



Re: *Containment Standards for Facilities Handling Plant Pests*

Dear Stakeholder:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA's) Office of Biohazard Containment and Safety (OBCS) is pleased to release the first edition of the *Containment Standards for Facilities Handling Plant Pests* (CSFHPP). These standards, drafted by a 17-member working group of multidisciplinary experts from the CFIA, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, McGill University and private industry, describe the minimum acceptable physical and operational requirements for facilities working with plant pests (other than weeds). The CSFHPP do not apply to soil, genetically modified plants, and biological control insects.

The CSFHPP outline the physical and operational requirements appropriate for the specific pest under consideration. It is important to note that while the CSFHPP are primarily intended to address facilities importing plant pests, they also apply to facilities that collect or isolate plant pests within Canada.

The CSFHPP will come into effect on November 1, 2010. At that time, import permits will only be issued to facilities certified as meeting the appropriate physical and operational requirements described in the CSFHPP. We will work with stakeholders to assist with meeting the standard.

To obtain these import permits, an application must be submitted to CFIA's Plant Health Import Permit Office. The application form can be found at [http://active.inspection.gc.ca/tech/pdf.asp?v9plac5256e\\_re](http://active.inspection.gc.ca/tech/pdf.asp?v9plac5256e_re). For information on import procedures and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/internat/importe.shtml>.

If you currently operate a facility which handles plant pests or if you are building a new facility, please contact the OBCS early in the planning phase at [biocon@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:biocon@inspection.gc.ca). A Plant Pest Containment Level Assessment Checklist is available for your use in evaluating the physical components of your facility. Once completed and returned to the OBCS, a Biosafety Specialist will review it to determine the required PPC level and provide recommendations on how to attain the desired PPC level.

Working collaboratively with the CFIA during the introductory and transitional phase of the standard will help ensure compliance with the appropriate requirements and also ensure our Canadian plant life, agricultural, and forestry sectors remain protected.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months.

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