



NAPPO

North American Plant Protection Organization
Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas

NAPPO Conference Call Report

Expert Group:	Revision of RSPM 22 <i>Guidelines for construction and operation of a containment facility for insects and mites used as biological control agents</i>	
Location:	Zoom meeting (Video conference)	
Date:	October 22, 2020	
Chairperson	Peter Mason (Agriculture Canada)	
Participants:		
Heather Cumming (CFIA)	Hugo Arredondo (SENASICA)	Ronald Weeks (APHIS-PPQ)
Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO)	Brian Spencer (Canadian industry)	Robert Pfannenstiel (APHIS-PPQ)
Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)	Stephanie Bloem (NAPPO)	Gregorio Ramos García (Mexican industry)
Dominique-André Demers (Canadian industry)	José Gustavo Torres (SENASICA)	Kirk Martin (APHIS-PPQ)
Patricia Abad (APHIS-PPQ)		
Summary		
Project:	Revision of RSPM 22 <i>Guidelines for construction and operation of a containment facility for insects and mites used as biological control agents</i>	
General comments:	The TD welcomed the EG members and thanked them for joining the call. Rapporteur: Alonso Suazo Agenda was approved as presented.	
Item 1:	Update on RSPM 22	
Consensus:	<p>The ED provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised document will be sent for editorial review first and then to country consultation. • The NAPPO Secretariat would like to simultaneously send several documents in 2021 for country consultation including the revised RSPM 22. • The open period for country consultation for RSPM 22 will be 90 days. • The Secretariat is looking for ways to make the country consultation process more efficient in 2021. This topic will be discussed with the NAPPO AMC in December 2020. 	
Item 2:	Potential topics to submit for the NAPPO open call for project proposal in 2021.	
Consensus:	<p>The Chairperson indicated the EG was interested to submit two projects for the 2021 call for proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revision of RSPM 26 <i>Certification of commercial</i> 	

	<p><i>arthropod biological control agents or non-Apis pollinators moving into NAPPO member countries.</i> The Chairperson indicated that a justification statement drafted by the industry was shared with NAPPO and the EG. Industry members indicated the revision is very important specially when related to homeland security issues and possible delays in shipments. Other justification points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consistent use of names in products. The appendix in RSPM 26 list all biological control agents approved in the NAPPO region. The names in the list need to be updated. Also, new approved biological control agents need to be added to the list. The EG proposed to have yearly updates of the list because some biocontrol agents that are commercialized are not listed in Appendix. b. RSPM 26 scope needs to be reviewed. The scope should clearly indicate that the standard is only related to the certification of movement of biocontrol agents between NAPPO countries. c. Canada also indicated that clarification of certificates is needed. US members indicated the US has no certification infrastructure for the movement of commercial arthropods as biological control agents because most of them are imported. RSPM 26 should allow production entities the flexibility to issue certifications. Mexico noted that the certification is a very important for the export of biological control agents to Europe. <p>The EG agreed that there is a clear need to update/revise RSPM 26 and should submit a proposal to NAPPO.</p> <p>2. Revision of RSPM 39 (<i>Packaging for the international shipment of live invertebrates used as biological control agents</i>). The Chairperson indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. this proposal has been previously submitted to NAPPO but was not selected and included in the work program. b. The requirements for the international shipment of live invertebrates have changed and this should be reflected in RSPM 39. The EG agreed to resubmit the proposal for consideration.
Item 3:	Other topics to consider for project proposal submissions
Consensus:	The Chairperson indicated that the EG had previously considered topics for project proposals including a “white paper” on the importance of taxonomy to biological control. This information was posted on the NAPPO website in previous years.

	<p>Other projects of interest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to biocontrol agents. This is becoming more important because of the Nagoya protocols. • Development of biocontrol agent database that will include biology, distribution, and other relevant information. Canada indicated that a forestry biological control agent database had been developed in Canada, but the information needs to be compiled. Information could also be found in additional sources including CABI's BIOCAT database, the biocontrol of weeds catalogs, and in the release of beneficial organism (ROBO) database in the US. The ROBO database has been updated and migrated to another platform (iBiocontrol). The possibility for the group to work on a project developing a biological control database was discussed. This information could also be included in the NAPPO website. • Development of a guidance for best practices for production of biological control agents. Limitations to this proposal include trade secrets by the industry and the complexity of such document. • New molecular techniques to make biological control more effective. • Climate change and the impact on biological control agents. 	
Other subjects	The Chairperson suggested to put the above ideas into a document. This document should have the following sections: a title, importance and justification, goals and expectations from the group. The document should be sent to the Chairperson.	
Next Steps		
Responsible Person	Action	Date
EG members	Group agreed to draft a NAPPO project proposal to review RSPM 26. The proposal will be submitted when the call for project proposals opens.	Not determined
EG members	Resubmit the revision of RSPM 39 proposal.	Not determined
EG members	Draft additional documents for the proposed projects and send to the Chairperson.	End of November, 2020
Next Meeting		
Location:	Zoom meeting. Video conference.	
Date:	January 28, 2021 from 1:00-2:30 pm EST.	
Proposed Agenda Items		
1. Finalize RSPM 22 - review editorial changes (All)		
2. Submission of Proposals to revise RSPM 26 and RSPM 39 – application process (NAPPO Secretariat)		
3. Discussion of new projects - access to biocontrol agents, biocontrol agent database, best practices for production of biological control agents, molecular techniques, climate change		

4. Other
5. Next meeting