

Appendix 8 : Classification of Clean Plants Non-Conformances

Critical Non-Conformance

A critical non-conformance is any single finding that reveals that the integrity of the Clean Plants is jeopardized. Plants must not be shipped as Clean Plants Certified from the nursery until corrective action has occurred. A critical non-conformance that is not corrected will in most cases result in suspension of the facility. The following list provides examples of critical non-conformances, but they are not limited to those listed.

- Detection of pests of quarantine significance to Canada or the US on plant material that has been shipped by the certified facility.
- Failure to properly identify an organism as a quarantine pest in the nursery, or seek competent assistance with the identification.
- Failure to undertake laboratory tests or analyses if and when stated in the nursery manual or when required for a pest specific module.
- Failure to carry out control measures at the facility for pests of quarantine significance to Canada.
- Failure to notify CNCI of the presence of regulated pests at the facility, or on product in transit to or from the facility
- Failure of facility staff to keep consistent, accurate pest management records, as specified in the Clean Plants Manual.
- Failure to keep consistent accurate records of the origin of incoming plants.
- Failure to conduct shipping inspections.
- Failure to undertake ordered corrective action(s).
- Failure to follow treatment actions ordered by the Certification Manager
- Failure to perform internal audits as required.
- Failure to maintain the security of the Clean Plants Certification Stamp.
- Operating without a Certification Manager and /or a Crop Protection Manager appointed.
- Failure to have a Clean Plants Manual in place.
- Failure to conduct in-coming plant inspections.
- Designating non-certified plants as 'Clean Plants' certified. Nurseries may ship non-certified plants, but they must be designated as non-certified in a manner in which it is clear they are not Clean Plants certified to the satisfaction of the auditor.

Major Non-Conformance

Those infractions which are more isolated in nature and do not put the phytosanitary status of plants in immediate jeopardy. Corrective action will be required within a negotiated time frame. The following list provides examples of major non-conformances.

- Failure to keep the Clean Plants manual up to date.
- Failure to maintain proper records.
- Poor quality records i.e. not properly signed or initialed or not dated when they should be or are illegible.
- Failure to properly identify certified plants from non-certified plants.
- Failure to undertake corrective actions ordered by the CM in a timely manner.
- Failure to provide auditors, staff and contractors access to documents they need to do their job.
- Build-up of non-regulated pests to the point they exceed “practically free”.
- Inadequate training for the Certification Manager or the Pest Control Manager
- Inadequate instruction for other staff performing tasks that relate to Clean Plants.

Minor Non-Conformance

Non-conformances that do not directly impact on the phytosanitary status of plants but if left unattended could lead to more serious non-conformance.

- Activities relating to the Clean Plants not performed in a timely fashion.
- Uncertainty on the part of staff as to their role.