

Guidelines for Post-Entry Quarantine (PEQ) facility certification and PEQ Inspection:

Following guidelines *w.r.t.* Post Entry Quarantine requirements are issued in view of the recent amendment of PQ Order, 2003 vide Gazette Notification No. SO.2286(E), dated 04.06.2018:

Prior to Import:

- 1) The importer to submit application in duplicate for certification or renewal in PQ Form 18 of PQ Order, 2003 to concerned Inspection Authority (IA) and to concerned in-charge RPQS.
- 2) In-charge RPQS will nominate within 3 working days an officer for joint inspection with IA for inspecting of PEQ facility as per the guidelines specified in SOP for PEQ Inspection.
- 3) The IA along with a nominated officer shall carry out PEQ facility inspection jointly for its certification or renewal in compliance with SOP for PEQ Inspection. The joint inspection is to be carried out within 10 working days upon receipt of nomination.
- 4) The IA after joint inspection of PEQ facility, if satisfied, shall issue a Certificate in PQ Form 19 of PQ Order, 2003.
- 5) IA to provide a copy of joint inspection report (Assessment of facility in prescribed forms) along with PEQ facility certificate issued in PQ Form 19 to In-charge RPQS within 2 working days after certification and In-charge RPQS, will intimate to PPA further in 2 working days.
- 6) In case of deficiencies noticed in the facility inspected for certification, the same will be communicated to In-charge RPQS within 2 working days of joint inspection and assessment of facility, who will further inform to PPA in 2 working days.

EXIM Committee Prior Approval

- 7) Importer to apply to EXIM committee for obtaining prior permission for import of planting materials of coarse cereals, oil seeds, pulses, fodder and fruit plants and endorse a copy of the same to PPA along with copy of PQ Form 19.
- 8) Based on the PEQ facility Certificate and Joint Assessment Report submitted by the inspecting team, a communication *w.r.t.* verification of PEQ facility will be sent to EXIM Committee for granting prior permission to importer (within 2 working days)

At the time of Import:

- 9) Officer-in-charge of concerned RPQS after inspection of consignment is satisfied, shall accord 'provisional clearance' to grow the imported materials under the PEQ facility under intimation to IA (Annexure-5B of SOP for PEQ).
- 10) A copy of the Intimation of Provisional Release (Annexure-5B of SOP for PEQ) to be forwarded to Director Horticulture/ Agriculture of concerned State/UT for information and monitoring for exotic pests near the PEQ facility where the plants will be grown. If any exotic pests appear, that has to be intimated to DPPQS and IA immediately.

11) Responsibility of the importer / his agent:

- To intimate IA in advance about date of planting of imported material referred for PEQ
- Not to transfer or part with or dispose of consignment during PEQ period
- To permit IA and PQ officers complete access and extend necessary facilities at all times and abide by the instructions of IA & PQ Officers
- To maintain requisite conditions as stipulated in SOP for PEQ Inspection & Chapter-IV, Clause 11 of PQ Order, 2003
- To arrange for destruction of any part or whole of plant population when ordered for destruction by inspecting team in the event of quarantine / exotic pest detection, in the manner specified by IA/ PQ Officer.

12) The inspection of the consignment during PEQ period shall be carried out jointly by IA with nominated officers from concerned RPQS. Frequency of the inspections shall be decided considering the growing period as per SOP and minimum of two inspections shall be carried out. Out of this, one inspection shall invariably be conducted at the end of PEQ period in view to detect pests of concern to India and to take appropriate and necessary phytosanitary measures to mitigate the pests.

- Where destruction of affected consignment/ part of consignment is recommended, the same shall be destroyed in the manner as directed by IA.

13) In case of any quarantine / exotic/ new pest detection during the PEQ period, testing, diagnosis, preservation of sample, destruction etc. to be carried out as specified in SOP for PEQ.

14) At the end of final inspection, the IA shall forward a copy of PEQ inspection report [Annexure-10A (Part1&2) of SOP for PEQ] duly signed by him to officer-in-charge of concerned RPQS.

15) Final decision regarding release of the consignment shall be granted by In-charge RPQS after taking into consideration of the joint inspection report submitted by IA & PQ Officer.

16) The concerned RPQS to endorse a final clearance to PPA and concerned Customs for intimating the final clearance from PQ of the imported material, since only a 'provisional clearance' is granted at the time of import.

17) The in-charge, RPQS will be responsible for timely implementation of PEQ activities in coordination with IA and intimate PPA accordingly at each step.