

The Official Austrian Plant Protection Service

The Official Austrian Plant Protection Service comprises a number of units which co-operate to provide plant quarantine and plant certification services in Austria.

Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism

The Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT) has policy responsibility for plant quarantine and plant certification in Austria. Two units of the Ministry are responsible for the plant health sector:

Unit II/5 in the Department of Agriculture and Food is responsible for plant health policy in general and for the representation of Austria in the regional plant protection organisation EPPO and the IPPC.

Unit III/2 in the Forestry Department is responsible for the plant health policy for forestry plants, wood and other forestry products.

The Ministry is the “Single Central Authority” for plant health under EU legislation. It is based at Wien (Vienna).

Executive Bodies

Plant health policy in Austria is executed by two federal organisations, the Federal Office for Food Safety and the Federal Forest Office which are both subsidiary bodies to the Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, and the regional plant protection offices in the 9 regions (Bundesländer).

Internet link: <http://www.bmnt.gv.at>

Federal Office for Food Safety

The Federal Office for Food Safety (BAES) is the responsible authority for phytosanitary import inspections of all agricultural products (e.g. plants, seeds, grain, potatoes, cut flowers, fruit, soil and growing media). Apart from the phytosanitary inspections, BAES is also the responsible authority for seed certification and the protection plant variety rights.

Closely linked to this federal office is the **Federal Agency for Health and Food Safety** (AGES), which is an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism. AGES provides scientific support to the Ministry, the Federal Office for Food Safety and the regional plant protection offices. Its scientists support the Austrian representation in international fora, carry out risk assessments and identify pests on samples submitted by the plant protection officers. They provide advice on pest outbreaks, monitoring and on control strategies in the agricultural sector. Moreover AGES carries out research in the whole agricultural sector. Both BAES and AGES are situated at Wien.

Internet link: <http://www.ages.at>

Federal Forest Office

The Federal Forest Office (BFW) is the responsible authority for phytosanitary import inspections of all forestry products (e.g. forestry propagation material, wood, bark and wooden packaging material). Apart from the phytosanitary inspections, BFW is also the responsible authority for certification of forestry propagation material.

Closely linked to this federal office is the **Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape**, which is an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism. It provides scientific support to the Ministry, the Federal Forest Office and the regional plant protection offices. Its scientists support the Austrian representation in international fora, carry out risk assessments and identify pests on samples submitted by the plant protection officers. They provide advice on pest outbreaks, monitoring and on control strategies in the agricultural sector. Moreover they carry out research in the whole forestry sector. Both institutions are situated at Wien.

Internet link: <http://www.bfw.ac.at/>

Regional Plant Protection Offices

In every of the 9 Austrian Regions there is a regional plant protection office which is part of or directly responsible to the regional administrative authority of the region. These regional offices are responsible for the execution of the plant health legislation of the European Union (federal Austrian legislation) regarding the EU-internal movement of plants and plant products (plant passport system) and for phytosanitary export certification.

Under regional legislation they carry out other statutory functions in the plant health sector, like official monitoring and control measures.
