

**Draft specification form for proposed standards****I. General information**

<b>Submitted by</b> (Country or Organization)	IPPC Contracting Party
<b>IPPC Official Contact Point or RPPO</b>	Egypt
<b>Supported by</b>	IPPC Contracting Party
<b>Email of the IPPC Official Contact Point or the regional plant protection organization</b>	ippc@capq.gov.eg

**2. Standard information**

<b>Title</b>	Guidelines for the use of remote technology in inspection and auditing practices in phytosanitary systems
<b>Reasons</b>	Reason for the standard
<b>Provide the reason</b>	<p>The global pandemic of Corona virus (COVID-19) has affected almost the humankind in every aspect in their lives. This has driven the globe to leveraging the use of technology. It is proved to be an effective approach to assist communities affected by the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that immense challenges still lie ahead to better implement the IPPC Convention, so that it can effectively safeguard agriculture and facilitate safe trade. Therefore, a need for capacities that are appropriate with the challenges we face, and that means capacity-building at all levels with exploiting the highest levels of existing technology. In recent years, remote inspection and auditing have become increasingly popular in various industries. With technological advancements, it has become possible to conduct inspections and audits from a remote location without the need for physical presence by using various online tools and technologies. Implementing an on-site visit is to facilitate a safe international agricultural trade or monitoring the national facilities. By replacing physical auditing and visits with online tools, this could save time, money and accelerating the process of international trade. Due to technological advancements, remote inspection and auditing have become more feasible. This is in addition to the cost and time effective, improved safety, and increased accessibility. Video conferencing software allows remote inspectors and auditors to communicate with the onsite team, share data and information, and make real-time decisions. Drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are used to conduct inspections and audits in remote and difficult-to-access locations.</p>

	<p>In order to guarantee the success of remote audit and inspection activities, considering the level of technology accessible to NPPO and facility where inspection is taking place. It is essential to evaluate the technological capabilities of the facility or the competent authority of the exporting country. This evaluation should involve an assessment of building capacity for the available technology such as internet coverage, internet bandwidth, wireless connectivity, and the structural integrity of buildings. Furthermore, it is crucial to ensure that the handling, documentation and presentation of information are meeting the minimum level of standards. By taking these factors into consideration, remote auditing and inspection activities can be conducted with maximum efficiency and effectiveness. This approach not only saves time and resources, but also ensures that all necessary standards and regulations are met. Therefore, prioritizing the assessment of technological capabilities is essential when implementing remote audit and inspection activities.</p> <p>Finally, this standard can be utilized as an option instead of physical presence, this could be due to a pandemic, natural disaster, or other event that makes it difficult or impossible for inspectors and auditors to travel due to any issue, as funding issues or the auditor or inspector is not physically present at the site to be audited/inspected for any other reason. So remote inspection and auditing can be a valuable tool in these situations, as it can help to ensure that phytosanitary measures are still being applied effectively, even when physical presence is limited.</p>
<b>Scope</b>	<p>The scope of the standard is to guideline the practice of the remote audit and inspection as an optional tool to support the effective delivery of official controls and guide NPPOs when evaluating as importing/exporting country, at occasions where the travel between countries is restricted or the auditor or inspector is not physically present at the site to be audited/inspected.</p>
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>Guide NPPOs to utilize the remote audit and inspection activities within their regulatory frameworks</p>
<b>Task</b>	<p>1) Consider whether the ISPM could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment. If this is the case, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft ISPM. 2) Consider implementation of the standard by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the Standards Committee (SC). 3) Consider providing the possible circumstances for conducting the remote inspection/auditing. 4) Consider providing a list of cases where remote-inspection/audit can be conducted (e.g. for example in some cases for conducting Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) visits between countries, auditing packing facilities, notification purposes audits, onsite-inspection for consignments, surveillance of</p>

	<p>pests..etc..).</p> <p>5) Verification of the result based on trial period before the official application for the remote-inspection and auditing. To determine the applicability and robustness of the purpose. The expert drafting group (EDG) should undertake the following tasks.</p>
<b>Expertise</b>	<p>[Five to seven] experts with wide knowledge and experience in [phytosanitary actions], including at least one person knowledgeable in [authorization programmes and their elements] and at least one person knowledgeable in [auditing compliance with authorization programmes].</p>
<b>References</b>	<p>- Patel KK, Kar A, Jha SN, Khan MA. Machine vision system: a tool for quality inspection of food and agricultural products. J Food Sci Technol. 2012; 49(2):123-41. doi: 10.1007/s13197-011-0321-4. Epub 2011 Apr 9. PMID: 23572836; PMCID: PMC3550871. - Dhanaraju, M.; Chenniappan, P.; Ramalingam, K.; Pazhanivelan, S.; Kaliaperumal, R. Smart Farming: Internet of Things (IoT)-Based Sustainable Agriculture. Agriculture 2022, 12, 1745. <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture12101745">https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture12101745</a>. - Litzenberg et al, Remote-Auditing-for-COVID-19-and-Beyond - Short-term and long-term implications. 2020. The Environmental, Health &amp; Safety Audit Center (EHSAC), The Institute of Internal Auditors. - Potamitis et al. Automated Remote Insect Surveillance at a Global Scale and the Internet of Things. Robotics 2017, 6, 19; doi:10.3390/robotics6030019. - Guidelines for inspection (ISPM 23) International standards for phytosanitary measures - ISSN 2521-7232. - Audit in the phytosanitary context (ISPM 47) International standards for phytosanitary measures - ISSN 2521-7232.</p>