

Regulatory Significance

The term, “regulatory significance” is not officially defined by the International Plant Protection Convention or the Code of Federal Regulations. However, the adoption of the term will allow CAPS cooperators greater flexibility and adequate accountability to survey for pests. Pests that may be appropriately surveyed are those whose detection in an area may be of concern to national, state, tribal, and local governments because of their potential for human-assisted dissemination into areas where they do not already occur. Plant pests are deemed to be of regulatory significance if their detection in an area could negatively impact the movement of people and articles. The CAPS program has developed a priority pest list of significant pest threats (Priority Pest List) and emphasizes surveys for those pests. The program offers flexibility by allowing other pests of state concern to be “bundled” into surveys with Priority Pests. For consistency when discussing pest survey issues, PPQ encourages cooperators to use the terminology defined in the [International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures](#) (ISPM 01, 05, 06 and 08), available at the official web site for the [International Plant Protection Convention](#).