Fiscal Year

2025

PPQ Port Environs Survey Guide

Pilot Year 3

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# INTRODUCTION

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fee (AQI UF) collections are used to fund Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Port Environs early detection surveys that are conducted by PPQ staff in many states. PPQ must ensure AQI UF spending for port environs survey supports AQI activities appropriately. This survey guide establishes AQI UF port environs survey and data requirements, enabling PPQ to improve its reporting and analysis capabilities, and demonstrate the appropriate use of these funds.

This approach to documenting AQI UF Port Environs-funded surveys aligns with PPQ’s overarching Pest Surveillance strategy, which also includes PPQ pest detection survey, Plant Protection Act (PPA) 7721 goal 1S, and Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS).

PPQ is continuing the Port Environs survey pilot program in fiscal year (FY) 2025. The pilot program requires participating states and territories to document survey plans for early detection surveys funded through AQI UF Port Environs. Five states participated in the FY 2023 pilot (Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington and four additional states participated in the FY 2024 pilot (New Mexico, New York, Ohio, and Oregon). We are adding three states and three Unites States (U.S.) Territories to the FY 2025 pilot (Florida, Hawaii, South Carolina, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

# PORT ENVIRONS SURVEY GOALS AND GUIDELINES

PPQ’s goals for Port Environs Early Detection Surveys are to:

* Survey for pests on the [National Priority Pest List](https://approvedmethods.ceris.purdue.edu/)
* Conduct surveys along import pathways at primary pest entry areas

Port Environs surveys target activities of detect pests of concern that may have followed an import pathway. Therefore, these surveys must be conducted in the area where imported material is moved for unlading, transfer, storage, and distribution; hereafter, this area is referred to as an import pathway. Port Environs surveys should target international ports and associated areas that have a high concentration of warehouses, intermodal transfer stations, and other key transport infrastructure where pests associated with imported goods may disperse into the environment for the first time (i.e., primary pest entry areas).

An ideal survey plan considers available inspection data (pest interceptions, emergency action notification (EAN) data, commodity import pathways, pest information (likelihood of establishment and habitat suitability), and state and port risk committee input to target pests with greatest risk of introduction along an import pathway. The ultimate goal is to support PPQ pest surveillance by identifying high risk import pathways for national priority pests and targeting these areas for survey. Emerging pests of concern to PPQ may be allowable for port environs surveys on a case-by-case basis.

If you have questions about what qualifies as a Port Environs survey, contact the Port Environs National Operations Managers (NOM), Heather Moylett (heather.moylett@usda.gov) and Brad Newbry (bradley.a.newbry@usda.gov).

## Difference Between Port Environs and Pest Detection Funding for Surveys

PPQ receives funding for Pest Detection through an annual appropriation from Congress. The goal of these appropriations is to document the presence or absence of plant pests and diseases of Federal regulatory significance in the United States. PPQ uses this funding to support many efforts, including the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey and PPQ Pest Detection Surveys. The Pest Detection appropriations language provides PPQ with flexibilities on where surveys can happen. For example, it is acceptable to use Pest Detection funding to support surveys in row crops and along import pathways so long as the goal is determining presence or absence of plant pests and diseases that are of federal regulatory significance.

PPQ receives funding for Port Environs Survey through Agriculture Quarantine Inspections User Fee (AQI UF) collections. This funding is to be used for activities related to the setting of traps within a port environ, monitoring of the traps, collection of traps and the analysis, documentation, and communication of the trap contents. There is no regulatory definition of a port environ, so the guidance in this document should be used to distinguish between when it is appropriate to use Port Environs AQI UF funding or Pest Detection funding to support surveys. Two examples are provided below.

## Examples of Port Environs and Pest Detection Surveys

**Example 1:** International containerized cargo arrives at a maritime port and is transported to an inland port for inspection. The maritime port and inland port are appropriate locations for Port Environs survey supported by AQI UF funding. Surveys along the roadway or railway between the two ports are appropriate locations for Pest Detection funded survey.

**Example 2:** Traps for Exotic Wood Borer/Bark Beetle (EWB/BB) survey placed at a maritime container port or wood packing material (WPM) recycler would be appropriate use of Port Environs AQI UF funding to target pests that may infest WPM associated with imported cargo. Traps placed at the ultimate destination of the imported cargo would be an appropriate Pest Detection funded survey.

# COMPLETING THE PPQ PORT ENVIRONS SURVEY SUMMARY FORM

Port Environs surveys focus on international import pathways that are high-risk for pest introduction, and thus, pests targeted for surveys should be selected based on high-risk pathways.

All pilot state and territory surveys funded by AQI UF Port Environs must be documented in the Port Environs Survey Summary Form (SSF) available on the survey planning page on the CAPS website: <http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/services/surveyplanning/>.

If you historically included Port Environs survey plans in the Pest Detection SSF, you must separate them now. The PPQ Pest Detection SSF should only include plans for surveys supported by Pest Detection funding. The PPQ Pest Detection SSF should not include any plans for surveys supported by Port Environs AQI UF funding. All surveys supported by AQI UF Port Environs funding should be documented separately on the Port Environs SSF. For example:

If you do a survey, such as for Exotic Wood Borer/Bark Beetle, and it is supported by two funding sources (Port Environs AQI UF and Pest Detection), estimate the percent of work that is supported by each source. If the survey is supported 30% Port Environs AQI UF and 70% Pest Detection, record the 30% of your survey effort on the Port Environs SSF, and the other 70% of your survey effort on the Pest Detection SSF.

Each survey in the SSF must be named by selecting a survey name from the dropdown list that most closely represents your PPQ Port Environs survey. The name you select should be related to the pathway, the host or habitat, or the pest targeted. You can find the list of current survey names in the [Appendix](#_APPENDIX._Survey_Names).

You must use the survey methods required by the PPQ pest program or Approved Methods for Pest Surveillance ([https://approvedmethods.ceris.purdue.edu](https://approvedmethods.ceris.purdue.edu/)) for pests on the [National Priority Pest List](http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/approved-methods).

If you need assistance completing your SSF, contact the Port Environs NOMs, Heather Moylett (heather.moylett@usda.gov) and Brad Newbry (bradley.a.newbry@usda.gov).

## Workflow

The Port Environs NOMs, Heather Moylett and Brad Newbry, will review and approve the SSF, following the same workflow as the Pest Detection SSF.

# DATA ENTRY GUIDANCE

The National Agriculture Pest Information System (NAPIS) is the final repository for all Port Environs survey data. This includes early detection surveys for PPQ Program Pests that are funded by Port Environs. For other surveys (delimitation, monitoring and control) in your state that are funded by sources other than Port Environs, follow the guidance from that program’s National Operations Manager. Always trace the survey activity back to the purpose of the survey and the funding source to determine the appropriate final data repository.

**Data from surveys performed in FY 2025 must be entered into NAPIS by March 1, 2026.**

## Port Environs Data Entry Guidance

Use NAPIS funding source Code 5 for PPQ Port Environs data. Please use this code when entering individual records into NAPIS for all survey targets listed in your PPQ Port Environs SSF.

## Mobile Data Collection Tools

PPQ is not developing mobile data collection tools (mobile apps) for Port Environs surveys. Contact the respective Pest Program NOM for PPQ program pests that have a national level app for collecting early detection survey data. For pests on the National Priority Pest List, contact the Pest Detection NOM, Darrell Bays (darrell.a.bays@usda.gov), to learn what applications are available (e.g., EWB/BB Collector App).

Use the “How to get the data out of apps” section in the 2025 PPQ Pest Detection Survey Guide to export and prepare Port Environs survey data to send to the State Survey Coordinator for upload into NAPIS.

There is no mechanism to differentiate Port Environs and Pest Detection in collector apps. We recommend including “PD” or “PE” in each trap or survey location name to differentiate between pest detection and port environs, respectively. This will aid in preparing data for NAPIS upload.

# RESOURCES

## Survey Supplies

Port environs survey supplies (traps, lures, and accessories) may be ordered through the [Survey Supply Ordering System](https://iphis.aphis.usda.gov/) for National Priority Pests and PPQ Program Pests. Place orders for Port Environs surveys during the fall open period. Contact the Pest Detection NOM, Darrell Bays (darrell.a.bays@usda.gov), with questions about supply ordering.

## Preliminary Identification

It is your responsibility to confirm that an identifier or institution is available to provide taxonomic support for the proposed targets each year. This includes confirming that any identifier or institution previously used is available to continue providing taxonomic support for the proposed targets each year. PPQ cannot guarantee that taxonomic assistance for preliminary identification of Priority Pests will be available for all pests.

If assistance is needed in finding an identifier or institution to provide preliminary identification for a target (national priority pests only), please contact the Preliminary Identification National Operations Manager (NOM) for Pest Detection, Darrell Bays (darrell.a.bays@usda.gov). For other PPQ pest programs, reach out to the respective Pest Program NOM.

## Confirmatory Identification

Specimens collected through port environs survey that have received preliminary identification as a suspected pest of regulatory concern must be routed for confirmatory identification through the domestic module of the Agricultural Risk Management (ARM) system. When filling out the diagnostic request form in ARM, select the following options in the Record Information page:

* Pathway: Select “Domestic Submission”
* Program: Select “Other”
* Reason for Identification: Select “Suspected Pest of Regulatory Concern”
* Source of Sample: Select “Port Environs/Warehouse Survey”
* Fill out all other required fields as appropriate for your sample’s collection date, location, survey method, preliminary identification, etc.

For assistance with ARM, contact AQI.ARM@usda.gov or the National Operations Manager for Pest Detection, Darrell Bays (darrell.a.bays@usda.gov).

# APPENDIX. Survey Names and Habitats for PPQ Port Environs Survey Summary Form

If you are unsure of which survey name or habitat to choose, contact Port Environs National Operations Managers, Heather Moylett (heather.moylett@usda.gov) and Brad Newbry (bradley.a.newbry@usda.gov).

## Survey Names

Use survey names that are relevant to the pathway, host or habitat, or pest targeted.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Survey Names |  |
| Asian Defoliator Survey | Palm Commodity Survey |
| Citrus Commodity Survey | Pine Commodity Survey |
| Corn Commodity Survey | Program: Spongy Moth |
| Cotton Commodity Survey | Program: Khapra Beetle Survey |
| Exotic Buprestid (Cerceris) Survey | Program: Spotted Lanternfly Survey |
| Exotic Wood Borer/Bark Beetle Survey | Small Grains Commodity Survey |
| Field Crops Pest Survey | Solanaceous Commodity Survey |
| Forest Pest Survey | Soybean Commodity Survey |
| General Nematode Survey | Specialty Crops Pest Survey |
| Grape Commodity Survey | Stone Fruit Commodity Survey |
| Mollusk Survey | Tree Nursery Pest Survey |
| Nursery and Retail Plants Pest Survey | Tropical Hosts Commodity Survey |
| Oak Commodity Survey | Vegetable Crops Pest Survey |
| Orchard Commodity Survey |  |

## Habitats for Port Environs Surveys

When entering pests in the SSF, select hosts and habitats to indicate the commodity and pathway you are targeting. You can select multiple hosts and habitats, just be sure to include at least one of each. This will help the NOM understand which commodity pathway is being targeted in the survey.

For FY 2025, the habitat list for every survey name has been updated to include pathways appropriate for PE survey.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Port Environs Habitats | Descriptions |
| Warehouse (import storage, Customs bonded) | Warehouses where imported cargo is held for inspection or pending destruction or treatment. This includes warehouses that are custom-bonded or have a PPQ compliance agreement.  |
| Import Inspection Location (PIS or CES) | PPQ Plant Inspection Station or CBP Customs Exam Station |
| Land border – commercial truck, passenger vehicle | Port along an international land border that clears cargo and passenger vehicles.  |
| Land border – pedestrian crossing | Port along an international land border that allows pedestrian entry.  |
| Land border – commercial rail | Port along an international land border that clears cargo entering via rail.  |
| Intermodal Transfer Facility | Intermodal sites located on port grounds. Intermodal sites outside of port property is Pest Detection |
| International Air Passenger  |  |
| International Air Cargo Terminal |  |
| Maritime Port Terminals  | Terminals receiving international cargo (containerized, break-bulk, etc.).  |
| Import Treatment or Mitigation Facility | A location approved or facility under a compliance agreement to treat (e.g., fumigate) or mitigate (e.g., grinding, incineration) imported material  |
| Wood Packaging Material Recycler | A facility which refurbishes or recycles wood pallets and other WPM associated with imported cargo. |