

Procedure for issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate

The Phytosanitary Certificate (PSC) main motive is extending protection and safeguarding the consignment. Further, aids to **avoid pests** in consignment and thereby, conserve the biodiversity of the importing country by abiding the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS). Phytosanitary certificate is compulsory for **custom clearance** and exporting agricultural commodities from India. In India directorate of **Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (PPQS)** are in charge of issuing phytosanitary certificate. For export of agricultural commodities to USA it is necessary for the company to register with National Plant Protection organization.

Inspection of agricultural commodities to issue Phytosanitary Certificate (PSC) for export of plant products such as fresh fruits and vegetables, rice, peanuts, flowers, etc. as per the requirements of importing countries under International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in the model certificate prescribed under IPPC, following is summary of procedure.

- Phyto-sanitary Certificate is compulsory while shipping agricultural commodities from India with a specific reference to exports of fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, rice, peanuts and other plant products that attracts insect/pest infestation.
- PSC is issued by authorized personnel of Plant Quarantine Department - National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) or by the authorized personnel such as respective State Agriculture/Horticulture Department, ICAR institution/Agriculture Universities, designated plant quarantine departments of Central/State Govt. at nominal fees.
- All major air and sea ports handling exports have designated officials of Plant Quarantine Department. List of authorized personnel to issue PSC is attached which is dynamic in nature, the exporters may check their respective region/exit ports.
- Exporters are required to apply in prescribed format to respective Plant Quarantine Station at the designated port from which he intends to undertake export.
- Exporters are required to apply minimum 24-48 hrs before the shipment in case of perishable products such as fresh fruits and vegetables and cut flowers consignments. In case of seeds, cereals and peanut consignments and other material which needs fumigation, the exporters are required to apply minimum 8-10 days prior to shipment.
- Inspections of the consignment are carried out by authorized person for issuance of PSC.
- Visual examination with hand lens and washing tests, etc. are carried out for material meant for consumption. In case of seeds and planting material for propagation inspections involves sampling and laboratory tests.
- The fee for issuance of PSC for less than 1.5 cubic meter volume consignment is Rs. 1/-for 1.5 cubic meter and more volume the fee is Rs. 1/- extra for every additional 3.0 cubic meter or part thereof up to a maximum of Rs. 100/- per consignment.

- Fumigation or disinfection charges are Rs. 6/- and Rs. 2/- extra for every additional 1.5 cubic meter or part thereof. In case of fresh fruits and vegetables and other perishable products fumigation is not required, however, the packing material has to be free of pests/insects and any other contamination.
- In case of export of grapes, the PSC issuance has been integrated in GrapeNet. Similar efforts are being made for integration of PSC issuance from the online systems implemented by APEDA.
- The PSC issuance inspections are conducted either at port of export or exporters' premises. Fumigation is carried out by authorized person at the applicant's premises. The flow chart for various steps involved in PSC issuance are as follows:

Export Inspection - Flowchart

