Name of Country or Organization\_\_\_Australia\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Submission form for IPPC standard setting work programme topics**

This completed form must be submitted by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Official Contact Point, preferably in electronic format, to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) no later than **14 August 2015**. Please use one form per topic. This submission form[[1]](#footnote-1) is also available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP, www.ippc.int).

Save and submit the completed submission form as: 2015\_TOPIC\_SUBMISSION\_Country or organization Name – Proposed title of topic.doc.

Refer to the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure[[2]](#footnote-2) for an explanation of the hierarchy of terms for standards (technical area, topic and subject). The current List of topics for IPPC standards is available on the IPP[[3]](#footnote-3).

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| **Submission form for IPPC standard setting work programme topics** |
| **Proposed by:** (Name of IPPC Official Contact Point)[[4]](#footnote-4)Dr Kim Ritman |
| **Contact:** (Contact information of an individual able to clarify issues relating to this submission)Name: Abdul Rashid Qaisrani Position and organization: Program Officer, Australian Government Department of Agriculture Mailing address: PO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601, AUSTRALIA  Phone:+61 2 6272 4191 Fax: E-mail:Abdul.qaisrani@agriculture.gov.au  |
| **Type of topic:** (Choose one box only) |
| A. New ISPM:[\_◼\_] Concept[\_\_] Pest specific[\_\_] Commodity specific[\_\_] Reference | B. New componentto an existing ISPM:[\_\_] Supplement[\_\_] Annex[\_\_] Appendix[\_\_] Technical Panel (technical area)[\_\_] DP: Diagnostic protocol (subject)[\_\_] PT: Phytosanitary treatment (topic)[\_\_] Glossary term (subject) | C. Revision/Amendment of:[\_\_] ISPM[\_\_] Supplement[\_\_] Annex[\_\_] Appendix[\_\_] Glossary term |
| **Proposed title of new ISPM or component: or Title of document to be revised or amended:** Guidelines for Empty Bulk Vessel Inspection and Approval for Loading Plants and Plant Products for Export |
| **Summary justification for the proposal (two sentences maximum):**Bulk vessel inspections are one of the most complex and detailed procedures primarily relying on the diligence of officials in detecting infestations and residues which could contaminate or infest prescribed goods after loading. The officials must have a thorough understanding of a variety of procedures and processes so they may adapt to a wide range of circumstances encountered in bulk vessel inspections, and enable them to perform their duties efficiently and confidently. |
| Submissions should address the applicable criteria for justification of the proposal (as listed below). Where possible, information in support of the justification and that may assist in the prioritization should be indicated. **All core criteria must be addressed; supporting criteria should be addressed if applicable.** |
| **Core criteria:** |
| Contribution to the purpose of the IPPC as described in Article I.1.Empty vessel inspection is undertaken to obtain a first-hand validation of a vessel’s condition and suitability for loading export compliant consumable and non-consumable goods into a vessel. The bulk vessel inspection primarily ensures the phytosanitary integrity of export compliant goods is not compromised due to the presence of live insects, contaminants or infestible residues that may harbour insects, on the vessel.The authorised officers are required to conduct the inspection of empty holds where export compliant goods intended for export are to be stored. The authorised officer conducting the inspection of empty vessel must ensure that the probability of cross-infestation or contamination of the export compliant goods is very low – the holds must be secure, must not leak water and must not allow cross-contamination of products. The officers must inspect the holds for the presence of pests, including insects, rodents and other vermin, contaminants and other material capable of harbouring pests or compromising the integrity of export compliant goods in any way.  |
| Feasibility of implementation at the global level (includes ease of implementation, technical complexity, capacity of NPPOs to implement, relevance for more than one region).The guidelines on empty bulk vessels are to provide necessary details to the NPPOs of the country already using vessel inspection and approval as part of their phytosanitary inspection and certification processes for regulated articles. For the NPPOs that are considering to implement or to establish bulk vessel inspection and approval procedures, the guidelines will assist them in making informed decision. Overall, the empty bulk vessel inspections and approval are going to be very helpful in maintaining the phytosanitary integrity of export compliant goods with low risk of re-infestation or contamination due to poor hygienic conditions of holds. |
| Clear identification of the problems that need to be resolved through the development of the standard.ISPM No 23 describes standards for the inspection of plants and plant products and other regulated articles. This standard is focussed on the determination of compliance with phytosanitary requirements, based on visual examination, and documentary, identity and integrity checks. The phytosanitary integrity of export compliant goods can easily be compromised if the transport units such as bulk vessel holds are not suitable for exporting goods. The export compliant goods could be re-infested or contaminated if live insects or infestible residues or contaminants are present in the vessel holds, especially where loose bulk goods intended for export are stored. Empty bulk vessel inspection will assist in maintaining the phytosanitary integrity of the export compliant goods and save costs associated with goods being treated on arrival or rejected due to infestation and contamination originating from bulk vessel. A harmonised process would reduce costs and burdens for both importing and exporting NPPOs and maintain the phytosanitary integrity of export compliant goods during transport. |
| Availability of, or possibility to collect, information in support of the proposed standard (e.g. scientific, historical, technical information, experience).- *Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Order 2011* (Australia)- Plant Export Operation Manual – Bulk Vessel Inspection (Australian Government Department of Agriculture)- Inspection of empty bulk vessel (Australian Government Department of Agriculture)- Bulk Cargoes – Hold Preparation and Cleaning (http://standard-club.com/media/23964/15056CargoJan2011Bulletinv06.pdf).- PI-008: Inspecting Ships that Carry Grain and Grain Products for Export (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/grains-and-field-crops/exports/pi-008/eng/1328495612131/1328495722814) |

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| **Supporting criteria (Practical)*** Feasibility of adopting the proposed standard within a reasonable time frame.
* Stage of development of the proposed standard (is a standard on the same topic already widely used by NPPOs, RPPOs or a relevant international organization).
* Availability of expertise needed to develop the proposed standard.

This is a proposal for developing an ISPM Standard on Empty Bulk Vessel Inspection and Approval for exporting consumable and non-consumable plant and plant products. The inspection of empty bulk vessel for insects, contaminants and extraneous material will ensure that the potential for re-infestation or contamination is minimised. Australia and Canada have been using bulk vessel inspection successfully to avoid re-infestation, cross-contamination of export compliant goods during exports in bulk vessel holds.While developing these guidelines, a number of experts have to be involved. It is expected that experts from a range of countries would contribute to the proposed new ISPM. |
| **Supporting criteria (Economic)*** Estimated value of the plants protected.
* Estimated value of trade affected by the proposed standard (e.g. volume of trade, value of trade, the percentage of Gross Domestic Product of this trade) if appropriate.
* Estimated value of new trade opportunities provided by the approval of the proposed standard.
* Potential benefits in terms of pest control or quarantine activities.

The development of Empty Bulk Vessel Inspection and Approval Standard will be helpful in avoiding re-infestation, cross infestation, contamination and cross-contamination of export compliant goods intended for export. This will be helpful in avoiding rejection on arrival or costly quarantine treatments if goods were to be infested during transportation in bulk vessels.  |
| **Supporting criteria (Environmental)*** Utility to reduce the potential negative environmental consequences of certain phytosanitary measures, for example reduction in global emissions for the protection of the ozone layer.
* Utility in the management of non indigenous species which are pests of plants (such as some invasive alien species).
* Contribution to the protection of the environment, through the protection of wild flora, and their habitats and ecosystems, and of agricultural biodiversity.

The goods are inspected for quarantine pests and contamination. The development of new standards will limit the ability for quarantine pests to spread to new area. The Empty Bulk Vessel Inspection and Approval Guidelines will ensure that the consumable goods are not contaminated with residue from previous consignments and will maintain the sanitary and phytosanitary status of export compliant goods. |
| **Supporting criteria (Strategic)*** Extent of support for the proposed standard (e.g. one or more NPPOs or RPPOs have requested it, or one or more RPPOs have adopted a standard on the same topic).
* Frequency with which the issue addressed by the proposed standard emerges as a source of trade disruption (e.g. disputes or need for repeated bilateral discussions, number of times per year trade is disrupted).
* Relevance and utility to developing countries.
* Coverage (application to a wide range of countries/pests/commodities).
* Complements other standards (e.g. potential for the standard to be used as part of a systems approach for one pest, complement treatments for other pests).
* Foundation standards to address fundamental concepts (e.g. treatment efficacy, inspection methodology).
* Expected standard longevity (e.g. future trade needs, suggested use of easily outdated technology or products).
* Urgent need for the standard.
* Australia’s NPPO has adapted the bulk vessel inspection and approval process as part of its phytosanitary inspection and export certification procedures. It is mandatory to obtain bulk vessel approval for exporting prescribed goods from Australia.
* Canada is also ensuring bulk vessel inspection and approval as part of Canada’s phytosanitary inspection and export certification procedures.
* The inspection and approval of empty bulk vessel prior to loading export compliant goods will potentially reduce disputes between the importing and exporting countries especially if goods may be contaminated or infested because of poor hygienic conditions of the transport unit such as bulk vessels.
* Some of the importing countries may not have the capability to treat goods on arrival on bigger scale. Therefore, bulk vessel inspection may further limit the potential for export compliant goods to be re-infested or cross-contaminated.
* Harmonisation of standards will allow these inspections to be undertaken by third party providers, who may be accredited by a number of NPPOs, leading to international accreditation
* It may also encourage shipping providers to complete these inspections to NPPO standards, which removes the need for NPPO officers to do so
 |
| **Diagnostic protocols are subject to additional criteria. For proposals for DPs, please elaborate on the following criteria to help the future consideration of the subject proposed:*** Need for international harmonization of the diagnostic techniques for the pest (e.g. due to difficulties in diagnosis or disputes on methodology).
* Relevance of the diagnosis to the protection of plants including measures to limit the impact of the pest.
* Importance of the plants protected on the global level (e.g. relevant to many countries or of major importance to a few countries).
* Volume/importance of trade of the commodity that is subjected to the diagnostic procedures (e.g. relevant to many countries or of major importance to a few countries).
* Other criteria for topics as determined by CPM that are relevant to determining priorities.
* Balance between pests of importance in different climatic zones (temperate, tropics etc) and commodity classes.
* Number of labs undertaking the diagnosis.
* Feasibility of production of a protocol, including availability of knowledge and expertise.

**N/A** |

CPM-7 (2012) agreed that all submissions of proposed topics for the IPPC Standard Setting work programme should be accompanied by a draft Specification and a literature review. This provision would not apply to proposals for diagnostic protocols, phytosanitary treatments or glossary terms.

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|  **Draft Specification**(SC approved specifications are posted on the IPP (https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/approved-specifications/) and may be referenced for examples.) |
| **Proposed Title:**  GUIDELINES FOR EMPTY BULK VESSEL INSPECTION AND APPROVAL FOR LOADING PLANT AND PLANT PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT |
| **Reason for the standard** (justification as to why the standard is needed, some of this can be copied from the above submission):With the adoption of Phytosanitary Inspection and Export Certification Procedures for Plants and Plant Products intended for export, it is important that the transport units maintain the phytosanitary integrity of export compliant goods. Goods once found to meet importing country’s requirement may be re-infested or contaminated or cross-contaminated if the bulk vessel contains live insects, infestible residues, and residue from previous cargos or goods stored in the next holds. The proposed standard would complement ISPM 7. |
| **Purpose** (explain what issue will be addressed and/or harmonized once this standard is put in place):The proposed new standard would enhance the Phytosanitary status of export compliant goods by ensuring that the goods will not be contaminated, infested or cross-contaminated during transport to the destination country. |
| **Scope** (this provides the boundaries or limits to what the standard should cover):The proposed standards describe the components of a national system for exporting export compliant goods in bulk vessels. |
| **Tasks for the expert drafting group** (this will help direct the work of the experts):* Define the minimum equipment needed for inspection
* Define the documentation needed for inspection including work instruction, recording processes and standards, decisions, records management
* Describe training requirements and standards
* Identify Work Health and Safety (WH&S) hazards, their management and supporting resources and processes
* Outline inspection procedures and identify resources to assist the NPPO implement them.
* Engaging with the Master and other crew on vessels
* Providing certification or evidence of inspection completion and efficacy
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| **Expertise** (this will provide the basis for screening nominations):* Experience in conduct of vessel inspections
* Use of various equipment to conduct inspection on or in vessels
* Experience working at heights and in confined spaces
* Basic knowledge of sanitary and phytosanitary issues
* Experience in audit
 |
| **References** (Relevant ISPMs and national, regional or international standards on the same topic and any specific references that would be relevant during drafting):Bulk Cargoes – Hold Preparation and Cleaning (http://standard-club.com/media/23964/15056CargoJan2011Bulletinv06.pdf).*Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Order 2011* (Australia)Loading, or Sailing after partial Discharge of Bulk Grain. Australian Maritime Safety Authority (https://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/AMSA225.pdf).PI-008: Inspecting Ships that Carry Grain and Grain Products for Export (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/grains-and-field-crops/exports/pi-008/eng/1328495612131/1328495722814)Plant Export Operation Manual – Bulk Vessel Inspection (Australian Government Department of Agriculture)Inspection of empty bulk vessel (Australian Government Department of Agriculture) |
| **Literature review** (this section will provide a **summary of the topic** based on scientific and technical publications, including a referenced **listed of literature reviewed.** This will help provide the scientific basis for the content of the standard to be used by the selected experts during the development of the standard): |

**Send submissions to:**

ippc@fao.org (Title message: Call for Topics – 2015)

**Mail:**

IPPC Secretariat (AGDI)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Rome, Italy

1. Link to this submission form on the IPP: https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/calls-topics/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Link to the IPPC Standard setting procedure: https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Link to the List of topics for IPPC standards: https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Text in brackets () given for explanatory purposes. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)