



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Conference Call Report

Expert Group:	Revision of RSPM 26 (<i>Certification of commercial arthropod biological control agents moving into NAPPO member countries</i>)	
Location:	Video conference (Zoom meeting)	
Date:	August 10, 2022	
Chairperson	Bruno Gallant (CFIA)	
Participants:		
Vicente Rosas Medina (SENASICA)	Hugo Arredondo (MX industry)	Kimberly Riley (Canada Industry)
Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO)	Melissa Tacolla (U. S. Industry)	Carlos Lázaro Castellanos (SENASICA)
Peter Mason (Agri. Canada)	Bob Pfannenstiel (APHIS PPQ)	John Goolsby (USDA ARS)
Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO)	Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)	Serena Bhardwaj (U. S. / CA Industry)
Summary		
Project:	Revision of RSPM 26 (<i>Certification of commercial arthropod biological control agents moving into NAPPO member countries</i>)	
General comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by NAPPO and the EG chairperson. • The NAPPO TD will write the video conference report • The EG authorized the recording of this video conference for report purposes. The file will be deleted when the report is reviewed and authorized by the chairperson. • Simultaneous interpretation provided. Members were asked to speak in short sentences to allow time for interpretation. <p>Points to add to the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed approach – suggested by the chairperson (i.e., 2-phased approach: 1. validating the continued need for the standards; 2. if keeping it making updates). • Registration to the NAPPO Annual Meeting – NAPPO ED 	
Item 1:	Considerations for the review of RSPM 26	
Consensus:	<p>The chairperson provided a summary and description of RSPM 26. EG members provided the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSPM 26 was written with the intention to facilitate the movement of biological control agents in the NAPPO region. It was meant to speed up the inspection process for the importation of BCA. • The standard was originally requested from the industry to facilitate the movement of BCA (expedite approval) in the 	

	<p>NAPPO region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changes in the regulatory measures to move BCA in the U. S. were due to stricter control that resulted from the 9/11 events; regulatory requirements and measures result in additional inspection times and reduction of efficacy of the imported material due to longer processing time. • Same challenges are seen with the importation of sterile insects. • Canada and U.S. have not implemented RSPM 26. • Mexico is implementing RSPM 26, and the standard is aligned with the federal regulations. • RSPM 26 addresses mostly the export process and not the import of BCAs, with resulting disconnect between what importing countries are requesting and what the RSPM calls for. • Difficult to harmonize approaches when multiple agencies are involved in the importation process. • Need to know where the phytosanitary measures have been implemented. • Need to think about issues that are affecting the movement of BCAs in the NAPPO region. The nature and scope of RSPM 26 could be modified accordingly. EG needs to take a close look at the underlying issues that triggered the need for the standard and consider different options for addressing these, that may or may not point to a continued need for the standard or for the certification process it recommends. • A workshop to bring stakeholders and interested parties to bring these issues for discussion was suggested. • Need to harmonize and provide more clarity to terms like “<i>biological purity</i>” and “<i>origin</i>” to facilitate the certification process. <p>The EG agree to work on a “<i>Background study paper</i>” to identify what the issues are regarding the implementation of RSPM 26 from the regulatory and industry perspective, with the scope being limited to biological control agents. This information will be important to determine the next steps with RSPM 26 and provide the discussion points for a workshop.</p> <p>The background study paper will focus on commercial biological control agents and not non-<i>Apis</i> pollinators, as non-<i>Apis</i> pollinators raise different sets of possible considerations and groups (e.g., in Mexico and Canada non-<i>Apis</i> pollinators are managed by a different government agency).</p>
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Next Steps

Responsible Person	Action	Date
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EG members	Identify issues from the regulatory and industry perspective regarding the implementation of RSPM 26 to produce a background study paper. EG members should send this information to the NAPPO Secretariat. These issues should be focused on biological control agents, and not non- <i>Apis</i> pollinators, and should identify the “actors” involved.	By September 29, 2022.
NAPPO Secretariat	Translate the information provided on the background study paper, compile the feedback, produce a document in Spanish and another in English, and share it with the EG for discussion during the next video conference.	By October 6, 2022
Next Meeting		
Location/Lugar:	Video conference (Zoom meeting)	
Date:	October 13 from 2:00-3:30 pm EST	
Proposed Agenda Items		
1. Discussion of topics/issues submitted by EG members		
2. Defining next steps		