INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

ISPM No. 1

PRINCIPLES OF PLANT QUARANTINE AS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(1993)

Produced by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention

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ENDORSEMENT

The following standard was endorsed by the 27th Session of the FAO Conference in November 1993.

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This reference standard describes the general and specific principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade.

REFERENCES

FAO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, *FAO Plant Protection Bulletin* 38(1), 1990: 5-23.
International Plant Protection Convention, 1992. FAO, Rome.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions of phytosanitary terms used in the present standard can be found in ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*).

OUTLINE OF REFERENCE

The primary aim in formulating the following principles is to facilitate the process of developing international standards for plant quarantine. It is envisaged that implementation of these principles by the relevant phytosanitary authorities will result in the reduction or elimination of the use of unjustifiable phytosanitary measures as barriers to trade.

Furthermore, in addition to general principles there are others specific to particular areas of quarantine activity. The general principles indicate the process of development of phytosanitary measures as applicable to international commerce. These general principles should be read as a single entity and not interpreted individually. The specific principles either directly support the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) or are related to particular procedures within the plant quarantine system. This relationship is indicated in the tabulation.

It is expected that the principles will be subject to continuing review and should reflect changing quarantine concepts and technologies.

The interpretation and implementation of these principles shall be coherent with the relevant provisions to be established in the context of the World Trade Organization (formerly GATT).

PRINCIPLES OF PLANT QUARANTINE AS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Sovereignty

With the aim of preventing the introduction of quarantine pests into their territories, it is recognized that countries may exercise the sovereign right to utilize phytosanitary measures to regulate the entry of plants and plant products and other materials capable of harbouring plant pests.

2. Necessity

Countries shall institute restrictive measures only where such measures are made necessary by phytosanitary considerations, to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests.

3. Minimal impact

Phytosanitary measures shall be consistent with the pest risk involved, and shall represent the least restrictive measures available which result in the minimum impediment to the international movement of people, commodities and conveyances.

4. Modification

As conditions change, and as new facts become available, phytosanitary measures shall be modified promptly, either by inclusion of prohibitions, restrictions or requirements necessary for their success, or by removal of those found to be unnecessary.

5. Transparency

Countries shall publish and disseminate phytosanitary prohibitions, restrictions and requirements and, on request, make available the rationale for such measures.

6. Harmonization

Phytosanitary measures shall be based, whenever possible, on international standards, guidelines and recommendations, developed within the framework of the IPPC.

7. Equivalence

Countries shall recognize as being equivalent those phytosanitary measures that are not identical but which have the same effect.

8. Dispute settlement

It is preferable that any dispute between two countries regarding phytosanitary measures be resolved at a technical bilateral level. If such a solution cannot be achieved within a reasonable period of time, further action may be undertaken by means of a multilateral settlement system.

SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

9. Cooperation

Countries shall cooperate to prevent the spread and introduction of quarantine pests, and to promote measures for their official control.

10. Technical authority

Countries shall provide an official Plant Protection Organization.

11. Risk analysis

To determine which pests are quarantine pests and the strength of the measures to be taken against them, countries shall use pest risk analysis methods based on biological and economic evidence and, wherever possible, follow procedures developed within the framework of the IPPC.

12. Managed risk

Because some risk of the introduction of a quarantine pest always exists, countries shall agree to a policy of risk management when formulating phytosanitary measures.

13. Pest free areas

Countries shall recognize the status of areas in which a specific pest does not occur. On request, the countries in whose territories the pest free areas lie shall demonstrate this status based, where available, on procedures developed within the framework of the IPPC.

14. Emergency action

Countries may, in the face of a new and/or unexpected phytosanitary situation, take immediate emergency measures on the basis of a preliminary pest risk analysis. Such emergency measures shall be temporary in their application, and their validity will be subjected to a detailed pest risk analysis as soon as possible.

15. Notification of non-compliance

Importing countries shall promptly inform exporting countries of any non-compliance with phytosanitary prohibitions, restrictions or requirements.

16. Non-discrimination

Phytosanitary measures shall be applied without discrimination between countries of the same phytosanitary status, if such countries can demonstrate that they apply identical or equivalent phytosanitary measures in pest management. In the case of a quarantine pest within a country, measures shall be applied without discrimination between domestic and imported consignments.