

QUARANTINE STATUS PEST CATEGORIZATION PROCESS

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This pest categorization process is a tool used by APHIS-PPQ Permits and Risk Assessments to determine and document the quarantine status of exotic organisms. The process insures that taxa considered as quarantine significant by PPQ meet the definition of a quarantine pest stipulated by the "International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures" of the Food and Agricultural Organization's International Plant Protection Convention (FAO, IPPC).

Taxa not formerly evaluated or in need of re-evaluation are assessed using the criteria listed below. The taxon is determined as reportable (*i.e.* quarantine significant) or non-reportable (*i.e.* not quarantine significant) using the attached decision table. The taxon name is subsequently added to the appropriate pest or tally quarantine status list (dictionary) in the PPQ Pest Information Network 309 (PIN309) pest interception data base. A record of the evaluation, including citations of references used, is maintained in PPQ's Pest Categorization Database.

Pest Categorization Criteria

Criterion 1: Taxonomy

(H) Complete species or subspecies identification.

(M) Generic or higher level identification only and assessor feels comfortable extrapolating information from similar organisms. *

* NOTE: In order to reach a categorization decision for higher taxa using this process, the assessor must become comfortable extrapolating information from similar organisms. If uncomfortable extrapolating from the same taxonomic level, the assessor should postpone the decision and procure more information, or extrapolate from knowledge of related, higher taxonomic levels (*e.g.* if the taxon to be rated is a genus, extrapolate from known habits and distribution of the taxonomic subfamily or family containing that genus).

Criterion 2: Known and Potential Distribution of Taxon **

(H) Non-indigenous and not present, but capable of establishment in the U.S.(to include higher taxa not recorded from the U.S.); or

Non-indigenous with limited range in the U.S. and under official control (or will soon be evaluated by APHIS); or

Non-indigenous, present in the U.S., and reached probable limits of range, but genetically different enough to warrant concern and/or vector a foreign plant pest.

(M) Native, but genetically different enough to warrant concern or to vector an exotic plant pest (that the original taxon could not), and is capable of further expansion or increased damage potential; or

For higher taxa (genus and above), some species occur in the U.S. but others do not.

(L) Present in the U.S., non-indigenous or native, reached probable limits of range, and not genetically different enough to warrant concern and/or vector a foreign plant pest, or

Present in the U.S., non-indigenous, has NOT reached probable limits of range, but no official control exists or is likely to be initiated.

** NOTE: PPQ often categorizes quarantine status for taxa above the species level (*i.e.* taxa rated "M" for criterion 1, including genus, family, etc.) because identification of some intercepted organisms is limited by the life stage found or other factors. When assessing the distribution of these higher taxa, we consider the taxon non-indigenous if any members of the taxon occur exclusively outside of the U.S., or if one or more members have limited distribution in the U.S. and are categorized as quarantine pests.

Criterion 3: Potential Economic and Environmental Impact.

(H) Known pest or capable of vectoring known pests of agriculture (crops, forests, horticultural plants, animals, etc.) or plants (especially keystone and endangered species) in the environment.

(M) Not known as a pest of agriculture or plants in the environment, but having characteristics that demonstrate potential for becoming a pest in the U.S.

(L) Not known as a pest of agriculture or plants in the environment and not likely to become a pest if established in the U.S.

<i>QUARANTINE STATUS DECISION TABLE</i>		
RISK RATING	RISK CATEGORY	QUARANTINE DECISION
High Risk to Medium Risk	HHH HHM HMH HMM MHH MHM, MMH, MMM	Quarantine Significant
Low Risk	HHL HLH HLM HLL HML MHL MML MLH MLM MLL	Not Quarantine Significant

For Urgent Interceptions of Organisms Not Formerly Rated:

Use the Table to estimate the taxon's quarantine status from the limited information available and to determine quarantine action on imported shipments infested with the rated organism.

To Add a Taxon to Either the PPQ Pest or Tally List:

Taxa will not be listed until their presence or absence in the U.S. and their potential impact on U.S. agriculture is evaluated by this process.

Add to the Pest List (of quarantine significant taxa) all organisms ranked high-to-medium risk, or to the Tally List (of nonquarantine significant taxa) all organisms ranked low risk by the pest categorization process.