



DESIGN AND OPERATION OF POST-ENTRY QUARANTINE STATIONS FOR PLANTS

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

SCOPE

OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
 - 2.1 PEQ Stations
 - 2.2 Location
 - 2.3 Physical requirements
 - 2.4 Operational requirements (Staff, technical and operational procedures, documentation)
 - 2.5 Diagnosis and removal of infestations of quarantine pests or vectors
 - 2.6 Audit of PEQ stations
3. CONCLUSION OF PEQ
4. ANNEX





SCOPE

This standard describes general guidelines for the design and operation of post-entry quarantine (PEQ) stations for holding consignments of plants in quarantine that may be infested with quarantine pests





OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of PEQ stations is to contain both the plants and any quarantine pest potentially associated with them so that neither can escape from the station before the required inspection, testing, treatment and verification activities have been completed, and the consignment is released or destroyed.

The design and management of the PEQ station should ensure that any quarantine pests associated with consignments of plants are suitably confined and do not enter and/or establish in the area.





1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Specifications of PEQ stations for consignments of plants should reflect both the biology of the plants and the biology of the quarantine pests that may be potentially associated with the plants. The potential impacts of such pests should also be taken into account.

Successful quarantine of consignments of plants requires measures to prevent any associated quarantine pests from escaping, and where appropriate, to prevent organisms in the area outside the PEQ station from entering the station and transferring or vectoring quarantine pests





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.1 PEQ Stations

2.2 Location

2.3 Physical requirements

2.4 Operational requirements

- Staff requirements
- Technical and Operational procedures
- Documentation

2.5 Diagnosis and removal of infestations of quarantine pests or vectors

2.6 Audit of PEQ stations





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.1 PEQ Stations

Field site, screen house, glasshouse, laboratory, etc. Type of PEQ station should be determined by the type of imported plants and the quarantine pests potentially associated with them

2.2 Location

Risks of accidental escape of quarantine pests should be addressed. PEQ stations should provide adequate isolation and stability and some separation from related plant species





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.3 Physical requirements

- Delimitation
- External structural materials (walls, floors, roof and windows)
- Size (to ensure effective operation and associated procedures)
- Access (to avoid areas where plants are being grown)
- Design of openings (doors, windows, air vents, drains and other conduits)
- Treatment systems (air, water, solid and liquid waste)
- Equipment
- Access to water supply
- Signage





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.4 Operational requirements

– Staff requirements

- Qualified manager with overall responsibility for maintaining PEQ and all PEQ activities
- Key responsibilities concerning maintenance of PEQ stations and activities described and attributed to staff members.
- Means to control and register entry of authorized staff
- Access restricted to authorised persons.
- Procedure to ensure that all staff are adequately qualified, including training where appropriate





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.4 Operational requirements (Cont.)

- Technical and Operational procedures
 - number of plants not to exceed capacity of PEQ station
 - provision of disinfestations
 - spatial separation of different consignments or lots
 - full traceability of consignments
 - handling and sanitation procedures
 - provision for monitoring for pest occurrence (traps, etc)
 - inspection and/or testing to detect quarantine pests
 - assessment and control of critical equipment





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.4 Operational requirements (Cont.)

– Technical and Operational procedures (Cont.)

- criteria for what constitutes a breach of quarantine confinement, and a reporting system.
- contingency plans
- schedule for internal audits
- procedures for dealing with non-compliances
- procedure to control risks related to visitors
- provision for disposal of infested consignments
- procedures for decontamination of waste





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.4 Operational requirements (Cont.)

– Documentation

The following documents may be required:

- List of staff authorized to enter the station
- Site plan of the PEQ station
- Register of visitors
- Record of all PEQ activities conducted
- Register of all consignments of plants
- Records of training and skills of staff
- Records of inspections and testing





2. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

2.5 Diagnosis and removal of infestations of quarantine pests or vectors

PEQ stations should have access to expertise and facilities to treat, remove or destroy any infested plant material detected in the PEQ station

2.6 Audit of PEQ stations

The NPPO should audit the PEQ station on a regular basis to ensure that the station meets the physical and operational requirements





3. CONCLUSION OF PEQ

If plants are found to be free of quarantine pests, and meet the other regulatory requirements of the importing country, they can be released from quarantine





ANNEX 1

Annex 1 provides specifications for PEQ stations based on the biology of different types of quarantine pests (pests exclusively graft-transmitted; pests spread by soil or water only; airborne)





REVIEW OF PRESENTATION

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