



SPECIFICATION 58

Revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*)

(2013)

Title

Revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*).

Reason for the revision of the standard

ISPM 4 was adopted by the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Conference in November 1995. Since its adoption, ISPM 4 has been used by many contracting parties to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for the establishment and use of pest free areas (PFAs).

Since the adoption of ISPM 4 almost two decades ago, new information has become available, and a revision of this standard is needed. In addition, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) has subsequently adopted new standards dealing with various aspects of PFAs (e.g. ISPM 26 (*Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)*), ISPM 29 (*Recognition of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence*)). Hence, the revision should provide more consistent guidance on the establishment and maintenance of PFAs.

Scope and purpose

The revision of ISPM 4 should modify the text to take into account other relevant IPPC standards. The review should also consider improvements to the text based on contracting parties' experiences in implementing the standard.

Tasks

The Expert Working Group (EWG) should:

- (1) identify other relevant standards and whether information and concepts contained in those standards should be incorporated into the revision of ISPM 4
- (2) provide and review information on establishment and maintenance of PFAs (including surveillance), considering experiences of contracting parties in implementing ISPM 4, including regulatory control of PFAs
- (3) review the sections on surveillance for establishment and maintenance of PFAs, taking into account ISPM 6 (*Guidelines for surveillance*), and make recommendations for improvements as appropriate
- (4) provide requirements for establishment, maintenance, suspension and reinstatement of PFAs
- (5) consider provision for phytosanitary measures to regulate the movement of commodities in PFAs

- (6) recommend guidance to assist in managing PFAs, including public awareness campaigns for all stakeholders in the supply chain (e.g. producers, merchants, shippers)
- (7) consider and provide information on the use of buffer zones
- (8) review key requirements for establishing and maintaining PFAs that could be used by contracting parties when implementing the revised ISPM 4
- (9) 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)
- (10) consider whether the revision 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 draft ISPM – and in particular consider how PFAs address environmental concerns relating to the use of pesticides for pest control and treatments and the protection of agricultural and forest biodiversity
- (11) review all references to ISPM 4 in other ISPMs to ensure that they are still relevant and propose consequential changes if necessary.

Provision of resources

Funding for the meeting may be provided from sources other than the regular programme of the IPPC (FAO). As recommended by ICPM-2 (1999), whenever possible, those participating in standard setting activities voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Participants may request financial assistance, with the understanding that resources are limited and the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country participants.

Collaborator

To be determined.

Steward

Please refer to the List of topics for IPPC standards posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (<https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards>).

Expertise

Five to seven phytosanitary experts that have a combination of expertise in the establishment, maintenance, suspension and reinstatement of PFAs; development and implementation of phytosanitary measures; pest risk analysis; and negotiations involving recognition of PFAs.

A representative from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) may also be invited to participate at the EWG meeting(s) or part of a meeting, as an invited expert.

Participants

To be determined.

References

The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work.

IPPC Secretariat. 2006. *Survey report on the use of PFAs by contracting parties*.

Discussion papers

Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the expert drafting group.

Publication history

This is not an official part of the specification

2009-11 SC introduced topic Revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002)

2010-03 CPM-5 added topic to the List of topics for IPPC standards

2010-11 SC deferred

2011-05 SC considered draft – steward to receive comments and draft to go for SC e-decision (no e-decision due to lack of resources)

2012-04 SC requested SC members to send comments to steward

2012-11 SC revised in lunch session and asked steward to finalize

2012-12 Steward sent revised specification to IPPC Secretariat

2012-12 Sent for SC e-decision

2013-01 SC approved for MC via e-decision

2013-08 Steward incorporated comments in the revised specification and sent to IPPC Secretariat

2013-11 SC November revised and approved the specification

2015-10 Secretariat revised to incorporate task on references to ISPM 4 as requested by the 2014-11 SC

Specification 58. 2013. Revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*). Rome, IPPC, FAO.

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