Accreditation Systems and Programs

Last Modified:

Minituber (*Solanum tuberosum*) Laboratory Testing Pilot With Private Laboratories

APHIS will provisionally approve qualified private laboratories to conduct pathogen testing of minitubers (*Solanum tuberosum*) and plant tissues used for the production of minitubers in support of U.S. export certification beginning August 2016. This pilot will allow APHIS to evaluate the use of private laboratory pathogen test results for phytosanitary certification prior to pursuing implementation through rulemaking.

To qualify for the pilot, private laboratories must have International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 17025 accreditation for laboratory testing of plants and plant product pathogens. Interested laboratories must complete and sign the application form and meet all applicable APHIS requirements to participate. To request the application form, send an email to ppqexportservices@usda.gov.

During the pilot, industry may use laboratory test results from approved private entities when they apply for minituber phytosanitary certification. Once entities complete the application process, a list of approved laboratories will be provided on this page.

APHIS' other accreditation programs—the State National Harmonization Program and the National Seed Health System—will continue to operate without any policy or

operational changes.

For more information about this pilot, send an email to ppqexportservices@usda.gov .

APHIS-Approved Private Laboratories

Company	APHIS Approval Status	Third-Party Accreditation	Approved Services
Agdia Testing Services 52642 County Rd. 1 Elkhart, IN 46514	Began-Expired 09/25/2020-10/30/2026 Began: 11/10/2026 Expires: 11/10/2027	ANAB (ANSI National Accreditation Board) ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (Effective Through: July 15, 2028)	Testing of plant pathogens associated with minituber (*Solanum tuberosum*) and tissue derived from plants used for the production of minitubers.

National Seed Health System (NSHS)

The NSHS was established by 7 CFR 353.9 . The NSHS specifies standards for laboratory seed health tests and seed crop field inspections used for issuing phytosanitary certificates that meet international regulations pertaining to seed exports from the United States.

- Reference Manual A (RM-A)
  Administration, procedures, and policies of the National Seed Health System
- Reference Manual B (RM-B)
- List of Entities Accredited Under the Seed Health Program (348.94 KB)
- NSHS site at Iowa State University

Regulatory Framework for Seed Health (ReFreSH)

To reduce that plant pest risk associated with the international movement of seed, APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program developed the **ReFreSH** in collaboration with the seed industry, State and Federal officials, academia, and others. ReFreSH is a PPQ-approved systems approach that identifies and leverages current seed industry production and quality management practices that reduce overall pest risk. It will recognize these measures within the context of an accreditation program that accommodates all seed sectors and all sizes of companies.

State National Harmonization Program (SNHP)

This SNHP for seed potatoes specifies minimum phytosanitary standards to enhance uniformity and quality in seed potatoes shipped between States, enhance marketing of high-quality commercial potatoes grown in the United States, and enhance international marketing of quality seed potatoes exported from the United States. Requirements for participants include minimum standards set by State regulatory authorities for certification of seed potatoes to facilitate interstate shipment, export, and cooperation in pest management.

- State National Harmonization Program MOU Template for Seed Potatoes

Approved Laboratories

The following is a list of laboratories approved by APHIS to test seed potato for the pathogen *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus* for export to Canada.

Laboratory	Address
Colorado State University Potato Certification Service Laboratory	San Luis Valley Research Center 0249 East Road 9 North Center, CO 81125
Idaho Crop Improvement Association	1680 Foote Dr. Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Maine Potato Seed Testing Laboratory	744 Main St. Presque Isle, ME 04769
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	1615 South Harrison Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823

Laboratory	Address
Minnesota Department of Agriculture Seed Potato Certification Laboratory	312 4th Ave. NE East Grand Forks, MN 56721
Montana State University Seed Potato Disease Testing Laboratory	223 Plant Growth Center Bozeman, MT 59717
North Dakota State University Plant Diagnostic Laboratory	206 Waldron Hall P.O. Box 5012 Fargo, ND 58105
Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Diagnostics Laboratory	Russell Laboratories 1630 Linden Dr. Madison, WI 53706

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