

Schedule 2 – PCN surveys and exemption from PCN survey and statutory declaration

1. Survey for PCN

Taiwan and Korea require both pre-planting and pre-harvest soil samples.

- (1) Most importing countries only require a single inspection per crop per production site. MPI accepts both fork sampling during production, **and** soil sampling (either pre-planting or “at-harvest”) as suitable methods for detecting PCN.

Pre-planting soil survey (Korea has a different sampling regime (refer Part 3.1))

For each 4 ha block, or part of, a sample will consist of 100 cores of not less than 5 ml of soil taken from the top 5 cm of soil. The core samples must be taken at each intersection point of a 10 x 10 grid distributed uniformly over each entire production site block (4 ha or part of). All cores will be bulked together into one sample of at least 500 g. The entire sample must be sent to an MPI accredited laboratory for analysis.

At-harvest soil survey

The “at-harvest” survey may be carried out at any date following the period¹ of maximum detectable abundance (MDA) of cysts, including after harvest. The procedure is identical to the pre-planting soil survey except that if plants are present, a soil sample must be taken from the root zone of the plant nearest the grid point. (Where early potatoes are to be harvested from actively growing plants before the MDA, laboratory analysis must include extraction of nematodes from plant material (i.e. roots present in the soil sample) as well as by examination for cysts.)

Laboratory analysis of soil samples

The entire soil sample (i.e. all cores taken from the entire production site bulked into a single >500 g sample) must be processed as a unit. Acceptable methods for cyst extraction and sampling include those described in Appendix 1 of EPPO Standard PM 3/30(1) (1998), or any other procedure accepted by MPI as equivalent. Acceptable methods for extraction and sampling of live nematodes (for early potatoes) include all those described by Southey (1986) or any other procedure accepted by MPI as equivalent.

2. Exemption from production site PCN surveys

This exemption is not available for production sites registered for export of potatoes to Taiwan or Korea.

- (1) MPI accepts that where a designated production site has not grown a Solanaceous crop for at least 10 years and where PCN has never been recorded, surveys for PCN may not be required. Evidence that a production site has not grown a Solanaceous crop for at least 10 years must be presented by the grower and is to include sets of farm maps and records for each site/year claimed, or equivalent, confirmed by statutory declaration.
- (2) Conditions to be met for the survey exemption:
- (i) **Grower Applicants**

¹ That is, a minimum of 12 weeks after planting or, for early plantings, 12 weeks after the mean soil temperature reaches 12°C.

- The eligibility of production sites to be exempted from survey requirements will be evaluated by the IVAs, on behalf of MPI. Growers must submit applications to the IVA at any time (note that applications for registration must still be completed). Conditions for exemption are:
 - The designated production site(s) has not grown a Solanaceous crop for at least the previous 10 years;
 - PCN has never been recorded from the designated production site(s);
 - Potato wart has never been recorded from the production site(s);
- (ii) The applicant (grower) must provide their authorised IVA with:
 - A Statutory Declaration (refer attached format) confirming the designated production site(s) freedom from Solanaceous crops for at least the previous 10 years;
 - Map(s) of their designated production site(s) to which the Statutory Declaration relates;
 - Records of crops grown on the proposed production site(s) for the previous 10 years;
 - Supporting production records for that time period (e.g. production diaries).

(b) Independent Verification Agencies (IVA)

(i) Processing Grower Applications for the Exemption

On receipt of the above data in section 1.1 (i.e. records and Statutory Declaration) the IVA is to assess the grower supplied information for accuracy.

(ii) Information is confirmed as accurate:

Where the IVA is able to confirm the grower supplied information is accurate, the IVA can exempt the grower and qualifying production sites from having to undergo a physical survey for the presence/absence of potato cyst nematodes. The IVA confirmation of the information as being accurate provides an equivalent level of potato cyst nematode freedom as that that would be gained from undertaking a soil survey of the production site.

(iii) Information is not confirmed as accurate:

Where the IVA is not able to confirm that the grower supplied information is accurate, the IVA is to offer the grower the option of having the nominated production sites surveyed as per section 1 above.

Note: MPI may examine the grower supplied information (taking into account the IVAs advice) for preparing a case for prosecution under the *Oaths and Declaration Act 1957* if it is considered warranted.

References

EPPO 1998. Phytosanitary Procedures - *Globodera pallida* & *G. rostochiensis* Soil Sampling Methods. EPPO Standard PM 3/30(1).

Southey, J. F. 1986. Laboratory Methods for Work with Plant and Soil Nematodes. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Technical Bulletin No. 2. 202pp.

Example of a Statutory Declaration

DECLARATION CONCERNING LAND USED FOR THE GROWING OF POTATOES

I (FULL NAME)

OF(ADDRESS) potato grower, solemnly and sincerely declare that [insert facts]

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957.

(Signature).....

Declared at [City, Location] this day of 20

(Signature).....

Justice of the Peace [official stamp]

Or other person authorised to take a statutory declaration.