

**Advice 06-2016 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the evaluation of a non-paper of the European Commission for amending annex IV, part A, section II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC with regard to phytosanitary requirements for propagating material of fruit plants under certification**

**Background & Terms of reference**

In this non-paper, the European Commission makes a proposal to further harmonize the requirements of paragraphs 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Annex IV, part A, Section II of the Council Directive 2000/29/EC (on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community) with the specific requirements of the Commission Implementing Directive 2014/98/EU for propagating material of fruit plants under certification.

The following questions are asked to the Scientific Committee:

1. Do we have to make a distinction with regard to requirements between the different stages of multiplication of fruit plants?
2. What minimum inspection and testing frequencies are required in order to guarantee, with an acceptable level of reliability, the absence of quarantine pests on fruit plants? Will the proposed requirements meet these frequencies?

**Methodology**

This opinion is based on expert advice.

**Document assessment**

The Scientific Committee makes some general comments regarding the terminology and the structure of the text, and suggests to make some specific modifications mainly with regard to fruit plants produced in Belgium (see annex).

**Answers to the questions**

1. The Scientific Committee considers that it is appropriate to make a distinction with regard to requirements between the different stages of multiplication of fruit plants, as proposed in the non-paper of the European Commission, because the infection risks differ according to the life cycle of the plant pathogens, their distribution, their dispersal mode and growing conditions. The infection risks also depend on the origin and on the category of plant materials (candidate pre-basic mother plants, pre-basic mother plants, pre-basic material, basic mother plants, basic material, certified mother plants, certified material, plants not subjected to a certification scheme). Accordingly, the frequencies of inspections, samplings and testings, which are performed in the framework of the certification, should be logically highest for plant materials at the starting point of a certification scheme and lowest for uncertified plant materials.
2. Inspection, sampling and testing frequencies should be defined according to the infection risk. Some proposed testing frequencies are not appropriate and should have to be reviewed in the light of the comments annexed.

**Conclusion**

The Scientific Committee supports this non-paper but makes some recommendations for improvement.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.