oregon.gov

Plant Health Program www.oda.direct/PlantHealth

Elizabeth Savory, PhD, Program Manager

503.881.0889 | Elizabeth.Savory@oda.oregon.gov

Seed Regulatory Program www.oda.direct/SeedLaws

Nathan Miller, PhD, Regulatory Specialist

503.991.3649 | Nathan.Miller@oda.oregon.gov

To request service, contact SeedServices@oda.oregon.gov or call 503-986-4620

Export questions? Contact Elizabeth Savory at Elizabeth.Savory@oda.oregon.gov

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Updated March 2020

What is a Phytosanitary Requirement?

- Visual Inspection (Pest & Disease – P&D)
- In-season field inspection
- Testing (provided by ODA labs, accredited/approved labs)
- “Free-from” – pest/disease not present in shipment
- Pest free area (PFA); Pest free place of production (PFPP)
  - Official surveys or other conditions must be met
- Treatment requirements (hot water, fumigation, temperature, irradiation, pesticide, chemical, etc.)
  - Need to be witnessed by ODA staff

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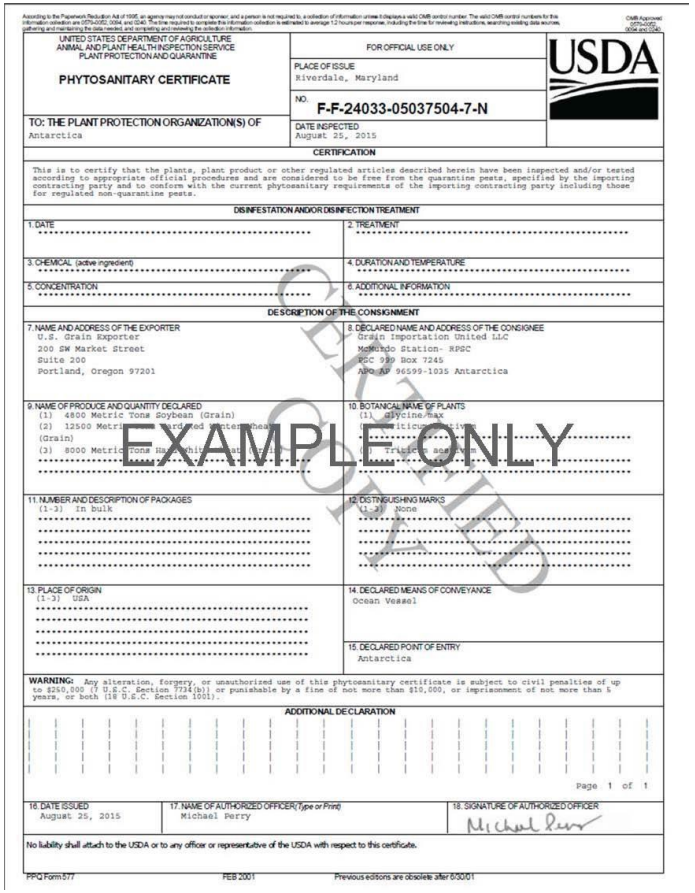
What is a Phytosanitary Certificate?

- An official document that verifies a commodity has been inspected by an authorized official and found to be relatively free of pests and pathogens.
- Issued for products that are shipped to other countries.
- The importing country dictates whether a phytosanitary certificate is needed or not. They also stipulate if special conditions must be met before a phytosanitary certificate can be issued.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PLACE OF ISSUE: Riverdale, Maryland

NO. F-F-24033-05037504-7-N

TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF: Antarctica

DATE INSPECTED: August 25, 2015

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.

DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT

1. DATE
2. TREATMENT
3. CHEMICAL (active ingredient)
4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE
5. CONCENTRATION
6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER
U.S. Grain Exporter
200 SW Market Street
Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97201

8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE
Grain Importation United LLC
McMurdo Station- RPSC
RSC 989 Box 7245
APO AP 96599-1035 Antarctica

9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED
(1) 4800 Metric Tons Soybean (Grain)
(2) 12500 Metric Tons Hard Red Winter Wheat (Grain)
(3) 8000 Metric Tons Hard White Winter Wheat (Grain)

10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS
(1) Glycine max
(2) Triticum aestivum
(3) Triticum aestivum

11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES
(1-3) In bulk

12. DISTINGUISHING MARKS
(1-3) None

13. PLACE OF ORIGIN
(1-3) USA

14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE
Ocean Vessel

15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY
Antarctica

WARNING: Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to $250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than $10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

ADDITIONAL DECLARATION

Page 1 of 1

16. DATE ISSUED: August 25, 2015
17. NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER (Type or Print): Michael Perry
18. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER: Michael Perry

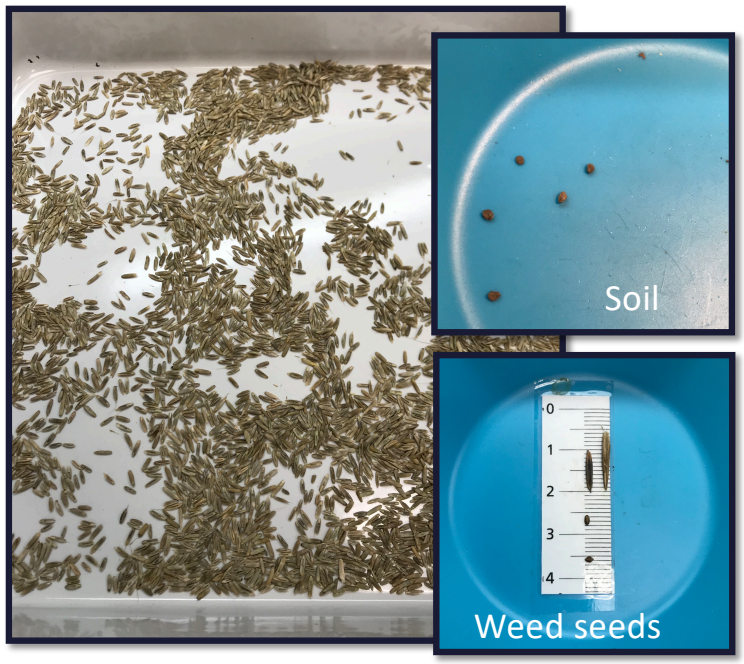
No liability shall attach to the USDA or to any officer or representative of the USDA with respect to this certificate.

PPQ Form 577 FEB 2001 Previous editions are obsolete after 6/30/01

EXAMPLE ONLY
CERTIFIED COPY

Pest & Disease (P&D) Visual Inspection

Required for Phytosanitary Certificates



- An aliquot of seed from an official sample is poured into a white tray.
- Weed seeds, fungi, insect parts, soil and any other contaminants are removed for identification.

Step 4: Inspect the sample.
If the foreign country has no specific seed testing requirements, visually inspect the sample you have collected. Look for live pests, pathogens, plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc. Inspect the entire sample.

When inspecting small lots of seed, pour seeds from packets onto white or dark colored paper (contrasting the color/type of seed). This technique is a common way to spot contaminants. Inspect one packet at a time so others aren't contaminated and proper amounts are returned to packets.

Use Table 4-4-4 to determine the correct action to take. If the foreign country has specific seed testing requirements, go to Step 5: Submit the sample. on page 4-4-6.

Table 4-4-4 Inspecting the Sample

If you find:	And:	Then:
No evidence of live pests, pathogens, plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc.	→	ISSUE PPQ Form 577 or 579[1]
Evidence of live pests, pathogens, plant debris, soil, weed seeds, etc.[2]	A method of cleaning or treating the seed is available and acceptable to the applicant and the foreign country	1. OFFER the applicant the option to recondition the seed 2. RE-INSPECT the sample
	No method of cleaning or treating the seed is available or acceptable to the applicant and the foreign country	1. REFUSE to issue PPQ Form 577 or 579 2. EXIT this manual

1 Refer to Completing PPQ Forms 577 and 579 on page 3-5-1 for further information.

2 You may offer the applicant the option of getting contaminants and pests identified instead of proceeding directly to cleaning or treating the seed. Refer to Table 3-4-6 on page 3-4-9 for further information.

USDA Export Manual 06/2017-22 edition

Pest Free Area (PFA)

- An area in which a specific pest **does not** occur as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being **officially** maintained.

ESTABLISHING A PEST FREE AREA

- Written plan outlining how the proposed PFA would satisfy the requirements found in ISPM 4 and ISPM 8
- Includes:
  - General surveillance
  - Surveys
  - Regulatory controls
  - Auditing of records
  - Documentation
  - Periodic checks to verify that pest freedom has been maintained

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Pest Free Place of Production (PFPP)

- Place of production in which a specific pest **does not** occur as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained for a defined period.

- Specific to a production site – could be a greenhouse, a nursery, a field location, etc.
- Higher bar for establishment and maintenance than a PFA

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Export Resources

- Export Program Manual (XPM)
  - Operation manual for inspection and issuance of phytosanitary certificates
- Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) System
  - Web-based application to issue and track phytosanitary certificates
- Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD)
  - Database containing the phytosanitary import requirements of US-origin commodities to foreign countries

Plant Health Export Information

Last Modified: Nov 4, 2021 Print

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) provides phytosanitary certification of both U.S. and foreign-origin agricultural commodities. The export program does not require certification of any U.S. exports, but rather provides certification of commodities as a service to U.S. exporters.

- Opening New Markets for U.S. Commodities
- Export Program Manual

Frequently Asked Questions

- Trading Partners Participating in Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (ePhyto)
- How ePhyto functions in Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking (PCIT)
- Phytosanitary certification of agricultural commodities and processed plant products

Export Certification

- Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) System
- Ineligible Commodities
- Eligible Processed Commodities
- Export Certificates and Application Forms
- User Fees for Export Certificates
- Recommended Best Practices for Reducing Weed Seeds in U.S. Soybean Exports

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/sa_export/export-services-program

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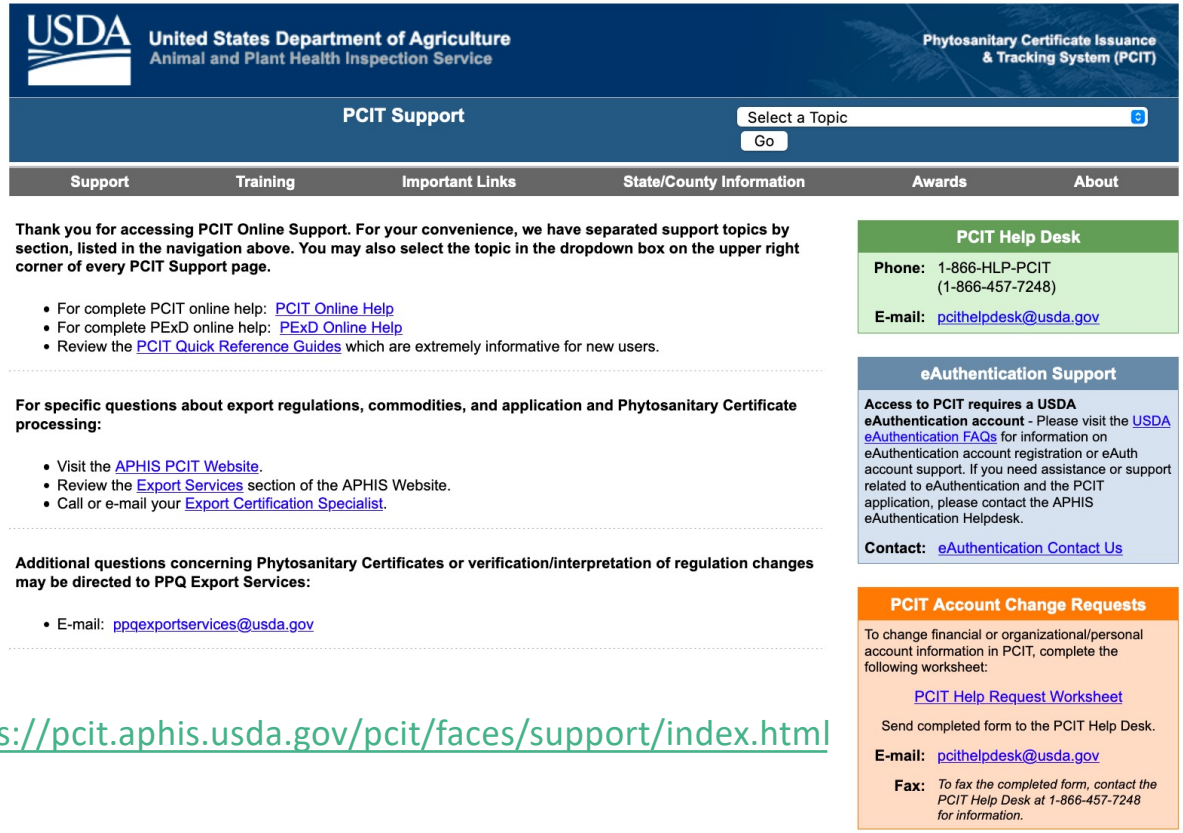
PCIT

- https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/
- Choose Salem-Commodity Inspection Div. for seed phytosanitary certificates
- For assistance:
  - APHIS has an online help portal, quick reference guides, and a help desk → see information at right
  - ODA – help with application issues for seed and hay/straw phytosanitary certificates



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking System (PCIT)

PCIT Support — Select a Topic — Go

Support | Training | Important Links | State/County Information | Awards | About

Thank you for accessing PCIT Online Support. For your convenience, we have separated support topics by section, listed in the navigation above. You may also select the topic in the dropdown box on the upper right corner of every PCIT Support page.

- For complete PCIT online help: PCIT Online Help
- For complete PExD online help: PExD Online Help
- Review the PCIT Quick Reference Guides which are extremely informative for new users.

For specific questions about export regulations, commodities, and application and Phytosanitary Certificate processing:

- Visit the APHIS PCIT Website.
- Review the Export Services section of the APHIS Website.
- Call or e-mail your Export Certification Specialist.

Additional questions concerning Phytosanitary Certificates or verification/interpretation of regulation changes may be directed to PPQ Export Services:

- E-mail: ppqexportservices@usda.gov

PCIT Help Desk
Phone: 1-866-HLP-PCIT (1-866-457-7248)
E-mail: pcithelpdesk@usda.gov

eAuthentication Support
Access to PCIT requires a USDA eAuthentication account - Please visit the USDA eAuthentication FAQs for information on eAuthentication account registration or eAuth account support. If you need assistance or support related to eAuthentication and the PCIT application, please contact the APHIS eAuthentication Helpdesk.
Contact: eAuthentication Contact Us

PCIT Account Change Requests
To change financial or organizational/personal account information in PCIT, complete the following worksheet:
PCIT Help Request Worksheet
Send completed form to the PCIT Help Desk.
E-mail: pcithelpdesk@usda.gov
Fax: *To fax the completed form, contact the PCIT Help Desk at 1-866-457-7248 for information.*

https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/faces/support/index.html

Phytosanitary Certificates (Seed, Hay & Straw)

Connie Williams, Administrative Specialist
503.991.2655 | Connie.Williams@oda.oregon.gov

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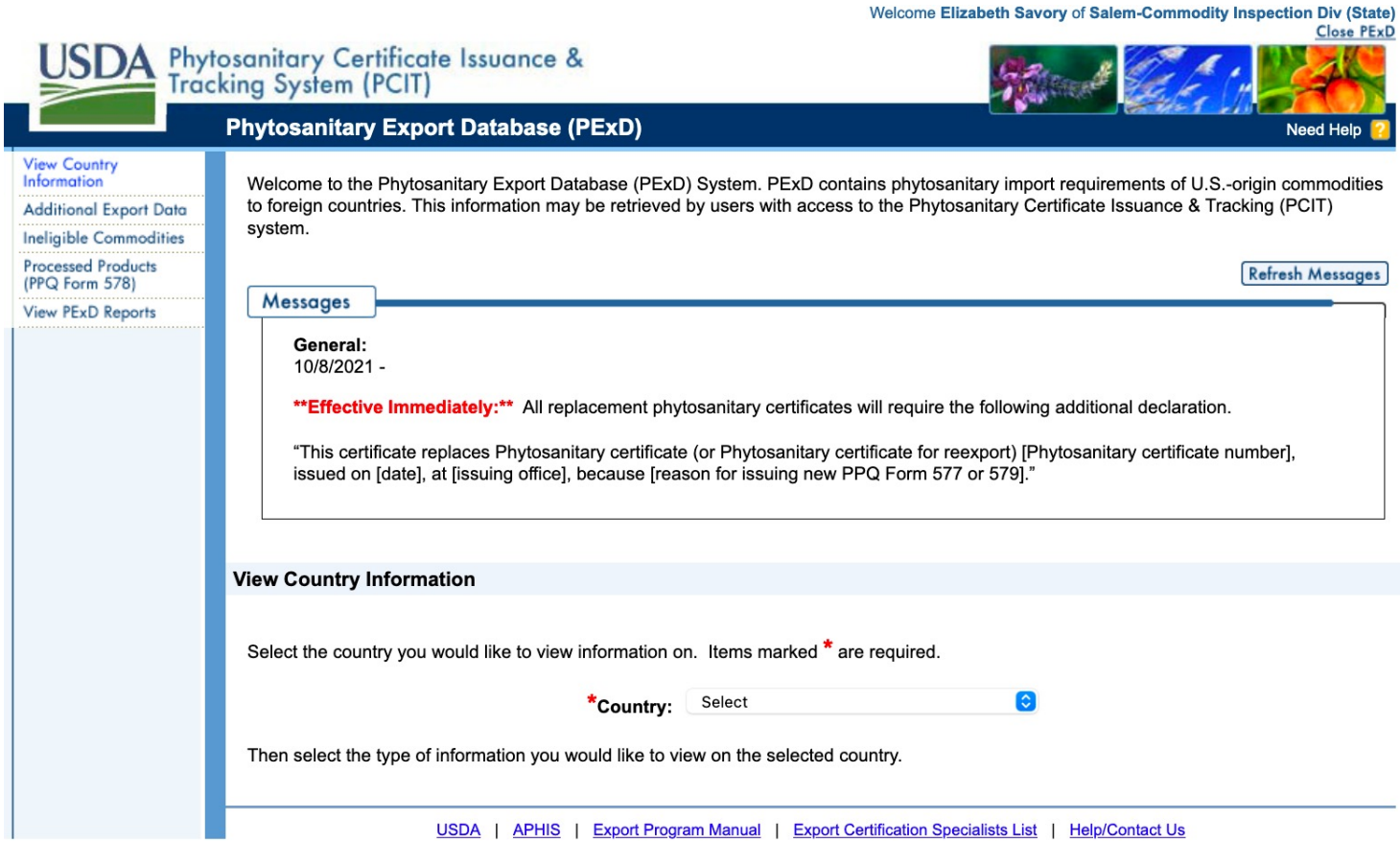
PExD



- https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/PExD/faces/ViewPExD.jsp

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PExD can change at any time!

European Union*

2012

Soil is prohibited.

General Requirements

For all commodities to all countries, ACOs should review requirements under View Country Information → Commodity.

Additional Information	**Prohibited Products**	Restricted Products	Unrestricted Products

Last Updated: January 11, 2
Soil and growing medium
Soil and growing medium
including peat or bark, ot

Plants for planting 2019 definition
Plants which are already planted and are intended to remain planted or to be replanted after their introduction or plants which are not planted at the time of introduction, but are intended to be planted thereafter. This does not include seeds, bulbs, corms, rhizomes, or tubers.

2019

Soil is prohibited ONLY in association with plants for planting.

Last Updated: April 04, 2019
Soil and growing medium
Soil and growing medium as such, which consists in whole or in part of soil or solid organic substances such as parts of plants, humus including peat or bark, other than that composed entirely of peat in association with plants for planting.

2021

Soil is prohibited when present with plants.

Last Updated: December 07, 2021
Soil as the commodity or when present with plants
Commodity is prohibited. Do not certify.

Plant
Living plants and the following living parts of plants:

- Bulbs
- Corms

Note: Cropped out a few items

- Runners
- Seeds
- Scions

2021 definition

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PExD vs. an Import Permit, who decides?

Official Communication

Official communication[1] contains the phytosanitary requirements from an NPPO that **must** be met for importation of a commodity. Official communication in the form of an IP, Letter of Authorization, etc. replaces or supplements information contained in PExD. In most cases, ACOs will be dealing with IPs presented by an applicant. Since there are no international standards for official communication, ACOs need to carefully review any document to ensure that it is from the NPPO of the importing country.

The name and contact information for NPPOs can be found in PExD under Foreign Points of Contact. The following information pertains specifically to IPs but can be applied to any type of official communication.

NOTICE

Once official communication has been presented, the ACO **must** meet the requirements that were presented. If the requirements on official communication are **not** allowed by PPQ policy, refuse to certify and recommend that new official communication be obtained.

USDA Export Manual 06/2017-22 edition

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Phytosanitary Certificate Process

- Know what the phytosanitary requirements are for your seed kind and the importing country.
  - Check PExD, contact USDA APHIS Export Services, talk to your importer, review your import permits prior to shipping
- Request official sampling and inspection (and possibly testing) from the ODA – email sample/test request form to SeedServices@oda.oregon.gov
- Apply for the phytosanitary certificate in PCIT within 30 days (or appropriate time frame)
  - Include import permit (if required), inspection reports, treatment/witness reports, relevant documentation

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Changes for 2022 (so far!)

- Ephyto implementation increased
  - Does not change process for applying for or issuing certificates
  - As soon as the PC is issued (signed) it is sent to the importing country
  - Use the replace function → it will "withdraw" the previous PC; otherwise it could appear that there are multiple active PCs for the same shipment
- All* phytosanitary certificates can be esigned or printed on plain paper.
  - *Taiwan and Vietnam are the exceptions → must be physically signed by the ACO, but can be on plain paper; Mexico is also recommended to get a wet signature
- What should we do with the old security paper?
  - Do NOT use it
  - Wait for guidance from Export Services about what to do with it

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Thank you!

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Elizabeth.Savory@oda.oregon.gov | 503.881.0889

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Nathan.Miller@oda.oregon.gov | 503.986.4577

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