

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

[adopted by CPM-1 (2006); aligned by the Standards Committee (November 2008), as requested by CPM-3 (2008); Rules of Procedure revised by SC 2012-11 and adopted by CPM-8 (2013), Appendix 3; Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure amended by CPM-11 (2016)]

Terms of reference

1. Scope

The SC manages the standard-setting process and assists in the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) which have been identified by the Commission as priority standards.

2. Objective

The main objective of the SC is to prepare draft ISPMs according to the standard-setting procedures in the most expeditious manner for adoption by the Commission.

3. Structure of the Standards Committee

The SC consists of 25 members drawn from each of the FAO regions. The distribution for each region will be:

- Africa (4 members)
- Asia (4)
- Europe (4)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (4)
- Near East (4)
- North America (2)
- Southwest Pacific (3)

Temporary or permanent working groups, and drafting groups consisting of SC members, may be established by the SC as required. SC working groups are selected by the SC from its membership.

Seven SC members are selected by the SC to form the SC-7 and are guided by the terms of reference and rules of procedure for this group which are approved by the SC.

The functions and working procedures of the SC-7 and other SC working groups are determined by the SC.

4. Functions of the Standards Committee

The SC serves as a forum for:

- examination and approval or amendment of specifications
- review of specifications
- designation of members of SC working groups and identification of tasks of the groups
- establishment and disestablishment of expert working groups and SC working groups as appropriate
- approval of the work programmes of technical panels, and review, guidance and supervision of their activities and outcomes of their meetings
- selection of membership of expert drafting groups as required and in accordance with the appropriate terms of reference and/or rules of procedure for these groups
- review of draft ISPMs
- approval of draft standards to be submitted to contracting parties, NPPOs, RPPOs and relevant international organizations under the member consultation procedure

- establishment of open-ended discussion groups where appropriate
- revision of draft ISPMs in cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat taking into account comments of contracting parties, NPPOs, RPPOs and relevant international organizations
- approval of final drafts of ISPMs for submission to the Commission
- review of existing ISPMs and identification and review of those requiring reconsideration
- identification of priorities for ISPMs under development
- ensuring that language used in draft ISPMs is clear, simple and focused
- assigning stewardship for each ISPM
- other functions related to standard setting as directed by the Commission.

These functions may be executed during face to face meetings and between meetings, via electronic means, as determined by the SC.¹

5. IPPC Secretariat

The Secretariat provides administrative, technical and editorial support as required by the SC. The Secretariat is responsible for reporting and record keeping regarding the standard-setting programme.

Rules of procedure

Rule 1. Membership

Members should be senior officials of national plant protection organizations (NPPO), designated by contracting parties, and have qualifications in a scientific biological discipline (or equivalent) in plant protection, and experience and skills particularly in the:

- practical operation of a national or international phytosanitary system
- administration of a national or international phytosanitary system, and
- application of phytosanitary measures related to international trade.

Contracting parties agree that SC members dedicate the necessary time to participate in a regular and systematic way in the meetings.

Each FAO region may devise its own procedures for selecting its members of the SC. The IPPC Secretariat is notified of the selections that are submitted to the CPM for confirmation.

The SC is responsible for selecting the SC-7 members from within its membership. Members selected for the SC-7 will meet the above-mentioned qualifications and experience.

Rule 2. Replacement of members

Each FAO region shall, following its own procedures, nominate potential replacements for members of the SC and submit them to the CPM for confirmation. Once confirmed, potential replacements are valid for the same periods of time as specified in Rule 3. These potential replacements should meet the qualifications for membership set forth in these Rules. Each FAO region shall identify a maximum of two potential

¹The SC (2008) discussed issues related to electronic communication for SC business. The issues include selection of experts, approval of explanatory documents, finalizing specifications, adjustment of stewards and deciding on other tasks as appropriate. The SC discussed what type of work could be handled electronically outside of the meeting. The SC considered that development of specifications via electronic means could be done partially through electronic means, but that discussion in the SC is also valuable. The length of time for responses was changed from two weeks as previously agreed to three weeks. The SC agreed to these new procedures (SC 2008-11, Appendix 4).

replacements. Where a region nominates two, it should indicate the order in which they would serve as replacements under this Rule.

A member of the SC will be replaced by a confirmed potential replacement from within the same region if the member resigns, no longer meets the qualifications for membership set forth in these Rules, or fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the SC.

The national IPPC contact point should communicate to the Secretariat any circumstances where a member from its country needs to be replaced. The Secretariat should inform the relevant FAO regional chair.

A replacement will serve through the completion of the term of the original member, and may be nominated to serve additional terms.

Rule 3. Period of membership

Members of the SC shall serve for terms of three years. Members may serve no more than two terms, unless a region submits a request to the CPM for an exemption to allow a member from within its region to serve an additional term. In that case, the member may serve an additional term. Regions may submit requests for additional exemptions for the same member on a term-by-term basis. Partial terms served by replacements shall not be counted as a term under these Rules.

The CPM-8 (2013) agreed that SC members' terms would end after the SC-7 meeting.²

Rule 4. Chairperson

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SC are elected by the SC from its membership and serve for three years, with a possibility of re-election for one additional term of three years. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may serve in these capacities only when a member of the SC. The Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at meetings of the SC and shall exercise such other functions as may be required to facilitate the work of the SC. A Vice-Chairperson acting as a Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

The Chairperson shall direct the discussions in SC meetings, and at such meetings ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and, subject to these Rules, shall have complete control over the proceedings at any meetings. He/she may, in the course of the discussion of an item, propose to the SC the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the number of times each member may speak on any question, the closure of the list of speakers, the suspension or adjournment of the meeting, or the adjournment or closure of the debate on the item under discussion. The Chairperson, in the exercise of his/her functions, remains under the authority of the SC.

Rule 5. Sessions

Meetings of the SC are normally held at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The SC meets at least once per year.

Depending on the workload and resources available, the SC or the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the CPM, may request additional meetings of the SC. In particular, the SC may need to meet after the CPM meeting in order to prepare draft standards for member consultation.

Depending on the workload and resources available, the SC, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Bureau of the CPM, may authorize the SC-7 or extraordinary working groups of the SC to meet.

A session of the SC shall not be declared open unless there is a quorum. The presence of a majority of the members of the SC is necessary to constitute a quorum.

² CPM-8 (2013) report, paragraph 201.4.

Some tasks, as agreed by the SC, may be undertaken between meetings via electronic means, and should be reported on in the report of the next session of the SC.

Rule 6. Approval

Approvals relating to specifications or draft standards are sought by consensus. Final drafts of ISPMs which have been approved by the SC are submitted to the CPM without undue delay.

Situations where consensus is required but cannot be reached shall be described in the meeting reports detailing all positions maintained and presented to the CPM for discussion and appropriate action.

Rule 7. Observers

A contracting party to the IPPC or any regional plant protection organization may request to send one observer to attend an SC meeting. This request should be communicated by the official IPPC contact point to the Standards Officer thirty days prior to the starting date of the meeting. In response to this request, the observer will be invited to attend, depending whether logistical arrangements can be made. Such observers may i) participate in the discussions, subject to the approval of the Chairperson and without the right to vote; ii) receive the documents other than those of a restricted nature, and; iii) submit written statements on particular items of the agenda.

Rule 8. Reports

SC meeting records shall be kept by the Secretariat. The report of the meetings shall include:

- approval of draft specifications for ISPMs
- finalization of specifications with a detailed explanation including reasons for changes
- reasons why a draft standard has not been approved
- a generic summary of SC reactions to classes of comments made in member consultation
- draft standards that are sent for member consultation and draft standards recommended for adoption by the CPM.

The Secretariat shall endeavour to provide to CPM Members upon request the rationale of the SC for accepting or not accepting proposals for modifications to specifications or draft standards.

A report on the activities of the SC shall be made by the Chairperson of the SC to the annual session of the CPM.

Reports of SC meetings shall be adopted by the SC before they are made available to Members of the CPM and RPPOs.

Rule 9. Language

The business of the SC shall be conducted in the languages of the organization.

Rule 10. Amendments

Amendments to the Rules of Procedures and the Terms of Reference may be promulgated by the CPM as required.