

Transparency for International Trade

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U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) has developed a Regulated Plant Pest List (RPPL). This provides trading partners with an official list of plant pests of concern to the U.S., along with providing greater transparency of Agency actions. The rationale is that through greater transparency, better information is made available, and unjustified phytosanitary trade barriers will be revealed, challenged, and eliminated. Additionally, the RPPL provides focus to APHIS' safeguarding activities, including inspection of commodities for pests in its pre-clearance programs and at U.S. ports-of-entry, surveys for exotic pests, methods for pest risk mitigation, and pest eradication programs.

The list was derived from pests identified in Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 300-399. In addition, due to changes in pest status or new information, certain pests detected through inspection or survey may no longer be regulated. The list was updated to reflect recent taxonomic nomenclature and pest status. APHIS continually detects threatening new pests through its inspection and survey activities. Therefore, the RPPL does not include all pests for which APHIS would necessarily take action.

The RPPL is a living document to which additional species may be added as they are identified and their pest status documented. Pathways for pest taxa being added to or deleted from the RPPL are:

Pathway 1) Regulated pests frequently intercepted from imported agricultural commodities

Pathway 2) Regulated pests identified by APHIS or stakeholders as potentially causing serious economic or environmental damage in the United States.

Candidates for the PPQ Pest List are limited to regulated pest taxa as defined by the International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agricultural Organization.