



**Republic of North Macedonia  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy  
Phytosanitary Directorate**

# ***Operation of an NPPO***

***Chisinau, September 2019***

# Main elements of effective NPPO

A stylized background graphic featuring a yellow sun-like circle at the top, a green hand reaching out from the left, and a blue hand reaching out from the right, both hands appearing to support or hold the sun.

- Structure and responsibilities
- The budget
- System of internal cooperation
- Cooperation with other authorities
- Monitoring and official control
- Import control
- Export certification system
- Diagnostic support
- Wood Packaging Material (WPM)

# Structure and responsibilities

Phytosanitary system is composed by the following Competent Authorities (CAs):

- ***Phytosanitary Directorate (PD)*** - body within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) responsible for creation of the national phytosanitary policy and legislation
- ***State Phytosanitary Laboratory (SPL)*** - body within MAFWE conducts diagnostic of samples for plant harmful organisms, seeds, and also analysis of pesticides formulation and residues of PPPs,.
- ***State Agriculture Inspectorate (SAI)*** - body within MAFWE, with separate budget, responsible for:
  - official control of plant health and implementation of measures for prevention, eradication or containment of harmful organisms,
  - as well as for food safety controls in primary production of food of plant origin.

# Phytosanitary Directorate - NPPO

- Harmonization of legislation with EU *acquis*, including adoption of ISPM standards in national legislation
- Keeping registers and records determined by Law on Plant Health
- Maintaining the lists of quarantine pests and lists of regulated plants and plant products in the country
- Issuance of guidelines and recommendations in order to improve and harmonize the activity of the NPPO
- Co-ordination of the activities of regional and local units
- Taking the initiative and organizing training courses as well as other activities in order to improve professional skills and competence of the NPPO's staff

# Phytosanitary Directorate - NPPO

- Co-operation and representation of the NPPO in the international arena and in international organizations dealing with plant health and plant protection (FAO, WTO, SPS Agreement, IPPC, CPM, EPPO)
- Establishment/up-dating of Plant Health Status in the country in according to ISPM 8;
- Preparation of monitoring programs for plant health and plant protection products;
- Preparation of Contingency plans for emergency measures;
- Issuing of plant passports for planting material which is produced in registered nurseries under the control of NPPO intended for movement and selling of planting material in the country
- performing other tasks related to the plant health



# Stable and solid sources of financing



The budget income:

- From the fees for import control
- From the fees from plant production and export certification
- Fees from authorisation of PPPs

From the national budget special program are financed:

- Phytosanitary monitoring for early detection of relevant pests in agricultural crops, including seed and ware potatoes, fruits, grapes and vegetables;
- Monitoring for testing of active substance in plant protection products and for testing of maximum residue level (MRL) in agriculture crops;

# System of internal cooperation

An illustration of two hands, one green and one blue, holding a yellow and white globe. The hands are positioned as if supporting the globe from below. The background is a light green gradient.

- In December 2018, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy established a working group for phytosanitary policy aiming to improve communication and coordination among the CAs involved in the phytosanitary sector.
- The meetings are organised on weekly base
- The Minister chairs this working group composed from the representatives of:
  - Central authority PD,
  - Laboratory SPL,
  - FD,
  - SSD and
  - Inspectorate SAI.

# Cooperation with other authorities

Other stakeholders are:

- Food and Veterinary Agency
- Custom Authority
- Farmers' Association
- Distributors
- Scientific Institutions



# Monitoring and official controls



- **SAI** is responsible for official controls according to the:
  - Law on Plant Health
  - Law on PPPs,
  - Law on Seed and Seedling,
  - Law on New Plant Varieties.
- SAI implements Annual Phytosanitary Monitoring Program and Monitoring program for PPPs and residues.
- SAI performs inspection controls of feed of plant origin related to primary production.
- SAI is responsible for import controls

# Import control

- Import inspections on plant health and harmful organisms consist of
  - documentary,
  - identity and
  - physical (plant health) checks.

The official import control includes at least a systematic documentary check, a random identity check and a physical check, including if appropriate, taking samples.

- Business operators have to:
  - be registered in the Register of producers, processors, importers and distributors of plants, plant products and other objects,
  - submit application about import consignments to phytosanitary inspection, at least 24 hours in advance for consignments consisted of plants, plants products and other objects in accordance with Annex V part B from the Law on Plant Health.
  - submit the original documents to inspectors, i.e. phytosanitary certificates issued by CA of the country of origin and invoices, at the designated points of entry (BIPs).

# Import control



- Physical checks of consignments of plants and plant products from Annex V part B of the Law on Plant Health
- Physical check encompasses visual assessment of the health of the goods, if there is visible sign or symptom of harmful organisms
- Sampling in case of suspect presence of harmful organism from Annexes I or II of the Law on Plant Health,
- Samples are taken by the phytosanitary inspectors at the designated points of entry and deliver to the accredited laboratory for analyzes (SPL).
- After conducting of inspection control, if there is no risk of presence and introduction of harmful organisms, the consignments is allowed to enter into the territory of the country.
- In the case of positive findings, phytosanitary inspector undertakes already prescribed measures in the Law on Plant Health (returned in the country of origin, destruction of consignment etc.)

# In land control

- The phytosanitary inspectors are responsible for official control, plant health checks and surveillance of quarantine pests in the country, implementation of the plant passport system, etc.
- In case of suspect presence of harmful organism from Annexes I and II on plants from Annex V, Part A, Section 1 from the Law on Plant Health, samples are taken by the inland phytosanitary inspectors at the field and primary warehouses and delivered to the accredited laboratory for analyzes (SPL).
- Inspection on the field is regularly carried out in order to determine the presence of quarantine harmful organisms at least ones per year (in defined intervals).
- In the case of positive findings, inland phytosanitary inspector undertakes prescribed measures in accordance with the Law on Plant Health (treatment of plant protection, destruction etc.).
- In addition, the State Inland phytosanitary inspector implements Annual Phytosanitary Monitoring programs.

# Export certification system

- If the country of import requires a phytosanitary certificate, the phytosanitary inspectors performs phytosanitary inspection of the consignment prior to issuing a phytosanitary certificate and issue the PC.
- The issuing of PC is done on BiPs and in land.
- The model of Macedonian phytosanitary certificates is harmonized with the Annex of the IPPC and issued according to the Rule – book regarding the Form and Content of the PC or PC for re-export and the form and content of the application for issuing of Phytosanitary Certificate (Official Journal 113/10, 8/11, 123/15, 214/16 and 57/19)

## **1.1 Submission of an electronic application and request (24 hours in advance)**

- The procedure for issuing a PC for export begins with the submission of an electronic application and a request from the SAI ([www.diz.gov.mk](http://www.diz.gov.mk)) by the applicant or the authorized freight forwarder.



# Export certification system



- **1.2 Documentary check**
- The application and the request for issuing of phytosanitary certificate in paper form, accompanied by the accompanying documents shall be submitted to the state phytosanitary inspector within a time limit of 24 hours from the planned export. It is necessary for the submitted application to be accurately and correctly filled in with all necessary data for issuing phytosanitary certificate for export.
- To the state phytosanitary inspector, the exporter or the authorized freight forwarder should submit the following documents:
  - Application for phytosanitary inspection of consignments;
  - Request for issuing phytosanitary certificate for export;
  - Invoice;
  - A document of authenticity for the origin of the goods and



# Export certification system

- Evidence payment for performed phytosanitary inspection / issued phytosanitary certificate. (20% higher if the phytosanitary certificate is issued at the border crossing point)
- Decision on registration of the exporter in the Register of producers, processors, importers and distributors of plants, plant products and other objects that are kept in the Phytosanitary Directorate, for consignments intended for export to the Russian Federation.
- The submitted documentation is checked with special attention to the reliability of the proof of origin of the goods and plant health.

## **1.3 Conduct a plant health check of the consignment**


- By carrying out a health check of the consignment - control is carried out by performing of visual inspections of plants or plant products, including packaging, wood packaging material, vehicle and soil for the detection of harmful organisms.
- If necessary, the state phytosanitary inspector may take samples for laboratory examination, in order to determine the phytosanitary status of the consignment

# Diagnostic support

## State Phytosanitary Laboratory (SPL)

- According to the Law on Plant Health, SPL performs
  - specialized laboratory tests of plants, plant products and other objects in the laboratory in order to diagnose and determine harmful organisms,
- According to other Laws, SPL performs
  - mycotoxins, examination of the physic-chemical properties of PPPs, analysis of the active substance, synergists, antidotes, co-formulates, basic substances and additives used in the food industry and in the production of animal feed,
  - pesticide residues in primary agricultural products and their processing tissues,
  - biogenic amines and organic acids, food and animal foods of plant origin, primary agricultural products and their products of plant origin in conventional and organic production,
  - analysis of seed and seedlings, analysis of GMOs in plants, plant products and other objects of plant origin.

# Wood Packaging Material (WPM)



- Currently, ISPM 15 sets up requirements for WPM accompanying goods internationally traded.
- It is therefore important that all imported and exported WPM fulfils the specific requirements.
- For this purpose, the system of regular control of imported WPM has been established (including sampling and laboratory analysis), not only for those WPM associated with regulated articles of plant origin, but also any other goods, particularly originating in high risky origins (China, India, etc.).
- Similarly, a system of registered and controlled production of own WPM exists in the country.
- The main treatment in the production of WPM is classic heat treatment, while dielectric heat and sulfuric acid treatment have not been yet used in North Macedonia (methyl bromide use is not allowed).

# PIS

## Phytosanitary Information System



In 2019 the design and development of the Phytosanitary Information System started to support:

- Registration of producers, processors and importers
- Issuing the plant passport systems for regulated plants
- Issuing the ISPM-15 marks for WPM
- Keeping plant health status of regulated and other important pests
- Reporting on new findings in plant health
- Moduls for PPPs registration/authorisation.

# Challenges

- North Macedonia is adjusting the legislation to the EU acquis
- Last changes of Annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC entering into force on 1 September 2019 bring quite some challenges (ban on import of soil)
- Further bans for high risk plants for planting since 14 Dec 2019
- New EU legislation
  - Plant Health Regulation
  - Official Control Regulation (horizontal for food safety and other sectors)





***Thank you for the attention***