

## PPQ EXPORT PROGRAM AND PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENT FOR US EXPORTS

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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. The export program's purpose is to facilitate the movement of plants and plant products from the U.S. into foreign countries by certifying that importing country's phytosanitary requirements have been met. In 2014, more than 665,000 phytosanitary certificates were issued to facilitate trade.

Phytosanitary certification may involve commodity treatment if the importing country's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) requires treatment of the commodity for importation, to mitigate for pests found during inspection or for precautionary purposes. Treatments used on a commodity for export include chemical and non-chemical types. The majority of treatments included on phytosanitary certificates are chemical types. Outreach to utilize non-chemical treatments as pest mitigation will provide opportunities to decrease the use of chemical fumigants such as methyl bromide.