



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### TWENTIETH SESSION

#### NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION ON CPM AGENDA ITEMS

##### AGENDA ITEMS 6.1, 9.1.1, 10.2, 13.2, 18.1

(Prepared by New Zealand)

#### Agenda Item 6.1: Rethinking ISPMs – What comes next? Response to CPM 2026/44

- [1] New Zealand supports the recommendations made by the CPM Chairperson to advance work on ISPM readability and clarity. We agree with the proposals to:
- a) *Conduct an Observatory based survey with targeted interviews*, to gather robust and representative information on challenges faced by users of ISPMs.
  - b) *Engage a plain language specialist* to support upcoming Expert Working Groups (EWGs). New Zealand considers this preferable to engaging a scientific copy editor. Expert group members and the consultation process already ensure technical accuracy so engaging a scientific copy editor is not necessary. A plain language specialist will bring specific expertise in clarity, structure, and usability that is needed.
  - c) *Request that upcoming EWGs consider the SPG 2025 suggestions*, as well as relevant submissions from the Standards Committee and Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC).
- [2] These proposals strike an appropriate balance between practicality and respect for the scientific integrity of ISPMs. New Zealand remains committed to supporting efforts that strengthen global implementation and understanding of international standards for phytosanitary measures.

#### Agenda item 9.1.1: Standard Committee Report - Proposal to advance “*Minimizing pest movement by air containers and aircraft: a one health perspective*”

- [3] New Zealand considers it more important to prioritise the development of an ISPM for *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* before advancing work on the topic *Minimizing pest movement by air containers and aircraft*. Sea containers are widely recognised as one of the highest risk pathways for hitchhiker pests due to their large volumes, frequent movements, long dwell times, and extensive exposure to contaminated environments. Pest movement via air containers is far less common. Isolated cases, such as *Popillia japonica* interceptions on air containers, do not compare to the well documented scale of pests spread via sea containers.
- [4] Air containers also operate in a fast, highly dynamic logistics chain with rapid re-routing, limited opportunity for NPPO visibility, and turnaround times too short for effective inspection. In contrast, sea containers move through slower, more predictable logistics chains and spend longer in ports and depots, making interventions more practical and operationally manageable.
- [5] CPM-15 (2021) agreed that the air and sea container topics should remain linked and “*pending*” together. Advancing the air container topic independently of sea containers would depart from the agreed CPM direction.



## Agenda Item 10.2: 2026 IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget

- [6] New Zealand remains committed to strongly supporting ISPM development and implementation. The development, maintenance, and implementation support of ISPMs are core functions of the IPPC, and the 2026 IPPC Secretariat work plan underscores the importance of the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) in delivering these outputs. However, to meet the increasing demands of contracting parties and to progress the extensive list of topics scheduled for development, the standard-setting and implementation workstreams must significantly increase their annual productivity.
- [7] New Zealand proposes that the IPPC Secretariat should organise at least four Expert Working Groups (EWGs) annually, enabling the drafting of four ISPMs per year. Achieving this level of delivery requires an integrated approach between the Standards and Implementation and Capacity Development Committees, to ensure that newly developed standards are accompanied by timely implementation resources such as guides, training, and eLearning materials.
- [8] New Zealand considers that this increased level of ISPM delivery is achievable within existing resources if the following approaches are considered:
- a) the SC and IC coordinate year-ahead planning and sequencing the development of ISPM and implementation material;
  - b) related ISPM topics and their associated implementation resources are bundled within a single EWG;
  - c) ISPMs are written more concisely, with detailed guidance shifted to implementation materials to shorten drafting, SC review, and translation cycles);
  - d) virtual or hybrid EWGs, with e-decisions used where appropriate;
  - e) smaller drafting groups are used for lower complexity topics;
  - f) the Secretariat is permitted to provide comprehensive editorial support during drafting; and
  - g) alignment with implementation resources is strengthened, including reusing guidance content (the ‘how’) from ISPM drafting so that IC can begin guidance development work earlier and minimise duplication of effort.
- [9] In addition, New Zealand proposes that the IPPC Secretariat does not rely on contracting parties hosting EWGs as these arrangements can skew the prioritization process. A consistent Secretariat-led schedule, rather than *ad hoc*, donor driven sponsorship, protects neutrality, integrity, and strategic direction of the IPPC work programme. Hosting EWGs at FAO Headquarters in Rome would further increase efficiency and reduce costs by simplifying administrative effort to arrange meetings, while avoiding increased travel and time expenditure for the Secretariat.
- [10] An increased annual programme will ensure momentum, reduce the current backlog, and support contracting parties in implementing ISPMs. Importantly, an increase in the delivery of ISPMs would reinforce that standard setting is the IPPC’s primary purpose.

## Agenda Item 13.2: Commodity- and Pathway-Specific ISPMs

- [11] New Zealand supports the development of commodity-specific ISPMs, recognising them as a core pillar of the IPPC Strategic Framework and a tool for improving global plant health and facilitating predictable, efficient trade.
- [12] New Zealand contributes significant resources to this work because we consider that commodity standards provide tangible benefits for all contracting parties. Commodity standards offer a practical solution to shared global resource constraints. By providing a starting point for pest lists and phytosanitary measures, they reduce the burden on NPPOs that would otherwise need to develop this information independently.
- [13] We acknowledge concerns regarding potential misuse or misinterpretation of pest lists; however, ISPM 46 and the standards themselves clearly state that pest lists are not exhaustive, inclusion does not



justify regulation, and contracting parties should base their requirements on pest risk analysis. The safeguards already exist to ensure appropriate use.

- [14] New Zealand considers that to realise the full benefits of commodity standards, contracting parties should input information into their development. Evidence should guide decision-making, and practical use of these standards will help refine and strengthen them over time. High quality outcomes depend on high quality inputs. Well supported pest and measure submissions from NPPOs are essential to producing robust, defensible standards.
- [15] To strengthen implementation, New Zealand sees value in:
- documenting case studies (e.g. use of the mango standard),
  - providing targeted implementation webinars or regional discussions,
  - offering guidance on submitting high-quality information for commodity standards,
  - encouraging NPPOs to submit treatments to the TPPT for potential inclusion in ISPM 28, and
  - promoting greater transparency in regulations and supporting evidence such as PRAs and research.
- [16] CPM paper [14\\_CPM\\_2026\\_CommodityStandards\\_2025-12-05.pdf](#) includes the recommendation to:
- “consider and discuss, if formally submitted, the proposal to organize an IPPC workshop on commodity standards;”
- [17] New Zealand supports the proposal on a global workshop on commodity standards, submitted by Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission, New Zealand, and Republic of Korea. We support the workshop to be convened in Asia in 2027.
- [18] New Zealand remains committed to promoting commodity standards by making financial contribution of 100,000 NZD (in principle) should the proposal be endorsed by CPM 20.

### Agenda Item 18.1: Potential revision of ISPM 14

- [19] New Zealand supports a full revision of ISPM 14. Although the principles of ISPM 14 remain sound, the standard is now over twenty years old and may no longer reflect the operational practices in which systems approaches are widely used. Systems approaches are becoming more common in market access arrangements, and feature as options for phytosanitary measures in several draft commodity standards. This makes it increasingly important that ISPM 14 keeps pace with international best practice and provides the clarity NPPOs require.
- [20] Recent work by the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) has highlighted inconsistencies in understanding of systems approaches, which strengthens the case for revision of ISPM 14. At the TPCS meeting in December 2025, it was observed from submissions, that contracting parties used different terminology and had variable understanding of what constitutes independent measures. In addition, there often appeared to be insufficient detail in how measures are described in regulations and bilateral arrangements. These issues point to gaps that a revised ISPM 14 could address.
- [21] At the same time, contracting parties are increasingly calling for more specific and prescriptive systems approach guidance in ISPMs (e.g. Annex 1 to ISPM 39 (*Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risk associated with the movement of wood*) which was adopted by CPM last year and, the draft annex to ISPM 38 (*Design and use of systems approaches for the phytosanitary certification of seeds*) which is still under development). This growing demand makes it even more important that ISPM 14 provides a strong foundation for all future ISPMs referencing systems approaches.
- [22] Given these developments and the significant investment by NPPOs and RPPOs in commodity standards, New Zealand considers the revision of ISPM 14 a high priority for ensuring clarity and consistency in ISPM development and improving implementation.