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Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures

Produced by the Secretariat of the
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

ISPM 46

**Commodity-specific standards
for phytosanitary measures**

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2019-10 Strategic Planning Group reviewed and provided comments.

2019-11 Standards Committee (SC) reviewed and proposed changes.

2019-12 CPM Bureau approved for consultation.

2020-06 CPM Bureau added topic *Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures* on behalf of CPM (subsequently confirmed by CPM-15 (2021)).

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2021-07 Second consultation.

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Adoption

This standard was adopted by the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in April 2022.

INTRODUCTION

Scope

This standard provides guidance on the purpose, use, content, publication and review of commodity-specific standards (hereafter referred to as “commodity standards”) for phytosanitary measures. Such standards, presented as annexes to this overarching concept standard, apply to commodities being moved in international trade and identify pests associated with these commodities and options for relevant phytosanitary measures to be considered by contracting parties. The lists of pests and options for phytosanitary measures identified are not intended to be exhaustive and are subject to review and revision.

The scope of this standard and its annexes does not include contamination or diversion from intended use of commodities.

References

The present standard refers to ISPMs. ISPMs are available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) at www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms.

IPPC Secretariat. 1997. *International Plant Protection Convention*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.

IPPC Secretariat. 2021. *Strategic framework for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2020–2030*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.

Definitions

Definitions of phytosanitary terms used in this standard can be found in ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*).

Outline of requirements

Contracting parties should consider available commodity standards when developing phytosanitary import requirements. Each commodity standard is specific to a particular commodity and intended use, and contains a list of pests and corresponding options for phytosanitary measures to manage their pest risk. The list of pests includes pests that may infest the commodity being traded and that may pose a risk to the importing country when the commodity is used for the intended use specified in the commodity standard. The options for phytosanitary measures listed are those that satisfy minimum criteria for inclusion in the standard, and they are categorized according to confidence in the measures. The lists of pests and options for phytosanitary measures are not intended to be exhaustive and are subject to review and revision.

Commodity standards are presented as annexes to this standard.

The inclusion of a measure in the annexes to this ISPM does not create any obligation for a contracting party to approve it, register it or adopt it for use in its territory.

BACKGROUND

The IPPC aims to protect the world’s plant resources from the introduction and spread of pests and to facilitate safe trade. Significant advances in the facilitation of safe trade can be made through the development and adoption of international commodity standards for phytosanitary measures. Safe trade supports economic growth and development, helping to reduce poverty around the world.

The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 includes the development of ISPMs for specific commodities, with accompanying diagnostic protocols, phytosanitary treatments and guidance to support implementation, simplify trade and expedite market-access negotiations, when appropriate.

The purpose of this standard is to provide guidance on the development and use of such commodity standards. Such standards, included as annexes to this standard, are designed to support the development of phytosanitary import requirements where measures are technically justified to facilitate safe trade.

The intended benefits of using commodity standards may include the following:

- They may form a common basis for the development of phytosanitary import requirements.
- They may facilitate market-access discussions.
- They may facilitate safe trade.
- They may help national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) optimize the use of their resources.
- They identify and increase awareness of the measures available to manage the pest risk associated with the movement of commodities in international trade.
- They identify and increase awareness of the commodity-associated pests that are commonly managed by NPPOs.

Each annex lists measures for consideration as phytosanitary measures. These measures are referred to as “options for phytosanitary measures”.

IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Commodity standards provide guidance on options for phytosanitary measures. Such measures may help protect the environment and preserve biodiversity by managing the pest risk posed by commodities that are moved internationally.

PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO COMMODITY STANDARDS

In the context of IPPC rights and obligations, the basic principles of particular importance and relevance to commodity standards are as follows:

- The sovereign authority of contracting parties, as set out in Article VII.1 of the IPPC text, to prescribe and adopt phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction and spread of pests into their territories and therefore to determine their phytosanitary import requirements is not affected by commodity standards.
- Existing international obligations of contracting parties under the IPPC and the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures remain unaffected by commodity standards.
- Additional obligations are not imposed on importing countries by commodity standards, over and above the obligations already identified in the IPPC.
- The regulation of any pests listed in commodity standards remains subject to technical justification using a pest risk analysis (PRA) or, where applicable, another comparable examination and evaluation of available scientific information (Articles II, VI and VII.2(g) of the IPPC).
- The lists of options for phytosanitary measures presented in commodity standards are not intended to be exhaustive; other measures may be required by contracting parties, if technically justified (Article VII.2(g) of the IPPC), and may be proposed for inclusion in revisions of commodity standards.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Purpose and use of commodity standards

The purpose of commodity standards is to support the development of phytosanitary import requirements that are technically justified and facilitate safe trade.

Phytosanitary import requirements established by importing countries should be technically justified according to international obligations. Pest lists and options for phytosanitary measures contained within commodity standards should be considered by importing countries when developing phytosanitary import requirements. The relevance of the pest lists and options for phytosanitary measures should be evaluated for each country of origin and imported commodity (where a commodity standard is available for that commodity and intended use). Commodity standards may serve to facilitate the evaluation of such measures in PRA or, where applicable, another comparable examination and evaluation of available scientific information.

Commodity standards are not developed when:

- no effective phytosanitary measures are available;
- an existing ISPM already provides sufficient guidance;
- a commodity should not be considered a regulated article (e.g. when a commodity is processed to the point where it is no longer capable of being infested with pests as described in ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*)).

2. Scope and content of commodity standards

The commodity standards that form the annexes to this overarching concept standard are arranged according to the following sections:

- Scope
- Description of the commodity and its intended use
- List of pests associated with the commodity
- Options for phytosanitary measures
- References.

The content of these sections is described in Table 1, together with the basis on which pests and options for phytosanitary measures are included in the standards.

Table 1. Content of commodity standards

Scope This commodity standard clearly describes the commodity (including, when relevant, the botanical name and part of the plant as well as its intended use) for which a list of associated pests and related options for phytosanitary measures are identified.

Description of the commodity and its intended use This section clearly describes the commodity, such as the plant species (botanical name), the part that is specifically being traded and its intended use. The description is intended to provide sufficient information to allow the identification of a focused list of pests and associated options for phytosanitary measures. The intended use of the commodity is given because of the influence it has on the pest risk posed by the commodity, as described in ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*).

List of pests associated with the commodity This section includes a list of pests or groups of pests that are known to be associated with the commodity described. A criterion for inclusion of a pest is that it is regulated by at least one contracting party based on technical justification.

Inclusion of a pest in a commodity standard does not constitute technical justification for its regulation. When determining whether to regulate a pest listed in a commodity standard, an importing country should base its decision on technical justification using either a PRA or, where applicable, another comparable examination and evaluation of available scientific information.

The list of pests is not intended to be exhaustive.

Options for phytosanitary measures This section presents options for phytosanitary measures, including measures adopted in ISPMs or technically justified measures currently used in trade, and the conditions under which a measure may be applied. Individual measures or combinations of measures may be provided for each pest and may relate to any point of production or handling of the commodity before import.

Although commodity standards only present options for phytosanitary measures that may be applied up to the point of entry, post-entry measures may also be considered by contracting parties, as described in ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*).

The list of measures is not intended to be exhaustive but rather to give countries options for consideration.

The measures are presented together with the list of pests known to be associated with the commodity, with each measure being listed against the corresponding pest or pests whose pest risk it manages. A description of each measure, sufficient to indicate its use and practical application, is provided. When necessary, additional information on the measures may be included in an appendix.

References All sources of information on pests and options for phytosanitary measures included in the commodity standard are listed in the References section.

3. Criteria for inclusion of measures in commodity standards

A measure may be considered by the Technical Panel for Commodity Standards (TPCS) for inclusion in a commodity standard when it is, or has been, set as a phytosanitary import requirement by at least one contracting party and hence in operation between at least two contracting parties. Inclusion in the standard is further supported if one or more of the following criteria are met:

- Experimental evidence indicates that the measure is effective.
- Experience from use in international trade indicates that the measure is effective. For example:
 - the measure is, or has been, used extensively;
 - the measure has been successfully used to manage non-compliant consignments.
- Experience from domestic use indicates that the measure is effective. For example:
 - the measure has been used extensively in relation to domestic movement of commodities;
 - the measure has been used successfully in outbreak management and eradication programmes;
 - information from domestic plant certification schemes indicates that the measure is effective;
 - best management practices for the measure are available.

- The measure has been identified as a pest risk management option based on a PRA (where applicable) or on another comparable technical examination and evaluation of available scientific information, indicating that the measure is effective in mitigating pest risk.
- The measure is included in an adopted ISPM which is relevant to the pest or commodity that falls within the scope of the commodity standard.
- Regional standards exist that include the measure and are relevant to the pests or commodity that fall within the scope of the commodity standard.

The practicality and feasibility of the measure is also taken into account by the TPCS when considering it for inclusion in a commodity standard.

4. Confidence in the effectiveness of measures

Options for phytosanitary measures are categorized by the TPCS according to confidence in the effectiveness of measures. Effectiveness of the measures is evaluated based on criteria developed and revised as necessary by the TPCS. Evaluation of the effectiveness may be based on:

- the presence of the measure in an adopted ISPM;
- the presence of the measure in a regional standard;
- the history of the use of the measure by contracting parties;
- the history of the use of the measure by the private sector or authorized entities;
- the inclusion of the measure in a PRA;
- the number of PRAs that include the measure;
- the number of years that the measure has been in use;
- reports of success or failure of the measure, including interception and non-compliance data;
- the volume or frequency of traded commodities subjected to the measure;
- the availability of quantitative or qualitative analyses pertinent to the measure;
- the number and diversity of countries applying the measures.

Confidence depends on the rigour of any supporting analyses and may be increased if there are cumulative sources of evidence, such as information on usage or acceptance.

5. Publication of commodity standards

After adoption by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), commodity standards are posted separately on the IPP as annexes to this standard. Where appropriate, commodity standards may instead be presented as annexes of other ISPMs.

6. Review and re-evaluations

Contracting parties should submit to the IPPC Secretariat any new information related to technical or implementation issues that could have an impact on commodity standards currently adopted by the CPM. The TPCS will review the data and revise the pest lists and options for phytosanitary measures if necessary, following the Standard Setting Procedure.

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IPPC

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect global plant resources and facilitate safe trade.

The IPPC vision is that all countries have the capacity to implement harmonized measures to prevent pest introductions and spread, and minimize the impacts of pests on food security, trade, economic growth, and the environment.

Organization

- ◆ There are over 180 IPPC contracting parties.
- ◆ Each contracting party has a national plant protection organization (NPPO) and an Official IPPC contact point.
- ◆ 10 regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) have been established to coordinate NPPOs in various regions of the world.
- ◆ The IPPC Secretariat liaises with relevant international organizations to help build regional and national capacities.
- ◆ The Secretariat is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat

ippc@fao.org | www.ippc.int

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Rome, Italy

