CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITIES INTO PHYTOSANITARY RISK CATEGORIES

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OUTLINE of PRESENTATION

Phytosanitary risk categorization of commodities combines the method and level of processing to which a commodity has been subjected with the intended use and consequent potential for association with regulated pests.

The objective of such categories is to provide importing contracting parties with guidelines to better identify the need for a pathway-initiated PRA to facilitate the decision-making process.

OUTLINE of PRESENTATION

This standard outlines four different phytosanitary risk categories (two for processed commodities, two for unprocessed commodities) and provides some examples of the methods of processing and the resultant commodities associated with each of the first two categories.

Requirements

The phytosanitary risk categories follows the principles and obligations of technical justification, risk analysis, risk management, minimal impact, harmonization and sovereignty.

When the entry requirements for a commodity need to be determined the importing country could classify it into a phytosanitary risk category, which could be used to identify whether further analysis is required.

Requirements

To categorize the commodity, the following should be considered:

- method and level of processing

- intended use of the commodity.

Commodities can be:

- processed: those in which raw material is transformed in differing ways and degrees

- non-processed: those in which raw material is not transformed.

1. Elements of Phytosanitary Risk Categorization of Commodities

The **method and level of processing** to which a commodity has been subjected could significantly change its nature, rendering it unable to harbour or spread pests. A commodity processed in such a way does not meet the definition of a regulated article.

If after processing, a commodity still meets the definition of a regulated article, the **intended use** should then be considered.

1.1   Method and level of processing

Based on the method and level of processing commodities can be divided into two types:

- Type A: processed to the point where the commodity does not meet the definition of a regulated article

- Type B: processed to a point where the commodity remains capable of harbouring or spreading regulated pests.

1.1   Method and level of processing

If an assessment of the method and level of processing concludes that a commodity does not have the capacity to harbour or spread regulated pests, no further analysis is necessary because the commodity does not meet the definition of a regulated article.

If an assessment of the method and level of processing concludes that a commodity retains the capacity to harbour or spread regulated pests, the intended use should then be considered.

For non-processed commodities the intended use should always be considered.

1.2   Intended use

Intended use may be for:
- **planting**
- **consumption without further transformation, including decorative and functional uses**
- **processing.**

Some intended uses (e.g. planting) are associated with a much higher probability of introducing pests than others (e.g. processing).

This could result in the application of different phytosanitary measures for a plant or plant product based on its intended use (e.g. soybean seed and soybean grain).

2.   Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

Taking into account the method and level of processing, its intended use and its potential for harbouring or spreading regulated pests allows phytosanitary risk categories to be assigned.

Contaminating pests or storage pests are not considered in the risk categorization process outlined in this standard.

Category 1. Commodities have been processed to the point where they do not meet the definition of a regulated article. Hence, no further analysis is necessary and phytosanitary measures are not applicable.

Annex 1 (Type A) provides examples

2.   Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

Category 2. Commodities have been processed but may still harbour or spread regulated pests. The intended use may be consumption or processing. PRA may be necessary.

If the method and level of processing do not eliminate regulated pests, consideration should then be given to the intended use before determining that phytosanitary measures must be necessary. A PRA may be needed and the range of applicable ph. m. may differ depending on the intended use of the commodity.

Annex 1 (Type B) provides examples.

2. Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

Category 3. Commodities have not been processed and the intended use is consumption or processing. PRA is required, as appropriate.

Examples include fresh fruits and vegetables.

Because commodities are not processed and have the potential to harbour regulated pests, establishment of phytosanitary measures always require a PRA to be performed. Depending on the intended use of the commodity, the range of phytosanitary measures resulting from the PRA may be different.

2.   Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

Category 4. **Commodities have not been processed and the intended use is planting. PRA is required.**

Including propagative material (e.g. ornamental plants and seeds).

Commodities are not processed and their intended use is always for propagation or planting, their potential to introduce or spread regulated pests is higher than that for other intended uses.

Annex and Appendix

Annex 1 - EXAMPLES OF METHODS OF PROCESSING AND THE RESULTANT TYPES OF COMMODITY

Appendix 1 - CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITIES INTO PHYTOSANITARY RISK CATEGORIES – Flow Chart

IPPC

REVIEW OF PRESENTATION

This standard provides guidance on categorizing commodities according to their phytosanitary risk. The categorization is based on the method and level of processing to which a commodity has been subjected and the commodity's intended use.

The standard also provides guidance for determining phytosanitary risk management measures for each category, as appropriate.