

Overview of NAPPO RSPM 28 **Authorization of Entities to Perform Phytosanitary Services**

Purpose: National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) may authorize other entities (individuals, facilities, businesses, organizations) to perform certain plant health services on their behalf. These arrangements allow NPPOs to continue facilitating safe agricultural trade while protecting plant resources in association with other partners. The purpose of RSPM 28 is to describe the process of authorization of these entities and the responsibilities of both the NPPO and the authorized entity under such an arrangement.

Contents: The standard describes the responsibilities of the NPPO and the authorized entity, and the process for granting authorization, assessing entity compliance, and removing and reinstating authorization.



Summary of RSPM 28: NPPO responsibilities include identifying the authorization program objectives and requirements, defining non-compliance, developing audit checklists, carrying out periodic systems and surveillance audits, and establishing mechanisms to address non-compliance. Entity responsibilities include developing a Quality Systems Manual (QSM) that contains standard operating procedures to meet the program requirements, maintaining qualified personnel, undergoing NPPO periodic audits, and responding to non-conformities.

The process of authorization and compliance assessment allows an NPPO to ensure that an entity is achieving and maintaining a consistent level of technical competence in providing plant health services. As such, NPPOs specify the requirements for performing the plant health services and entities respond by developing a

QSM describing the procedures in place to meet the specified requirements. The NPPO conducts systems audits to determine if a QSM is adequate for achieving the program objectives. The NPPO also conducts surveillance audits to assess program delivery. Non-conformities are addressed via an action plan. Failure to follow action plans may result in suspension or removal of authorization.

Please read RSPM 28 for a more complete description of the guidelines for authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary services.

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