

## Description of the National Plant Protection Organization for Canada

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The [Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](#) administers [Canada's Plant Protection legislation](#), and is Canada's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) as defined by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The following description relates to the responsibilities of an official NPPO as laid down in Article IV of the IPPC New Revised Text, 1997.

Canada's obligations relating to the provisions of a NPPO are divided principally amongst three of the various Branches within the CFIA: [Programs](#), [Operations](#) and [Science](#). For example, all CFIA inspectors work for the Operations Branch and are located across Canada in [area and local offices](#); phytosanitary policies and related programs are developed and established by the Plant Health Division which resides in the CFIA's Programs Branch (Headquarters: Ottawa, Ontario); and Pest Risk Assessment expertise and CFIA laboratories are housed in the Science Branch. Therefore, the following organizational description may be better understood by making reference to the [CFIA's organizational structure](#).

### Issuance of phytosanitary certificates

[Policies](#) and national certification systems for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates are developed and maintained by the Plant Health Division (Programs Branch). However, physical issuance of the certificates is carried out by [authorized](#) inspectors and officers of the CFIA's Operations Branch, located in the various regions at area and local offices.

### Surveillance of growing plants

The CFIA conducts regular and ongoing [surveillance for pests](#). The Plant Health Surveillance Unit (Science Branch) is responsible for planning, coordinating, and administering the national survey program, based on input and consultation with the Plant Health Division. Conducting the surveys is the responsibility of the Operations Branch, although some pest surveys are conducted in cooperation with other agencies such as the [Canadian Forest Service](#) and provincial departments of agriculture and natural resources.

### Inspection of consignments of plants and plant products moving in international traffic and of other regulated articles

The CFIA's Plant Health Division establishes [policies](#) for imported consignments that include requirements for inspection. In addition, inspection rates and frequencies are also determined by the Plant Health Division. The [Canada Border Services Agency \(CBSA\)](#) is responsible for the initial import inspection service for agricultural products at Canadian entry points and its inspectors have been designated by the CFIA for this task. Inspections within Canada (e.g., at points of destination) are performed by inspection staff of the Operations Branch. Diagnostic testing, if required, is provided by the CFIA's Laboratories. As part of its commitment to improving service for clients, the CFIA, has established three regional [Import Service Centres](#), operated in cooperation with the CBSA.

Export inspections are conducted by CFIA inspectors, in accordance with policies established by the Plant Health Division. Information on official phytosanitary regulations of importing countries is maintained by the Plant Health Division. Operations Branch staff (inspectors and officers) who issue Phytosanitary Certificates have access to an electronic data-base of Foreign Plant Quarantine Import Requirements.

#### Disinfestation or disinfection of consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles

Where required for phytosanitary certification purposes, treatments are carried out under the supervision of CFIA inspectors. In certain cases, the CFIA may make use of an approved facility or authorized service provider, i.e., an organization, company or person approved by (and accountable to) the CFIA to carry out specified treatments and/or treatment-related activities.

Where treatment of imported consignments is required, it is carried out under the control and supervision of CFIA inspectors.

#### The designation, maintenance and surveillance of pest free areas

Pest free areas and other regulated areas in Canada are designated by the Plant Health Division. Controls for maintenance, and surveillance, of such areas is carried out by the combined work of three branches of the CFIA: the Plant Health Division (Programs), Operations Branch staff, and the Science Branch's Plant Health Surveillance Unit and Laboratories.

#### The conduct of pest risk analyses

The [Plant Health Risk Assessment](#) (PHRA) Unit of the Science Branch carries out pest risk assessments for the CFIA. Requests for and priorities for completion of risk assessments are established by the Plant Health Division. Risk management decisions are based on these risk assessments and are the responsibility of the Plant Health Division.

#### Ensure that the phytosanitary security of consignments after certification is maintained prior to export

CFIA inspectors work in accordance with the Plant Health Division's policies, in cooperation with Canadian exporters, to ensure that security of certified consignments is maintained prior to export.

#### Training and development of staff

The CFIA's [Human Resources Branch](#) includes a Professional Development and Continuous Learning Division through which various types of training and development, including Professional and Technical Development are provided on an ongoing basis.