



NAPPO

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

NAPPO Conference Call Report

Expert Group:	Forestry- <i>Evaluating the risk associated with different types of wood packaging material – Opportunities to improve ISPM 15 compliance.</i>	
Location:	Zoom meeting	
Date:	May 15, 2025	
Chairperson	Meghan Noseworthy, Natural Resources Canada	
Participants:		
Scott Geffros (Canada Industry; Vice-chair)	Arvind Vasudevan (CFIA)	Tyrone Jones (APHIS PPQ)
Brad Gething (US Industry)	María José Martínez (Mexico Industry)	Enrique Negrete (Mexico industry)
Eric Allen (Retired NR Can)	Leigh Greenwood (US industry)	Faith Campbell (US industry)
Tanya Staffen (CFIA, NAPPO AMC)	Hoffmann Blassio (SENASICA, NAPPO AMC)	Nedelka Marín-Martínez (NAPPO)
Alonso Suazo (NAPPO)		
Summary		
Project:	Forestry- <i>Evaluating the risk associated with different types of wood packaging material – Opportunities to improve ISPM 15 compliance.</i>	
General comments:	<p>The meeting focused on updates and ongoing work within the NAPPO Forestry – Wood Packaging Material expert group. Key topics included membership changes, especially due to attrition and organizational shifts in Mexico (Semarnat), and the United States. Progress on collaborative projects centered around risk assessments without complete data, and efforts to harmonize terminology across the member countries. The participants also discussed subgroups working on data collection related to wood packaging production and terminology, with plans to share information across Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The group is navigating challenges linked to staff changes, data normalization, translation needs, and establishing timelines to meet upcoming NAPPO and the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) meetings. New tools and databases for tracking non-compliant wood packaging materials were presented, highlighting limitations and opportunities for enhancement. Overall, the session set goals for the next meeting scheduled for mid-July, reaffirming commitments to collaboration despite operational and staffing hurdles.</p>	
Item 1:	EG membership updates	

Consensus:	<p>The NAPPO TD informed that the expert group is experiencing significant turnover, with many former SEMARNAT members and US APHIS PPQ members leaving, which reduces direct representation from both Mexico and the US. The group is actively recognizing these changes and planning acknowledgments to departed experts. However, transferring institutional knowledge and re-establishing contact points remains a challenge, especially with key personnel no longer in roles or accessible.</p> <p>Hoffman Blasio, the new NAPPO AMC member representing Mexico, will contact Semarnat's international affairs unit for experts to work on this project. NAPPO's TD also indicated that he is collaborating with the NAPPO AMC members to address the expert group membership.</p>
Item 2:	Project updates
Consensus:	<p>Role of Subgroups in Driving Progress</p> <p>The EG Chairperson proposed creating subgroups, each one assigned to different tasks. Subgroups focusing on production data collection, terminology harmonization, and scientific risk descriptions play a pivotal role. Their task involves compiling and summarizing data from datasets in Canada, the US, and Mexico while addressing translation and terminology harmonization challenges. The chairperson suggested that the subgroups meet regularly (bi-weekly)</p> <p>Terminology Harmonization as a Foundation for Clear Communication</p> <p>Differences in terminology, particularly unique terms used in Mexico, highlight the necessity of building a shared glossary. The approach of adopting and translating US and Canadian definitions while integrating Mexico's specific terms underscores the complexity of international cooperation and the need to avoid misunderstandings, especially in contexts defined in ISPM 15.</p> <p>Data Collection and Tools to Support Risk Assessment</p> <p>New digital tools have been introduced to track incidents of non-compliant wood packaging materials, although these tools currently lack features such as download options and source origin tracing of packaging itself. The tool represents a valuable stepping stone toward better monitoring and shared scientific understanding.</p> <p>Timelines and Deliverables Aligned with International Meetings</p> <p>There is consensus on establishing deadlines, aiming to have deliverables ready for the IFQRG meeting in France and the</p>

	NAPPO annual meeting in October 2025. Setting milestones in July for the subgroups to finalize aspects like scientific descriptions and terminology reflects a strategic approach to managing workload and ensuring progress on the project.	
	Commitment to Multilingual Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement	
	The need for translating documents into Spanish and coordinating across different organizations and industry representatives, including the Mexican wood packaging industry, is a major operational consideration. This inclusiveness ensures broader participation and helps avoid miscommunications, thereby supporting the integrity of the expert group’s outputs.	
Next Steps		
Responsible Person	Action	Date
Arvind Vasudevan	Collect Canadian terminology and translate to French	By July 25th
Lee Greenwood	Assist Arvind and Mexico representative with terminology collection	By July 25th
Hoffman Blassio	Establish communication between Senasica and Semarnat to continue work on Mexican terminology.	By July 25th
Scott Geffros	Generate reports on Canadian wood packaging production data	By July 25th
Brad Gething	Provide feedback on US data when available	By July 25th
María José Martínez	Inform Sam about collecting data on Mexico's wood packaging production	By July 25th
Eric Allen and Meghan Noseworthy	Work on the scientific description section of the project	July 25th
Eric Allen and Brad Gething	Review the risk document when ready	
Lee Greenwood and Eric Allen	Discuss the new USDA APHIS tool and provide feedback for improvements	
Alonso Suazo	Send a calendar invitation for the next meeting on July 11th at 2 PM Eastern time	
Megan Noseworthy	Coordinate with Alonso on the agenda for the next meeting	
Alonso Suazo	Send the meeting report with action items and dates to Megan	
Scott Geffros Brad Gething Sam Podlipsky	Work on finalizing and collecting production practices data	
Next Meeting		
Location:	Zoom meeting	
Date:	July 11, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time	
Proposed Agenda Items		
1.		