

The Safeguarding Continuum

To protect American farms and forests from harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) has a system of safeguards in place. Those safeguards begin abroad in other countries, continue through U.S. ports of entry, and extend across the Nation. This system is called the **Safeguarding Continuum**. All along the continuum, PPQ experts assess risks associated with pests that hitchhike on and in the agricultural products we import. They also take action in the right time and place to protect U.S. agriculture and natural resources while keeping international trade and travel moving. Here's how it works:

