

## **Overview of NAPPO RSPM 20**

### **Establishment, Maintenance, and Verification of Areas of Low Pest Prevalence for Insects**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this standard is to describe procedures for establishing, maintaining, and verifying areas of low pest prevalence (ALPPs) for insect pests. An ALPP is a protected area where a target pest occurs and is maintained below a threshold level through surveillance and control practices. An ALPP facilitates the safe movement (either domestically or internationally) of plant commodity(s) out of the protected area.



**Contents:** The body of the standard contains background information on ALPPs, and describes general and specific requirements for establishing, maintaining, and verifying an ALPP. It also addresses changes in maintaining ALPP status, corrective actions, documentation, and bilateral workplans. **Annex 1** lists elements to be evaluated when determining if an area meets the conditions of this standard. **Appendix 1** defines ALPPs and describes their benefits, distinguishes between ALPPs and pest free areas, and addresses thresholds for low pest prevalence. **Appendix 2** contains formats for describing the area of an ALPP and the places of production within an ALPP. **Appendix 3** lists reasons for changing an ALPP.

**Summary of RSPM 20:** The dimensions of an ALPP and the intensity of required phytosanitary actions within it depend on the biology of the target pest and the characteristics of the protected area. An ALPP may be as large as all or part of several countries, or as small as a single production site. An ALPP can occur naturally or can be achieved by application of measures to control the target pest. The feasibility of **establishing an ALPP** depends on factors such as pest biology; available technology; geographic factors; legislation and regulation; and cooperation from growers. Control measures are used to reduce the target pest populations below an acceptable threshold in commercial, non-commercial, and wild hosts. **An ALPP is maintained** by continuous surveillance, control activities, and movement controls aimed at the target pest. **An ALPP is verified** by field inspections and sampling of host commodities. Importing and exporting countries should collaborate in developing a bilateral workplan when an ALPP is the basis for export.

**Annex 1** lists the following elements to be considered in establishing, maintaining, and verifying an ALPP: geographic description of the ALPP; definition of the survey protocol; surveillance quality control protocols; control measures appropriate to target pest and its hosts; movement controls; and corrective actions. **Appendix 1** indicates that the main difference between an ALPP and a pest free area (PFA) is that the ALPP accepts pest presence below a threshold and a PFA requires pest absence. Among the benefits of an ALPP is that it facilitates market access for areas formerly excluded, and requires less restrictive movement controls. The threshold for low pest prevalence is based on a consideration of the risk posed by the interaction between the pest, the host, and the defined area. **Appendix 2** specifies types of information (tables, maps, and text) required to describe the ALPP, each place of production within it, and its buffer zones. **Appendix 3** lists reasons for changes to an ALPP, including: ALPP exceeds target pest threshold; outbreaks of other pests; and deficiencies or failures in control or regulatory procedures.

**Please read RSPM 20** for more complete guidance on establishing, maintaining, and verifying ALPPs.

Photo by SENASICA <https://www.gob.mx/senasica/articulos/mas-zonas-de-baja-prevalencia-de-la-mosca-de-la-fruta>