



PPQ 2025 Annual Report

Strengthening Pest Exclusion Abroad

Table of Contents

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection.....	1
Pre-Clearance and Offshore Risk Reduction.....	2
Risk Analysis and Methods Development for Pest Exclusion	4

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) safeguard U.S. agricultural and natural resources from the introduction of invasive pests and diseases through the Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection (AQI) program. PPQ, part of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), assesses the risks associated with international trade and specific imported agricultural products, and develops import regulations to exclude foreign pests and diseases and protect U.S. agriculture.

In addition, PPQ conducts off-shore pest risk reduction activities, including foreign commodity pre-clearance programs; trains agricultural inspectors and detector dog teams to work at U.S. ports of entry; inspects and takes action as necessary on imported plant propagative materials; monitors the fumigation of arriving containers and cargo to mitigate pest risks; conducts trade compliance activities to detect violations of PPQ’ import regulations and prevent smuggling; and provides the scientific support necessary to carry out these activities and those carried out by CBP. These activities include, among other things, the authoritative and timely identification of pests necessary to determine whether regulatory actions on imported products are required.

PPQ collects AQI user fees under the authority of The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 [21 U.S.C. 136a], to recover costs for services provided by APHIS and CBP associated with preclearance inspections of passengers and the port-of-entry arrival of commercial vessels, trucks, loaded railroad cars, aircraft, and passengers entering the United States from a foreign destination. In fiscal year (FY) 2025, AQI user fee collections were \$1,027,370,774.74, marking the first time AQI user fee collections exceeded one billion dollars in PPQ history. Under the 2024 rulemaking implementation schedule, new rates became effective on October 1st of each fiscal year through FY 2028.

PPQ inspectors oversee the preclearance of certain commodities by inspecting shipments for export in the country of origin, monitoring treatments where required, or by monitoring systems approaches for pest mitigation (a combination of integrated pest management practices used in the field and after harvest). In most cases, exporters of the pre-cleared commodity cover the costs of this PPQ service through trust funds established for this purpose.

Pre-Clearance and Offshore Risk Reduction

One of the most effective ways to facilitate the safe movement of commodities into the United States is to address pest threats where they originate. In FY 2025, PPQ precleared 5.6 billion pounds of 84 different fresh fruits and vegetables from 19 countries before they arrived in the United States. Additionally, PPQ oversaw the inspection of 1.9 billion pounds of avocados in Mexico as a part of a systems approach to facilitate safe trade. PPQ has overseen this program since 1997, and the program accounts for about 80 percent of avocado imports to the United States. PPQ also precleared 2.6 million pounds of cut flowers, bulbs, and perennials from Chile and approximately 880 million bulbs and perennials from the Netherlands and South Africa.

PPQ conducts certain inspections and certifications overseas to verify that treatment or production facilities meet PPQ standards and regulatory requirements to help protect U.S. plant health from pests that could move into the United States with high-demand, large-volume commodity imports. In FY 2025, PPQ certified 198 phytosanitary treatment facilities, including 75 facilities in Mexico, 6 facilities in Central America, 8 facilities in the Caribbean, 102 facilities in South America, and 7 facilities in Asia. PPQ is currently tracking 307 offshore treatment facilities in 20 countries. Among the most common

mitigation types are hot water treatment (149 active facilities) and methyl bromide fumigation (129 active facilities). These actions ensure the efficacy of offshore treatments that protect American agriculture from potential pests on imported commodities before they arrive onshore.

Through audit-based monitoring programs, PPQ oversees almost 90 commodity programs that mitigate pests before they reach U.S. ports. Of these, 5 programs require annual audits of all or a portion of their facilities. PPQ completed 72 audits and recertifications, including 17 *Ralstonia* exclusion program facilities for geranium cuttings and tomato plantlets in growing media, 7 offshore greenhouse certification program facilities, and 9 clean stock program facilities for *Dracaena* (a genus that includes many popular houseplants). These three programs alone allowed for the safe import of 301 million propagative plant units with a wholesale value of \$89 million (based on industry-provided data). In addition, PPQ conducted audits of four consumption commodity programs, encompassing 13 mango and litchi facilities in Australia, four potato facilities in Mexico, eight bell pepper facilities in Spain, and five avocado facilities in Ecuador.

In FY 2025, to help the U.S. military prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases and plant pests, PPQ worked with the U.S. Department of Defense to inspect 29,929 shipments of personal goods, 1.7 million pieces of military cargo, and 10,084 personal vehicles from 18 countries before they returned stateside to prevent the introduction of foreign pests and disease. PPQ completed annual evaluations and recertifications of 114 military preclearance programs in countries in Europe and Africa, ensuring that these programs meet all administrative, programmatic, and safeguarding requirements. Additionally, PPQ trained 209 military service members to manage these programs locally in Europe and Africa.

Defoliating moth species from Asia, or the flighted spongy moth complex (FSMC) made up of five *Lymantria* species and subspecies, present a significant threat to U.S. forests. These moths can lay their eggs on the superstructure of maritime vessels, allowing the pest to spread into new territories. In partnership with CBP, during FY 2025 PPQ coordinated the inspection of approximately 4,927 vessels that had visited high-risk ports. Vessels can request a predeparture FSMC inspection certificate from 28 national plant protection organization (NPPO)-accredited certification bodies in high-risk countries, including China, Japan, Korea, and Russia. PPQ coordinates on these inspection standards with its counterparts in Argentina, Canada, Chile, and New Zealand. Seventeen ships had FSMC infestations in FY 2025.

In FY 2025, in cooperation with North Carolina State University, PPQ provided 42 pest alert notifications to more than 3,600 registered users of PestLens, including 126 new pest-related articles, and added 64 new pests and 10 new pest distribution records to the Global Pest and Disease Database. These systems serve as a resource for PPQ and other plant health regulatory officials that conduct plant health risk assessments and develop inspection policies for imported goods, among other things.

[Risk Analysis and Methods Development for Pest Exclusion](#)

PPQ's Plant Pest Risk Analysis (PPRA) develops pest risk analyses and epidemiological approaches to support and improve pest exclusion programs and decision making. In FY 2025, PPRA completed approximately 250 risk analyses associated with imports, exports, invasive pest threats, and other programmatic requirements. This total includes 41 analyses to open, expand, or maintain export markets for U.S. producers and 28 risk assessments for import requests from foreign countries. PPRA's work also included evaluations of 40 newly detected pests, 38 assessments of Federal Noxious Weeds or other potential weed threats of concern to the United States, 21 evaluations of off-shore pests to identify the greatest threats and help PPQ prioritize resources, seven new or updated suitability maps for off-shore pests of concern, four pathway analyses and spread models, and 14 New Pest Response Guidelines to proactively prepare for emergency responses. These products identify potentially harmful plant pests and diseases and help PPQ decide what mitigating actions to take to prevent their entry into or limit their spread or economic impact within the United States.