Abstract volume

CEI – CONFERENCE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PHYTOSANITARY BORDER CONTROL
AT NEW EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

6th May – 7th May 2004
Portorož, Slovenia

Ljubljana, 2004
Abstract volume

CEI - Conference on the implementation of the phytosanitary border control at new EU external borders, Portorož, Slovenia 2004

Version 2.0

Published by: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry and Food – Phytosanitary Inspection Service
Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

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Ljubljana, 2004
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Changes in the legislation of the European Union regarding phytosanitary import inspection by Directive 2002/89/EC; implementation of this Directive in Austria

State phytosanitary administration of the Czech Republic, phytosanitary import inspections in the Czech Republic

Official laboratories of the State phytosanitary administration

Hungarian National Plant Protection Organization

Phytosanitary measures in Hungary

State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service in Poland – legal basis, structure and responsibilities

Import inspection at the Polish border as the new European Union external border

Official laboratories Of the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service in Poland as regards the testing of imported plant material

Organizational scheme of diagnostics at BIPs in the Slovak Republic

Overview of phytosanitary legislation and the phytosanitary control at BIPs in the Slovak Republic

Plant Protection Organization of Slovenia

Phytosanitary Inspection at border inspection posts to EU in Slovenia

From the agricultural experimental and control station to modern diagnostic laboratories

Legislative basis for import inspection (from 1st of May on)

Phytosanitary Inspection procedures at import in Luka Koper

Diagnostic support at phytosanitary inspection at import

The European phytosanitary legislations: a deep transformation of traditional phytosanitary controls

Documentation, Identity and Phytosanitary Checks at European Community Entry Points

Introduction
Programme

Chairpersons:
Marko Verbič, Maja Ravnikar, Joži Jerman Cvelbar, Michael Kurzweil, Bruno Caio Faraglia

Programme

**Wednesday, 5th May 2004**

17:00     Arrival of participants
20:30     Welcome reception at GH Metropol

**Thursday, 6th May 2004 – Conference on Phytosanitary border control at new EU external borders**

8:30 – 9:00 Registration
9:00     Welcome addresses
10:00

*Coffee Break*

10:20     Presentation of the phytosanitary control of imports at new EU external border by member states (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)

10:20 – 10:50 Changes in the legislation of the European Union regarding phytosanitary import inspection by Directive 2002/89/EC; implementation of this Directive in Austria / MICHAEL KURZWEIL

10:50 – 11:20 State phytosanitary administration of the Czech Republic, phytosanitary import inspections in the Czech Republic / PAVLA ZAHRADNIKOVA
Official laboratories of the State phytosanitary administration / SVETLA KOZELSKA

11:20 – 11:50 Hungarian National Plant Protection Organization / META VÁRADY
Phytosanitary measures in Hungary / EDIT LAPPAI

11:50 – 12:20 The European phytosanitary legislation: a deep transformation of traditional phytosanitary controls / BRUNO CAIO FARAGLIA

12:20 – 14:30 Lunch

15:00     Continuation of the work

15:00 – 15:30 State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service in Poland – legal basis, structure and responsibilities / HANNA BAGINSKA
Import inspection at the Polish border as the new European Union external border / PIOTR BIAŁOOKI
Official laboratories of the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service in Poland as regards the testing of imported plant material / HANNA BAGINSKA

15:30 – 16:00 Organizational scheme of diagnostics at BIPs in the Slovak Republic / RADANA GÁLYOVÁ
Overview of phytosanitary legislation and the phytosanitary control at BIPs in the Slovak Republic / LÝDIA FOJTIKOVÁ

16:00 - 16:30 Plant Protection Organization of Slovenia / VLASTA KNAPIČ
Phytosanitary Inspection at border inspection posts to EU in Slovenia / JOŽI JERMAN CVELBAR
From the agricultural experimental and control station to modern diagnostic laboratories / GREGOR UREK

Discussion

17:30 Conclusion of the first-day work

20:00 Reception for participants and guests

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Friday, 7th May 2004 - Round table

Trade with the vegetable goods and the actual phytosanitary control in North Adriatic Ports

9:00 Presentations Port of Koper and Terminal Frutta di Trieste services

10.00 - 11:00 Introduction of the Slovenian phytosanitary border control in Port of Koper

  Legislative basis for import inspection (from 1st of May on) / VLASTA KNAPIC and MOJCA CELAR
  Phytosanitary Inspection procedures at import in Luka Koper / HELENA HRVATIN
  Diagnostic support at phytosanitary inspection at import / MAJA RAVNIKAR

11:00 – 12:00 Introduction of the Italian phytosanitary border control at Port of Trieste

  Phytosanitary controls at the EU point of entry / PETRIS GIOVANNI

Discussion

12:15 Embarkation on the boat Portorož – Lunch
  Guided tour to Port of Koper and Trieste

17:00 Departure to Portorož
Abstract volume
Changes in the legislation of the European Union regarding phytosanitary import inspection by Directive 2002/89/EC; implementation of this Directive in Austria

MICHAEL KURZWEIL

In 2002 the Council of the European Union approved a Directive amending Directive 2000/29/EC, the basic legislation in the plant health sector of the EU.

The growing international trade with products of plant origin demands an effective system of inspection to avoid the introduction and spread of organisms that are harmful to agricultural crops and the environment.

The amendments that will come into force on 1 January 2005 will entail various changes for the implementation of the phytosanitary import inspection in the 25 Member States on consignments originating in third countries.

From the date of implementation import inspection procedures will be harmonised in a more detailed way as in the past. The principle is that no product of phytosanitary relevance shall be released from customs procedures without completion of the phytosanitary inspection.

A newly introduced type of inspection will allow that the different parts of the inspection are carried out in different Member States. This will require a close cooperation of Member States and a good communication of the services involved.

Another new idea is the reduction of the frequency of the inspection from 100% of consignments to a lower percentage. This system still needs to be completed by implementing provisions.

A system of harmonised minimum fees will give the importers a basic information on the costs that arise from the inspection.

The provision of basic data on the content of consignments by the importer to the plant health services when a consignment is being placed under the customs procedure will enable the plant health authority to react immediately.

The inclusion of the inspection of wood packaging into the import inspection procedures is a consequence of numerous interceptions and introductions of new pests.

Austria has implemented Directive 2002/89/EC already in the national legislation. The amended plant protection act will come into force on 1 January 2005.

1- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
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Organigram of the Austrian Plant Protection Organisation

Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety

Scientific advice, research

Laboratory testing

Federal Office for Food Safety

Import inspection (plants for planting, fruit, cutflowers, potatoes, seeds and soil)

Division III/9 Division IV/2
General Plant Health Affairs Forestry

Plant Health Policy and Legislation

Federal Office and Research Center for Forests

Import inspection (wood, bark, parts of conifers, forestry propagation material)

Regional Administrative Authorities (9)

Regional Plant Protection Service Offices (9)

EU-internal market phytosanitary measures, official monitoring and control measures, export certification

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Scientific advice, research laboratory testing
State phytosanitary administration of the Czech Republic, phytosanitary import inspections in the Czech Republic

PAVLA ZAHRADNIKOVA

Official laboratories of the State phytosanitary administration

SVETLA KOZELSKA

State Phytosanitary Administration (SPA) of the Czech Republic

SPA is the official responsible body for plant health in the Czech Republic established by the Act no. 147/1996 Coll., on phytosanitary care, subordinate to the Ministry. SPA is the official national plant protection organisation pursuant to the International Plant Protection Convention and the authority responsible for enforcement of law and performance of activities within the scope of plant health pursuant to the phytosanitary legislation of the Community.

Import inspections

Phytosanitary import inspection in the Czech Republic is an important part of plant health care. There are to be two important changes after the accession to EU. The main change is decrease of the number of the border inspection posts (BIPs). After the accession there will be only two BIPs: Prague-Ruzyné International Airport and Prague-custom post office. Further, the procedure for carrying out these inspections at places of destinations of the plant consignments will be changed. Before the accession it was possible to carry out all parts of the inspection (documentary check, identity check and plant health check) either at BIP or at a place of destination, which had been officially approved by SPA in advance on the request of an importer.

According to the EC Directive 2000/29/EC this is not possible after the accession. Documentary and identity checks have always to be completed at a BIP of the Member State, only plant health checks may be carried out at a place of destination. According to the new Czech Plant Health Act that is possible only after official approval of such a place of destination by SPA.

The BIP Prague-Ruzyné airport is a new building fulfilling all the requirements provided for by EC Directive 1998/22/EC. In the last three years approximately 1000 consignments per year have been checked. In 2003, 64% of consignments originated in EU Member States and accession states. Most of the consignments were plants for planting (mostly ornamental plants, shrubs and trees) and cut flowers.

Phytosanitary laboratories

The laboratory diagnostics is performed in 4 laboratories of Division of Diagnostics. There are 2 semicentral laboratories in Olomouc (virology, bacteriology, mycology, entomology) and Prague (entomology, nematology) and 2 specialised laboratories in Havlíčkův Brod and Terezín (diagnostics of *Clavibacter michiganensis sepedonicus* and *Ralstonia solanacearum*). The laboratories are well equipped and use different diagnostic methods (biological tests, microscopy, immunochemical and molecular tests – PCR, electrophoresis, gaschromatography). This year the laboratory in Olomouc will get a new laboratory building and quarantine greenhouse.

1- State Phytosanitary administration of the Czech Republic
Basic organization scheme of the State Phytosanitary Administration of the Czech Republic

Director

- Department Personal and Educational
- Department of Law
- Economic and Administrative Division
- Division of Plant Protection Products
- Department of Registration of Products
- Department of Means for Application

Director’s Office

- Director’s Office
- Department of Informatics Resources
- Department of International Relations

Deputy Director

- Deputy Director’s Office
- Division of Quarantine
- Division of Diagnostics
- Division of Plant Protection

Regional Divisions

- Regional/Local Level

District Departments

Points of entry

Contact point:

Department of International Relations
Mr. Roman Vagner,
Tesnov 17, 117 05 Praha 1

Contact point in matters which concern phytosanitary import inspections
Quarantine division
Mr. Michal Hnizdil
Drnovska 507, 161 06 Praha 6 - Ruzyné

Legend

- Direct Management
- Methodological Management
- Central Level
- Regional/Local Level
Hungarian National Plant Protection Organization
META VÁRADY

Phytosanitary measures in Hungary
EDIT LAPPAI

Phytosanitary measures in Hungary

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the single competent authority in Hungary and is responsible for coordinating and performing of phytosanitary measures, as well as for maintaining international relations. The ministry carries out these duties through the Central Service for Plant Protection and Soil Conservation and the 19 plant protection and soil conservation country services. After the accession 10 border inspection posts will remain in Hungary.

The Central Service was funded in 2001 as a central office with nation-wide competency. In order to fulfil phytosanitary tasks, the Central Service acts as follows:

a) directs, supervises and controls work of the Services and the special laboratories carrying out phytosanitary examinations and coordinates cooperations with the related responsible bodies,
b) keeps records of phytosanitary import regulations of countries all over the world and supplies the Services and producers with information,
c) takes measures for uniform introduction of international phytosanitary testing methods, rules, recommendations and, failing these, works out guidelines,
d) takes part in preparing phytosanitary regulations,
e) takes part in the work related to phytosanitary regulations of the international organisations and implementation of phytosanitary responsibility assumed in intergovernmental agreements,
f) takes measures for survey, preparation and implementation of developments, improvements and purchases serving for performing phytosanitary tasks of the Services, furthermore it operates the information network,
g) manages detection of quarantine and regulated non-quarantine pests and nation-wide eradication campaigns,
h) runs the working committee on pest risk analysis (PRA),
i) at request, issues permit for opening provisional BIPs.

Phytosanitary inspection of consignments of regulated articles, issuance of phytosanitary certificate and re-export phytosanitary certificate can only be made by trained civil servants (plant protection inspector) authorised by the Service based on data accepted by the responsible bodies of the importing country as official document. Each of them must have an official card and a stamp. The ministry determines requirements in relation to knowledge and skills. The plant protection inspectors perform plant protection tasks in the area within the scope of activity of the Service or in other areas of competence determined by the ministry; their tasks are related to import and transit trade at the BIP of the Service.

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development
2. Central Service of Plant Protection and Soil Conservation
State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service in Poland – legal basis, structure and responsibilities
HANNA BAGINSKA

Import inspection at the Polish border as the new European Union external border
PIOTR BIAŁOOKI

Official laboratories Of the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service in Poland as regards the testing of imported plant material
HANNA BAGINSKA

In virtue of the provisions of the Law of November 18, 2003 on protection of crop plants, which harmonizes the Polish legal acts with those being in force in the European Union, the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service (PHSIS) has been appointed. The Service as a national plant protection organisation is responsible for the supervision of the plant health, the use and marketing of plant protection products as well as production, assessment and marketing of the seed material.

The tasks of the PHSIS are realized by the Head Office (70 employees) and 16 voivodeship inspectorates (2330 employees in total) with 270 regional units and 12 border inspection posts (90 employees). The Main Inspector of PHSIS co-ordinates and supervises the activity of the Service as well as is the official body responsible for co-operation and contacts with the European Commission and the Member States.

The main duty of the Service is preventing the territory of the Republic of Poland and the EU from the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. The plants, plant products and objects imported from third countries are subject to the import inspection at border inspection posts. There are 16 points of entry (1 – airport, 4 – seaports, 5 – railroads, 6 – roads) at the Polish border. These units have been properly equipped with the modern laboratory devices, hardware and means of communication according to the requirements of the Commission Directive 98/22/EC. The border inspectors improved their knowledge and professional skills in the framework of training courses covering the EU legislation especially in relation to different aspects of the import control. All units of the Service have the access to the

Integrated Information System (compatible with EUROPHYT program) used for:

- registration of importers of plants, plants products and objects from third countries,
- issuing of decisions on the measures as regards imported consignments,
- plant passporting.

1- Head office of State Plant Health and Seed Inspections Service / Central Laboratory in Torun
2- Voivodeship Inspectorate of State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service in Gdansk
This program can also be used for issuing notifications of interception forwarded to other border inspection posts, the Head Office and the European Commission. The laboratory examinations of plant material imported from the third countries are carried out at the border inspection posts, in the Central Laboratory of the Head Office of PHSIS and in some cases in voivodeship laboratories. The Central Laboratory co-ordinates and supervises the diagnostic activity of the Service as well as it is a reference laboratory. In the diagnostic units of the Service the methods recommended by EPPO and those approved by the EU Member States are being used.

**Organization chart of the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service**
Organizational scheme of diagnostics at BIPs in the Slovak Republic
RADANA GÁLYOVÁ¹

Overview of phytosanitary legislation and the phytosanitary control at BIPs in the Slovak Republic
LÝDIA FOJTIKOVÁ¹

Overview of the Phytosanitary legislation in force

The main legal regulations governing the execution of phytosanitary activities are the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 285/1995 Coll. of 20 November 1995 on Plant Health Care as amended by Act No. 471/2001 Coll. and the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 41/2002 Coll. of 17 December 2001 laying down details concerning the administration of the Act on Plant Health Care. Further there are 10 government ordinances approved by the government in January 2004 as a result of harmonisation of national legislation with the EU legislation and with which a full compliance of SR legislation has been achieved. These 10 ordinances transpose EU phytosanitary directives with regard to protective measures against the introduction into the Community of harmful organisms, registration, issuing of plant passports, protected zones, minimum conditions for carrying out plant health checks at the inspection posts, interception of consignment, conditions under which certain plant material can be introduced into or moved within the Community or certain protected zones thereof for trial or scientific purposes and for work on varietal selections, protection against harmful organisms, and other relevant matters.

General Overview of the Phytosanitary Organisation in Slovakia

1- Central Control and Testing Institute of Agriculture

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<tr>
<th>Ministry of Agriculture</th>
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<td>2. Section of Plant Protection</td>
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Department of External Quarantine

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<th>BIPs 27 After 1st May</th>
<th>District Phytosanitary Offices 36</th>
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<td>BIPs 3</td>
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¹- Central Control and Testing Institute of Agriculture
Major activities of the section of plant protection

The major activities of the Section of Plant Protection are represented by the fulfilment of the following tasks, determined by the abovementioned law:

- registration of importers, exporters and producers of goods, (after EU accession only importers and producers);
- issuing of phytosanitary certificates and plant passports for perspective goods (after the accession PP either);
- execution of phytosanitary control of imported, exported and re-exported goods;
- issuing of decisions in case of infringement of provisions of the Act No 285/95 on Plant Health Care by natural and legal entities;
- detection and keeping records on the occurrence of harmful organisms;
- marking of plant treatment against harmful organisms;
- ascertaining of the causes of damages to plants and plant products, proposal of collective measures against harmful organisms to be ordered by relevant bodies of public administration.

After the EU accession the following BIPs will remain:
1. Vyšné Nemecké (road crossing point)
2. Čierna nad Tisou (railway crossing point)
3. Bratislava – airport

Slovakia has two border inspection points (BIPs) with Ukraine, one is the „rail“ BIP in Čierna nad Tisou, and the second is the „road“ BIP in Vyšné Nemecké. At these places the Slovak phytosanitary inspection carry out the control of agricultural commodities. This control is based on the checking of the required documentation and taking the samples for diagnosis in BIPs basic laboratories, or in cooperating specialised laboratories in Košice or Haniska. At BIPs small laboratories are available with sufficient equipment for microscopical identification. If there is no possibility to identify a pest or pathogen, the inspectors send the sample by car to a specialized laboratorium in Košice, and send the digital picture of the pest also by e-mail. In laboratorium in Košice there is better equipment for microscopy and special trained staff. If it is necessary to identify a pathogen by the means of a special test, samples are sent further to laboratories in Haniska, where there is sufficient equipment for ELISA, IFAS, PCR, microbiology and biotests, including a special staff trained for each type of diagnostic method. Because of small distances between the cooperated labs and BIPs, the time needed for the delivery of samples is maximum 2 to 4 hours. The final results are to be communicated by BIPs immediately after finishing all necessarily test by e-mail. Time depends on the used analytical method.
In Slovenia official bodies, operating as the national plant protection organisation, have legislative basis defined by the Plant Health Act (U. l. RS 45/2001) and the Act on ratification of Plant protection Convention (U. l. RS 84/2000).

Structure of the Service comprises:

(a) Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (PARS) which is the body within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF)
(b) Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry and Food, which is the body within the MAFF (IRSAFF)
(c) Laboratories contracted by PARS to supply diagnostic and other scientific and technical work.

In the field of plant health in forestry, the main official body is MAFF, providing funds and resources for public forestry service.

**The PARS is the central responsible body for plant health**, seeds, variety rights, registration of plant protection products and fertilizers in the Republic of Slovenia, established in 2001. Within the PARS the Plant Health division is responsible for harmful organisms, for coordination of plant health matters within the national organisation, administration and the legislation drafting. The PARS is responsible for transposition of EU legislation and international standards, for exchange of information among national official bodies in the field of plant health, reporting to the European Union and for other international affairs relating to plant health (EPPO, FAO-IPPC and WTO-SPS).

**The Phytosanitary Inspection Service (PIS)** is the service within the IRSAFF responsible for plant health control. A minor part of plant health supervision is performed by the Forestry inspection service of the IRSAFF. The PIS ensures uniform implementation of work processes and measures in the field of plant health, carry out inspection monitoring of the plant-health status, provide professional training of inspectors, co-operate in the preparation of regulations in their field of work and perform other matters determined by law or other regulations. Main tasks of PIS are:

- phytosanitary inspection of plants at import;
- phytosanitary inspection of plants at export and issuing of phytosanitary certificates;
- phytosanitary control of plants at places of production;
- inspection supervision of registered persons and authorised bodies.

In Slovenia it was decided that authorisation for official diagnosis and technical support was to be given to the existing laboratories in public institutions, as follows:

- **Agriculture Institute of Slovenia**: diagnosis of nematodes, fungi, viruses and bacteria, survey coordination of *Erwinia amylovora*, potato cyst nematodes, *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*, *Phytophthora ramorum*, *Plum pox potyvirus* etc.
- **National Institute of Biology**: identification and detection of selected viruses, viroids, phytoplasma and bacteria.

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1. Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
- Slovenian Institute of Hop Research; diagnostics and technical support for hop pests, eradication programme for Verticilium wilt of hops.

- Regional agricultural institute KGZS-Nova Gorica; diagnosis of insects and technical support.

- Biotechnical faculty, Institute for phytomedicine; diagnosis of insects.

- Slovenian forestry institute; diagnostics and technical support for forestry pests.

- Biotechnical faculty, Forestry department, diagnostics and technical support for forestry pests.

PARS coordinate programs and provides funds also for public plant protection service, especially for forecasting service in 5 regional institutes. Authorised institutes and laboratories are contracted by the PARS through annual contracts to provide the required technical and scientific assistance.

The Plant Health Act and sub-law regulations transpose Council Directive 2000/29/EC (with amendments) on protective measures against the introduction into and spread within the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products. Among amendments to that directive only directive 2002/89/EC has not been transposed yet. For the time being Slovenia has adequate resources to fully perform phytosanitary inspection at the border inspection posts for consignments from Annex V.B of directive 2000/29/EC. Provisions for reduced frequency of inspection and plant health checks at places other than BIP in other Member States will be transposed with an amendment of the Plant Health Act, but not likely used.

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http://www.furs.si  E-mail:  furs.mkgp@gov.si
Msc Katarina Groznik
Phytosanitary Inspection at border inspection posts to EU in Slovenia

JOŽI JERMAN CVELBAR

In accordance with the legislation the Slovene Phytosanitary Inspection service conducts inspection of the health status, quality and variety of plants moving in international traffic (import, export and re-export) and in domestic market, ordering phytosanitary measures, destruction of plants, disinfection, prohibition of sowing, etc. and issuing of warnings and sanctions.

With the accession of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union in 2004, Obrežje, Jelšane and Gruškovje road border crossings, Ljubljana-Brnik Airport, the Port of Koper and Dobova railway border crossing became border inspection posts to the European Union for third countries.

Due to the fact that a free flow of goods that relies on plant passports is in use within the European Union, effective phytosanitary inspection on external borders of the European Union is extremely important. This inspection is implemented in compliance with the provisions of Directive 2000/29/EC. Directive 98/22/EC of 1998 established the minimum statutory conditions for the implementation of phytosanitary inspection at border inspection posts for third countries.

The phytosanitary inspection of plant consignments on their import to the Republic of Slovenia that has been in operation since 1994 was comparable to EU inspection procedures. Numerous activities of the last five years in particular have upgraded this inspection in line with provisions of the *acquis communautaire*.

Phytosanitary inspectors are appointed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, as civil servants with special authorisations for carrying out of inspection and are technically qualified in the detection of harmful organisms. Register of importers was upgraded. Final harmonised phytosanitary legislation was implemented by the Phytosanitary Inspection Manual (inspection procedures, annual plans, technical instructions and descriptions of regulated pests) which is in use in all units of Phytosanitary Inspection Service. Internal management was upgraded with Inspection Manual, sharing of responsibilities, internal coordination and control, reporting system and regular trainings of inspectors. Facilities and equipment in offices and laboratories on the spot were upgraded as well as official laboratories and communication system.

Phytosanitary inspection of plants at import is performed through documentary and identity check (always at the first point of entry), plant health check and sampling of plants (at the first point of entry or in the near vicinity) and phytosanitary measures if necessary. After refusal, destruction or other measure is provided as an E-mail information by a phytosanitary inspection unit to all other units, to the HQ of Phytosanitary Inspection Service and Phytosanitary Administration.

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1- Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry and Food - Phytosanitary Inspection Service
From the agricultural experimental and control station to modern diagnostic laboratories
GREGOR UREK

Based on the Act on Agricultural and Control Stations of the SHS Kingdom passed in 1922, the Agricultural Experimental and Control Station which consisted of four sections, also a phytopathological one was founded. This could be considered as the beginning of an organised work in the plant protection of Slovenia. At the beginning, the experimental, research and control work was reflected mainly in the study of several pests and fungal diseases. In the early fifties it was discovered that the cause of decay of grapevine in the coastal region of Primorska were not only fungal diseases but also viruses – the beginning of virology in Slovenia. The beginning of nematology dates back to 1963 when the nematological laboratory was founded at Agricultural Institute of Slovenia. Surveillance of potato nematodes was organised at the beginning. Bacteriology was introduced among the last on the diagnostic scale (1994). Last but not least important discipline is laboratory diagnostics of phytoplasms (1997).

The process of a more intensive construction of Slovene diagnostic laboratories dates back to the year 1991. This was the period when Slovenia acquired its independence. We stood at the crossroads whether to organise the diagnostics of harmful organisms in frame of the plant protection service on the basis of our own know-how or leave the work to foreign specialists. We decided to ensure our own infrastructure (material and staff) and to establish an appropriate surveillance system of harmful organisms which would be based upon the work of appropriately furnished diagnostic laboratories completed with highly qualified personnel. In the past ten years the diagnostic laboratories were invaluably supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Ministry of Science and EU in the scope of Phare Projects (purchase of equipment, study tours), Taiex Program and above all Twinning Programs (1998 – 2001). Today, the quality and organisation of the Slovene diagnostic laboratories are on the high professional level. Our labs are generally well equipped and use classical as well as modern, more sophisticated diagnostic methods for fungi, viruses, bacteria, nematodes and some insects (RT-PCR, PCR, PHASTSystem, serological methods, microscopic image analysis, transmission electron microscopy, real-time PCR, immuno-electron microscopy etc.). The experts in our laboratories gained experience in detection and identification of Q organisms through intensive diagnostic work and collaboration with numerous top EU diagnostic experts. Our diagnostic laboratories are officially authorised by Phytosanitary Administration for diagnosing and surveillance of many quarantine organisms. They also participate in the pest risk analysis, prepare expert opinions, reports and other publications. Slovene diagnostic laboratories are able to take a prompt action on a very professional level.

1- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
Legislative basis for import inspection (from 1st of May on)
VLASTA KNAPIČ1 MOJCA CELAR1

The legislative basis for import inspection at the EU border posts are represented in general by the Plant Health Act (OJ 45/01) and in greater detail by the RULES on protective measures with regard to the introduction and spread of harmful organisms in plants, plant products and other regulated objects (OJ 31/04).


- protective measures with regard to the introduction and spread of harmful organisms in plants, plant products and regulated objects within the Republic of Slovenia as a part of the European Community;
- lists of harmful organisms, plants, plant products and other regulated objects subject to these measures;
- procedures at import, export and transit and the manner of inspection;
- form and content of phytosanitary certificate and phytosanitary certificate for re-export;
- content of application, conditions for issuing the phytosanitary certificate;
- measures in the event of failure to comply with phytosanitary requirements.

In addition to the above stated, the Rules provided also for the use of decisions of the European Commission, with regard to the import from third countries. Therefore the following provisions shall apply, provided for with:

- 2004/4/EC authorising Member States temporarily to take emergency measures against the dissemination of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* (Smith) Smith as regards Egypt,
- 2001/219/EC on temporary emergency measures in respect of wood packing comprised in whole or in part of non-manufactured coniferous wood originating in Canada, China, Japan and the United States of America,
- 1999/355/EC on emergency measures against the dissemination of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky),
- 98/109/ES authorising Member States temporarily to take emergency measures against the dissemination of *Thrips palmi* Käni as regards Thailand,

1- Phytosanitary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia
Phytosanitary Inspection procedures at import in Luka Koper

HELENA HRVATIN

During the intensive period of European legislation harmonisation and its implementation Phytosanitary Inspection Service of the Republic of Slovenia has acquired a new approach to the understanding of the common EU policy in the field of phytosanitary control.

Numerous valuable information, knowledge and experiences were gained through the international activities with several EU Member States and active co-operation with experts from British and Dutch Plant Protection Services. Its final result was formation of the Phytosanitary Inspection Manual, an uniform collection of instructions, gathered in one place. Availability of written, up-to-date national inspection guidelines is also one of the minimum conditions for carrying out plant health checks, laid down in the Directive 98/22/EC.

In order to carry out an inspection in the proper, effective, uniform, rapid and simple manner, in compliance with all regulations and international requirements, regardless the place of inspection, an inspector should be acquainted with a list and collection of relevant legislation, inspection methods, general and specific inspection procedures, harmful organisms biology, principles of sampling, measures ordering, reporting system, notification of interceptions, keeping records - information system, contacts - addresses, personnel, safety instructions, official forms.

Besides the guidelines in a form of Inspection Manual, phytosanitary inspectors use many other sources of information, like EPPO databases: PQR and PRS computer programs, Reporting Service with information on interceptions, Alert list, EPPO books and Standards, other professional publications and regular trainings documents, to get as many useful, clear information as possible to facilitate a decision making process in their daily work.

Import Specific Inspection procedures chapter of the Phytosanitary Inspection Manual is divided into commodity groups as plants for planting, seeds, cut flowers, fruit, potato, soil and growing medium and wood. Each subchapter comprise the information on definition, import prohibition, list of plants needed to be inspected and accompanied by PC, extent of inspection, plant health check procedure and other relevant information on sampling and measures.

Main import commodities inspected in Luka Koper are fruits of Citrus, Fortunella, Malus, Pyrus, Diospyros, Mangifera, Solanum melongena, ware potato, cut flowers of Dendranthema, Dianthus, Gypsophila, Solidago and wood of Conifers.

Keywords: Phytosanitary Inspection Manual, Import Inspection Procedures

1 Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Agriculture, Forestry and Food - Phytosanitary Inspection Service
Diagnostic support at phytosanitary inspection at import

MAJA RAVNIKAR¹

National Institute of Biology is a governmental institution authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (Phytosanitary Administration) for diagnosis of quarantine bacteria phytoplasmas and viruses. We work in close cooperation with the Phytosanitary Administration and the Phytosanitary Inspection Service.

Organization of the work in laboratories is based on procedures which ensure safe work and considers principles of quality assurance system, according to Slovene rules, prepared by the Phytosanitary administration. Our Department works in accordance with ISO 17025, and for the detection of Genetically Modified Organisms accreditation according to ISO 17025 was adopted in 2003. BIA LIMS computerised system for the reception of samples, registration, results’ report, etc. is used.

The detection procedures for quarantine and economically important plant pathogenic viruses, viroids, phytoplasmas and bacteria are designed and organised according to the European Plant Protection Organisation’s recommendations and according to the Slovene and EU directives. The procedures are designed for each pathogen separately and involve immunoserological testing (ELISA, IF, Western blot, aglutination), electron microscopy (EM and IEM), test plants, use of media and molecular biology methods (PCR, nested PCR, RFLP, FISH, Real-time PCR).

Our laboratory took part in Phare Twining programmes, we are active in the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO). Our partners are laboratories dealing with plant pathology from Great Britain, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, France, Portugal and USA. We are involved in PORTCHECK, project in phytodiagnostics in the frame of 6th EU Framework programme, conducted by CSL, GB. Recently we took part in ring test for Cms (ring rot).

In the last 10 years, we adopted methods for more than 50 different viruses, bacteria and phytoplasmas, with laboratory methods we confirmed more than 20 pathogens. Altogether we are or have been working with 80 different quarantine or economically important pathogens. However on a day-by-day basis we test routinely approximately 40 different pathogens.

¹- Nacional Institute of Biology
The European phytosanitary legislations: a deep transformation of traditional phytosanitary controls

Dr. Bruno Caio Faraglia
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Italy (Central Phytosanitary Service)

In Italy the National Phytosanitary Service is characterized by the Central Phytosanitary Service, it’s located in Rome in the Minister of Agricultural and Forestry Policy, 19 Regional Phytosanitary Services (you can find their dates in the annex of the paper) and 2 Provincial Phytosanitary Services in Trento and Bolzano.

A good level of coordination is therefore necessary to obtain the homogeneous application of phytosanitary regulations in all national territory.

In Italy, as same as in the other Member States in the European Union, is impossible to separate the import controls to the controls on the European productions and the survey on the national territory.

The European plant protection system is defined by Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000: “On protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community”. It is putted completely in the Italian laws order.

As same as the title says, the 2000/29/EC specifies the measures and the controls that have to be applied when vegetable and vegetable products move into the European community or are imported from third countries.

It is evident that the fight against harmful organisms in the European community, a space characterized by it’s lack of national borders, would be useless unless the same phytosanitary measures are applied on import consignments and is very impossible to defend the European productions unless the efficient controls at the import.

The compilation and constant updating of the list of harmful organisms under phytosanitary measures is therefore fundamental.

The range of action of this norm covers all the territory of the European community and includes the circulation and the commercialisation within the single member states. As a consequence the territorial of each member state is considered, by the phytosanitary system, as an integrated part of the European territory and consignments that move within the national territory need the same controls that are applied to consignments that move towards other countries of the European community. As a consequence the national phytosanitary regulations cannot be applied only to trade among member states and third countries.

One of the basic principles of Directive 2000/29/EC is to guarantee the same level of protection against harmful organisms in all European areas, wherever they are. At the same time it takes into account the different phytosanitary and ecological conditions of each country by introducing the concept of “protected zone” defined as a specific geographic area in which determined harmful organisms are not present and as a result subject to a particular form of protection, in order to prevent their introduction.

This legislation, moreover, together with legislation on the commercialisation of propagating materials of ornamental, fruit and horticulture plants, has introduced important elements to homogenise the technical and phytosanitary guarantees and the possibilities to collocate products on the market. At the same time it has eliminated many differences and obstacles to trade arising from the different consideration about the various products existing in the different member states.

As far as phytosanitary controls are concerned, it has introduced substantial modifications in their application. The controls made on consignments of vegetable and vegetable products when these are going through customs are substituted by controls in the production areas of the exporting member state and interest not only the single product but all the products present on the farm and also the agricultural land. Taking in examination the productive structure from the point of view of its technical capacity and management, it has in some way introduced a certification of process in agriculture too.

The phytosanitary controls are guaranteed by, in substitution of the phytosanitary certificate, a “plant passport”, an official label realized in not perishable material, that accompanies vegetables when they move inside or outside member states to the final user. When applied on vegetables, on vegetable products, on their packaging or on containers, this “plant passport” gives all the necessary information about the original producer of the product in question making it possible, if there is the need, to urgently apply the necessary protective measures.
The controls are carried out on a small number of vegetables, kinds of production and dangerous harmful organisms but with this regulation the collaboration between the plant protection service and the agricultural operators is extended to the whole farm structure, to the production systems and at the same time facilitates solutions in case of emergencies.

The national plant protection services continue to have the competence to verify the correct application of phytosanitary legislation regarding production cycles, also taking the role of technical consulting bodies. In the spirit of the European legislation, they give the responsibility of every single consignment produced to the production structures who in turn, by applying the norms and respecting the control system correctly, can certify on the appropriate document (plant passport and/or commercialisation document) the quality of their products.

This framework of control applied to different sectors in agriculture, the result of the EU Commission considerations which instituted the D.G. XXIV (today SANCO) for consumers safety, is not only justified by the physical elimination of customs, where it was possible to stop a consignment and to control it, but also by the necessity to guarantee the quality of products to the consumer. The distortions that occurred in the last few years in some agricultural production processes make this more than necessary.

It is logical that a control system that guarantees the quality of national control systems, becomes more interesting to international buyers the more the system appears to be trustworthy and the quality of products guaranteed. This offers the possibility of recognition of the quality of national control systems, leading to an increase in the market share and/or higher prices.

The confidence in such a system derives fundamentally from the many responsibilities the national phytosanitary service has:
- it is responsible and must guarantee the national territory and the productive system against the introduction and spread of harmful organisms;
- being the guarantee of the production processes of multiplication material it must verify that the production cycles correspond to the norms;
- being practically the technical consultant to farms it must give information and suggestions for rapid solutions to insurgent problems.

We can therefore resume that the European phytosanitary system is basically characterized by the following:
- constitution of “national official registers of producers”;
- delimitation of “protected zones” in the European territory with no presence of harmful organisms;
- release of “plant passports” that guarantee the correct phytosanitary status of vegetables and vegetable products that move inside the Community;
- compilation and constant updating of “registers of vegetables and vegetable products”.

For their insertion in the national official registers of producers, the following categories need to make a specific request to the phytosanitary service:
- the producers, the centres of transportation, the importers and any one that deals or commercialises in vegetable products or other items mentioned in annex V

The European phytosanitary legislation do not consider the aspects regarding exportation because this is exclusively included in the competence of each member state but at the same time the EU system when exporting to third countries needs to have just one model of phytosanitary certificates and the National Services must utilize the same model when they certify export vegetables and vegetable products.

It is useful to precise that firms that import, produce and commercialise vegetables and vegetable products not listed in the annexes to the directive, don’t need to register or do other formalities.

In Italy, the company that import, produces or commercialises vegetables and vegetable products that are listed in the annex V, part A, sec. I, of Council Directive 2000/29/EC, asks for the authorization to the regional phytosanitary service to use the plant passports.

The producer is directly responsible for the use of the plant passport and this contains all the information to identify the company.

If he import, produces or commercialises vegetables and vegetable products that they are listed in the annex V, part A, sec. II, regarding the protected zones, he has to use the plant passport marked “PZ”: it is valid for the protected zone where he sends the vegetables and it guarantees the application of specific requirements for this zone. The phytosanitary controls needs to verifies the specific requirement of the destination Protected zones.

A further explanation is necessary as regards importers who import vegetable products from Third Countries and these products are listed in part B, and also in part A, of annex V; in that case, once introduced inside the Community these products have to have the plant passport to move inside the Community because after their release by Customs, they are considered under all points of view the same as European products.
As mentioned before the directive has introduced the registers of vegetables, another instrument necessary to trace the origin of the vegetables in case of phytosanitary problems. All the operations concerning the products, origin, transportation and sale, must be indicated in chronological order, in these registers. Therefore the registration of products can tell us, if necessary, when they were imported and from which country.

In analysing the European phytosanitary legislation it is necessary to take into account some modifications at international level introduced during the last few years, whose effects are starting to be felt today. With the transformation of GATT (General Agreement Tariff and Trade) into the WTO (World Trade Organization) the plant protection services of the word enter in a new historic phase, both in their new function in international trade and the new responsibilities attributed to the plant protection services and also in the organisation needed to carry out this new role. Among the agreements signed during the Uruguay round (more than 30.000 pages of agreements were signed) the Agreement on the application of the sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS Agreement) has a fundamental importance to the phytosanitary sector, because it confirms the prerogatives of each country to defend its territory in terms of people, animals and plants and at the same time it establishes the norms on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, inserting them in a wider context related to the elimination of any form of restriction on international trade.

To this end, the phytosanitary measures must to be scientifically justified by the elaboration of a pest risk analysis (PRA) and they must refer to, when possible, to the international standards adopted by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of FAO.

This fundamental change has made necessary a complete review of IPPC and its reorganization, (still taking place), in such a way that this organisation takes on the characteristics and functions of an international body responsible for the development and application of harmonized phytosanitary measures and the elaboration of international standards to that effect.

With the adoption of the International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) related to “Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade” in 1995, the IPPC has begun Standard development . 19 ISPMs have already been adopted, which have been used in disputes in the WTO sphere.

Until today the major part of the standards adopted concern conceptual matters, necessary to define the guidelines to the NPPO, in particular on the problems related to importation, but also on the control of harmful organisms in a territory and to the certification regarding exports too. Since 2001, applicative standards such as: “Guidelines for regulating wood packaging in international trade” and “Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure", have been approved which in turn require specific organization of NPPO for their application.

This new approach at the international level has had to have its counterpart at a national level with the institution of the NPPO and the definition of their responsibilities and procedures so as to align them to the international norms.

At this scope an exercise of EU Council, during more than two years, brings to adoption of Council Directive 2002/89/EC of 28 November 2002, that it modify the Directive 2000/29/EC. In particular it has connected in explicit manner the updating of annexes with the coherent justification to relate to the existing phytosanitary risk and it has determined the procedures to recognize the equivalence, according to art.4 of SPS Agreement, of phytosanitary measures adopted by the other Agreement Member.

In this occasion, many norms and procedures have been changed in order to better correspond to the new operative conditions, especially in the collaboration between the Plant Protection Services and the Customs. Bearing in mind the European space characterised by its lack of national borders, it has introduced the possibility, when the mechanisms are defined, to apply the phytosanitary procedures in a Member State different from the Member State where the Custom procedures were applied.

Moreover, the directive provides for the intensification, more efficiency and homogenisation of controls in the Community and with the scope of increasing the controls capacity of NPPO a new tax has been introduced. These modifications will come into force on the 1st January of 2005 and will determine the reorganisation of the new European phytosanitary system.

In Italy we have approached the question to make a different kinds of consignments. Fundamentally on the vegetables and the vegetable products imported three possible procedures are applied in consideration of their phytosanitary risk identified by different colours:

Yellow alert: All imports (from third countries) of plants and plant material as listed in Annex V Part B of Directive 2000/29 and subsequent amendments must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary certificate, inspected and cleared by Phytosanitary inspectors prior to the release by Customs.

Red alert: All plants and plant products listed in Annex III of the above Directive are prohibited from import.

Green alert: All other plants and plant material not classified as Red or Yellow. The Green-listed plants and plant materials should be automatically released by Customs unless Customs are otherwise alerted to act otherwise by the Plant Health Department.

The European custom system is totally computerised and the custom controls are applied at random on a percentage of import consignments. Other requirements and characteristics can be inserted in the system to carry
out a different degree of control in relation to different degrees of risk represented by the typology of import consignments.

In Italy, in this period, the National Phytosanitary Service is promoting the application of phytosanitary controls by the customs information system and is making the necessary procedures with the Custom Offices, as following (refer to flow chart attached):

1) Red Alert Procedures

In this case the custom informatics system don’t accept the red products and the NPPO refuse the consignment.

2) Yellow Alert Procedures

The Customs computer system should be programmed so as to oblige the importers of consignments containing plants and plant materials classified under the yellow alert, to include together with the Customs’ documents the Plant Health Clearance Document (PHCD), without which the Customs’ procedures cannot be completed.

The Plant Health Department would clear the goods only after it is verified; by documentary and phytosanitary checks that the conditions established in the binding regulations at the time of application are satisfied. Clearance would be authorised by rubber stamping the previously compiled PHCD and inputting the document’s reference number, the date and the signature of the phytosanitary inspector.

If as a consequence to the phytosanitary checks carried out, it is concluded that the conditions established in the binding regulations at the time of application are not satisfied, the Plant Health Department will adopt the phytosanitary measures that are deemed fit.

3) Green Alert Procedures

Customs will grant real-time access (read only) to its computer system and provide a possibility for queries, to the Plant Health Department, on the type of imports.

The responsible officer of the Plant Health Department will inform in written form the responsible official at Customs Department of those consignments (from the green category) that would require inspection from the Plant Health Department prior to the Customs’ release.

In these last few years international trade in vegetables has increased to such an extent that there is a justified demand to reduce the time needed to carry out such phytosanitary controls. Phytosanitary legislation, the only limit applied to the vegetables trade, must be based on international standards that can be scientifically proven to protect national territories. It is therefore necessary to maintain and increase the relationship not only to the European Community but with the other phytosanitary International Organizations.

The NPPO has the necessity of the appropriate council to define the guidelines and the planning of the activities at national level, and must be able to coordinate the structures, and their different and complex tasks, that work on the national territory. These activities need the indispensable equipment for the management of phytosanitary emergences and the means to evaluate the operability and the efficiency of the control structures on the territory. The direct management of proper funds would help to face these situations.

In conclusion the efficiency of a phytosanitary service both at a national level as well as at a European level, as far as the control on the territory and the prevention of plant disease, together with the certification of multiplication materials, is strictly connected to the realization of a homogeneous standard of quality work on the whole territory.

It is clear therefore that one critical point in a geographical area of the system, with a low level of efficiency, constitutes a hole in the protection network that could nullify the controls applied in the nearby areas. This prejudices the possibility of a valid system of phytosanitary protection, with repercussions not only on the phytosanitary status of plants but on the entire economical and productive system.
Random checks from database

- Green: Free
- Yellow: The computer system asks for Plant Health Declaration
- Red: Plant Health notification of interception to Customs

Start the Customs procedure (Documents present)

- Green: Customs Computer System
- Yellow: The computer system asks for Plant Health Declaration
- Red: Plant Health notification of interception to Customs

Importer of plants and plant material fills in notification form

- Random checks from database

Customs Computer System

- Green: Notification of interception
- Yellow: Clearance
- Red: Refused

Phytosanitary Inspection


Importers ask for Plant Health Inspection

- Non-Compliance
- No objection

Customs Procedures

- Free
- Refused

Plant Health Procedures

- Release
Documentation, Identity and Phytosanitary Checks at European Community Entry Points

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REGIONAL PHYTOSANITARY SERVICE
Friuli – Venezia Giulia Region

Introduction

There is a growing risk of quarantine organisms being introduced to and spreading within the European Community. This is due to the increased frequency and volume with which plants and plant products are being imported into the EC from third countries and the increase in trading of such plants and products. This danger has lead the EC to harmonise, at a European level, the “means for protecting against the introduction and spread within the European Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products”. The aim is that all Member countries, through effective regulations and control processes, can combat phytosanitary risks and safeguard agriculture, forests and nature within the Community.

A study, titled “Phytophagous insects introduced to Italy from 1945 to 1995”, analysed foreign species that had been introduced to the country. It concluded that about 4 foreign insects are introduced per year, that is an average of one species every 90 days. Such information makes it abundantly clear that every Member country needs to be involved in applying phytosanitary measures to ensure effective prevention, interception, containment and eradication of harmful organisms.

The regulation defining the phytosanitary methods created to ensure the same level of protection against harmful organisms across the Community is Directive 2000/29 and subsequent amendments and additions. The transposition of this Directive in Italy was achieved through the amendment of and integration to D.M. (Ministerial Decree) 31.01.1996, which was, in turn, the transposition of the previous Directive 77/93 EEC.

In essence, phytosanitary checks are carried out on plant material, in accordance with laws in force, both when it is introduced from third countries and when it is derived from production within the Community and is marketed in the European single market.
PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION FOR IMPORTS

A phytosanitary certificate must be issued by the Plant Health Service of the consignor country to import plants and plant products into EU from third Countries. The consignment must be checked, in order to verify if it is free from harmful organisms and it complies with the relevant special requirements laid down in EU Regulation.

In Italy the regulation also regards phytosanitary checks for wheat grain and leguminous plants.

In terms of phytosanitary checks, it is important to emphasise that the role of phytosanitary inspectors is to stop harmful organisms –listed in annexes I and II of the regulation – spreading from entry points to the EU via international trade. However, it is possible that these harmful organisms might be introduced into the Community via plant products that are not listed in D.M. 31.01.1996 and Directive 2000/29/CE, and not subject to compulsory phytosanitary checks at the border. In addition, they might be unintentionally introduced “via tourists” as part of a single plant in hand luggage.

The Phytosanitary Service needs to know all the entry points of all plants and plant products (along with information as to their origins) in order to give Customs information about extra checks that need to be carried out on goods that represent a risk in terms of introducing harmful organisms that are either already banned or new to the region.

This means that a greater number of checks have to be carried out on plants and plant products than required by compulsory inspections.

It is thus essential that there is a relationship of reciprocal co-operation between the Phytosanitary Service and Customs, allowing both parties to carry out their functions in complete autonomy. Therefore, the introduction of goods that need to undergo phytosanitary checks must be communicated by Customs or the sender to the Phytosanitary Service, so that the latter can carry out timely checks and verify everything is in order.

E.U. ENTRY POINTS IN THE FRIULI – VENEZIA GIULIA REGION

The entry points authorised for inspections and issuing phytosanitary certificates for plant and plant products being imported to the E.U., in accordance with annex VIII of D.M. 31.01.1996 and subsequent modifications, under the authority of the Friuli – Venezia Giulia Region Central Phytosanitary Service, are:

a) Airport Customs: Ronchi dei Legionari (GO)
b) Port Customs: Trieste
c) Railway Customs: Gorizia, and Villa Opicina (TS)
d) Road Customs: Gorizia S. Andrea, Trieste Fernetti, Trieste Pese, and Trieste Rabuiese.

An additional entry point for importing wood is:

a) Port Customs: Monfalcone (GO) and Porto Nogaro (UD)

Peculiarities of the Trieste Port

Historically, the Trieste Port is a “free carriage port” where a special system of international law is in place. This system was envisaged and is guaranteed by international regulations that are binding on the Italian government. The legislative source of this is Annex VIII to the Peace Treaty of Paris, signed on 10 February 1947 by the Allies, their associates and Italy. Thus, the Treaty of Paris is effectively the charter of the port.

This situation leads to special legal conditions: on the one hand, the Italian government is bound by the relevant regulations and international duties; on the other hand, it justifies specific procedural rules in derogation of the general rules governing European Community and national ports.

The peculiarity of the Free Port of Trieste is that it is a zone outside normal customs (extra-customs) where goods coming from third countries are considered, in terms of import duties and the provisions related to commercial policies governing imports, goods not within the European Community customs area. This status stands as long as they are not put into free circulation or governed by another customs system under the conditions established by specific rules and regulations.

When these provisions are applied (namely, customs and tariff concessions, and exemption from some taxes) to the relative free carriage area, the result is a concentration of activities concerned with foreign trade, such as the redistribution, processing, handling and re-shipping of goods both inside the EC and to third countries.

The Trieste Port is one of the maritime entry ports in Annex VIII of DM 31.01.1996 for the introduction of plant and plant products listed in Annexes V and VII, and it includes all 5 free carriage entry points: Punto Franco Nuovo, Punto Franco Vecchio, Scalo Legnami, San Sabha and Porto Industriale.

The majority of imported goods that are in transit or are being re-shipped to a third country are subject to phytosanitary checks pass through Punto Franco Nuovo.

PROCEDURES GOVERNING PHYTOSANITARY CHECKS
Import certification is issued in compliance with Directive 2000/29/EC and subsequent modifications and additions. Phytosanitary certification can only be issued once the documentation has been verified, the goods identified and a careful phytosanitary inspection has been carried out. The verification of documentation must take place prior to the phytosanitary inspection. Whenever the required documentation, according to the current law, is missing (which would lead to it being invalid), the importation of the goods is compromised.

In practice, plants and plant products must be accompanied by phytosanitary certification. It is necessary to check if there are any import bans in any member states or protected areas, if it has to meet any specific requirements and if the certification is in compliance with the relevant import regulations.

It is possible that further information will be required to carry out more precise identification of the material to undergo phytosanitary inspection. If more information is needed, it might be useful to examine the following documents:
- shipping card (for goods arriving via the sea)
- consignment note (for goods arriving via railway)
- carnet (or another document that accompanies goods transported via road)
- invoice
- bill of lading
- certificate of origin
- documentation indicating the start of storage

The method of inspection to be used is that which is best suited and most practical, in terms of examining a representative sample, given the nature of the goods.

In terms of sampling plants, the indications from the European Commission in its Vademecum ("Harmonised inspection procedures for the importation of consignments coming from third countries") are useful. These indications contain specific procedures for the choice and size of the unit to inspect, the methods for visual checks, determining the phytosanitary risk and the taking and analysis of samples.

The inspections can be carried out in warehouses, in the open or in areas specifically for such inspections. The next stage is checking the identity and carrying out the phytosanitary inspection; checking the botanical species that is declared matches the conclusions of the inspection. During the phytosanitary check, it is not only the absence of harmful organisms listed in Annexes I and II of the Directive that is checked, but also the presence of "other potentially dangerous organisms" that are not currently included in the list, as well as the requirements envisaged by Annex IV.

Whenever the verification and checking indicate that the material is in compliance with the regulations, the phytosanitary certification for importation is issued.

Whenever harmful organisms that need to be quarantined are found, one of the following measures must be taken:
- appropriate treatment,
- separation of the infected and/or infested products,
- a period of quarantine can be imposed until the official results of the examination or tests are available,
- refusal of the goods or authorisation to send the goods to a destination outside the European Union,
- destruction of the goods.

In each of the above cases, it is necessary to fill in the form relevant to the interception of the goods.

**PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES FOR IMPORTING CERTAIN PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS**

**Importing potatoes for eating from Egypt**

Potatoes imported from Egypt via the Trieste Port make up a substantial part of the phytosanitary inspections and laboratory analyses carried out from January to May.

Edible potatoes from Egypt are subject to the Decision by the Commission on 22 December 2003, transposed by DM on 22 January 2004 "emergency measures against the dissemination of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* (Smith) Smith as regards Egypt". This organism causes potato brown rot. These phytosanitary measures became necessary because of the repeated discovery of *P. solanacearum* in some member countries.

According to the directive, the potatoes must be officially inspected in the field during the growing season, they must be taken to officially approved packing stations and, prior to being transported, they must be visually inspected and laboratory analyses must be done to test for *P. solanacearum*.

The specific measures that must be undertaken by Phytosanitary Services when the potatoes enter the Community are, according to the regulation, the following:
- verify that the Egyptian exporters are in the official list of authorised exporters;
- verify that the consignments come from basins (areas) declared "areas free of *P. solanacearum*" in the official lists supplied by the European Community;
- organise, for each consignment of the importing season, a sampling scheme with visual controls on 200 potatoes for every 25 tonnes per lot of the shipment, as well as laboratory analyses from each basin in order to detect latent infections by *P. solanacearum*. 
In order to detect latent infections with \textit{P. solanacearum}, 200 cut tubers must be taken from each lot per consignment from the basin. The following preliminary tests will be carried out: immunofluorescence assays (IFAS), isolation in plates and PCR detection. The lot is quarantined until the results of the tests are known.

Should any of the tests be positive, the cut tubers are to be sent to the bacteria laboratory of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Bologna for further confirmation tests.

Should the presence of the bacterium be confirmed, the lot from which the sample was taken must be rejected, sent to another country outside of the EU or destroyed. At the same time as goods are intercepted, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry must be notified. They will then notify the European Commission, which will cancel the relevant basin from the official list of areas free of \textit{P. solanacearum}.

There are specific rules for commercial traders introducing Egyptian potatoes. They must notify the relevant Phytosanitary Service about the location of the processing plants, which must be equipped with a processing cycle or a waste disposal system, including the water used for washing, so as to prevent the spread of \textit{P. solanacearum}.

\textbf{Importing Citrus Fruit from Third Countries}

Citrus fruit that is introduced to the EC through entry ports and comes from third countries in the Mediterranean, Asia, the Middle East and the Americas must be carefully checked for fruit flies of the genera \textit{Anastrepha}, \textit{Ceratitis}, \textit{Bactrocera}, \textit{Dacus} and \textit{Rhagoletis} that have not yet been detected on the different citrus fruits.

Importing citrus fruit involves the risk of introducing cochineals belonging to the following families: \textit{Pseudococcidae}, \textit{Coccide}, \textit{Diaspididae}, \textit{Orthezidae}, as well as thrips of the genus \textit{Schirtothrips}, which are not only a threat to citrus plants, but also to other fruit and decorative plants.

\textbf{Importing Wheat Grain from the U.S.A., Mexico, Afghanistan, India, Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan and South Africa.}

The greatest phytosanitary risk related to the introduction of wheat from the above mentioned countries is due to the presence in such regions of a pathogenic fungus, \textit{Tilletia indica}. This is a parasite that needs to be quarantined and causes bunt or partial bunt (Karnal bunt). Given that a 3\% infection of the kernel is sufficient to make the wheat unsuitable for human consumption and a 6-10\% infection makes it unsuitable for livestock feed, it is clear the danger this pathogen poses to wheat farming.

The regulations in force are DM 19.02.1997, which included the fungus \textit{T. indica} among the organisms that need to be quarantined, Directives 2000/29/CE and 2002/36/CE and the Ministerial Technical Notes, which guarantee the uniform application of the Decree. These Technical Notes provide details about how to sample the wheat arriving on ships in order to obtain a representative sample that will undergo specific laboratory analyses to detect \textit{Tilletia indica}.

In addition to these laboratory analyses, entomological analyses to detect mites and stored product insects are carried out.

It should be noted that by importing grain, resistant strains of stored product insects could be introduced to the Community. This is a particularly serious problem because the active agents act via contact. There are, in this respect, numerous studies proving that among many resistant strains of insects, the insects of stored products is the largest group.

\textbf{Importing wood packing from Canada, China, Japan and the U.S.A.}

As of 1 October 2001, crates made (even only partially) of untreated pine wood, except for Thuja, coming from the above mentioned countries, must undergo phytosanitary controls in compliance with Decision 2001/219/CE by the European Commission. This emergency measure was adopted to prevent the spread of the pine wood nematode, \textit{Bursaphelenecus xylophilus}, within the EC. This nematode is harmful to all conifers, but is particularly dangerous for species of the genus Pinus. \textit{B. xylophilus} is spread by vector cerambycid beetles of the \textit{Monochamus} genus, which are transported together with the wood.

Pine crates from China must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate listing the treatments that have been used (heat treatment, chemical impregnation by fumigation or pressure). It must bear an official stamp, or the indication of the code of the province or district of origin, in order to certify that the woods comes from regions which are free of the nematode \textit{B. xylophilus}. Such regions are included in the specific list, “pest-free areas” provided by the EC.

Broad-leaf crates coming from China (with the exception of Hong Kong) must undergo phytosanitary control in compliance with DM 15.02.200, in order to prevent the spread of \textit{Anoplophora glabripennis} (Matschulsky). Pine crates coming from Canada, the USA and Japan must undergo specific heat treatment, impregnation or fumigation. The certificate indicating this treatment must have an official stamp issued by the relevant authorities.

\textbf{Importing Chestnut Wood}

Large numbers of chestnut trunks are imported into the EU every year from Russia, or more specifically, the Caucasus and Pre-Caucasus areas.
It should be noted that, in the past, some consignments of debarked chestnut trunks were found to be infected with *Cryphonectria parasitica* (Murril) Barr, a fungus causing a disease in chestnut trees known as “cortical cancer”. The infection had even reached the outmost layers of the sapwood. This showed that simply debarking a tree cannot guarantee the elimination of the fungus *C. parasitica*. Following some interceptions and agreements with the exporting countries, consignments of trunks are now not only debarked but the sapwood is also removed to ensure there is no *C. parasitica*.

**RE-SHIPMENT OF PLANT PRODUCTS AT TRIESTE PORT**

A sizeable portion of the activity at the Free Port of Trieste involves buying, storing and reshipping plant products from third countries. This is done by traders and, often, the goods are ultimately destined for other third countries. Given this and what has been noted above, the Office in Trieste often uses the phytosanitary re-shipment certification form even though the majority of cases involve the re-shipment of goods (non-national) originating abroad.

This certification is issued after careful phytosanitary inspections of products in transit or stored in free carriage areas without phytosanitary certificates. These products can be dried goods destined for industry or consumption (but not fresh goods and/or goods destined to be used in reproduction) as well as goods stored or in transit in the free carriage areas, accompanied by phytosanitary certification, that are destined to be shipped to foreign countries in several shipments.

The main products in transit at the Trieste Port are raw coffee beans, raw cotton, and beech and grain chaff. Coffee consignments that were stored, for commercial reasons, for long periods in the warehouses were found to be infested with: *Araecerus fasciculatus* (Coleoptera: Anthribidae), *Ahasverus advena* (Col.: CucuJidae), *Stephanoderes coffee* (Col.: Scolytidae) and *Tenebrio opacus* (Col.: Tenebrionidae). Although these insects are not regarded as quarantine organisms, they can cause infestations that can worsen when combined with other foodstuffs that might host these pests or when there are certain weather conditions.

For grain, it is important to focus on *Trogoderma granarium* and *T. inclusum* (Col.: Dermestidae), which, in addition to grain, can infest numerous other foodstuffs. Special attention should also be paid to *Prostephanus truncatus* (Col.: Bostrichidae), a polyphagous beetle that infests any type of foodstuff stored in silos and has also been found in the field on small inner branches. Specific pheromones can be placed outside the warehouses to monitor this insect.

**CONCLUSIONS**

So far, the European Community and Member States have achieved a lot in terms of regulations designed to provide safety measures which have made the EC’s phytosanitary protection system more effective and have definitely contributed to protecting the quality of EC produce. There is still a long way to go in the accession countries, where it will be necessary to create synergies and promote cooperation between Phytosanitary Services, in order to tackle pressing phytosanitary risks that might arise at EC entry points. These points are critical in terms of phytosanitary protection.

At these points it will be necessary to increase monitoring and begin prevention initiatives, such as monitoring using pheromone traps for some harmful organisms near EC ports, airports and entry points. In addition, it will be necessary to implement adequate quarantine measures as well as timely phytosanitary intervention, such as disinfections, disinfection, eradication and so on. All this is needed in order to stop biological invasion by quarantine organisms.
## ITALIA - SERVIZI FITOSANITARI REGIONALI

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## List of Lecturers

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