



CATEGORIZATION OF COMMODITIES ACCORDING TO THEIR PHYTOSANITARY RISK

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OUTLINE of PRESENTATION

Phytosanitary risk categorization of commodities combines the method and degree of processing to which a commodity has been subjected with the intended use and consequent potential of this pathway for the introduction of 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 and 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 associated resultant commodities.





Requirements

The phytosanitary risk categories should take into account the principles of technical justification, pest risk analysis, risk management, minimal impact, harmonization and sovereignty.

When the import requirements for a commodity need to be determined the importing country may **categorize it according to its risk level, which may be used to identify groups of commodities for which further analysis is required.**





Requirements

To categorize the commodity, the following should be considered:

- **method and degree of processing**
- **intended use of the commodity.**

Commodities can be:

- **processed: those in which the nature of the material is transformed in differing ways and degrees**
- **non-processed: those in which the nature of the material is not transformed.**






1. Elements of Categorization of Commodities according to their Phytosanitary Risk

The **method and degree of processing** to which a commodity has been subjected could significantly change its nature, rendering it unable to harbour pests. Such a commodity should not be deemed to require phytosanitary measures.

If after processing, a commodity may still present risk of harbouring or spreading regulated pests, the **intended use** should then be considered.






1.1 Method and degree of processing before export

Based on the **method and degree of processing** commodities can be divided into three types:

- processed to the point where the commodity does not remain capable of harbouring or spreading pests
- processed to a point where the commodity remains capable of harbouring or spreading regulated pests.
- Not processed



1.1 Method and degree of processing before export

If an assessment of the **method and degree of processing** concludes that a commodity does not have the capacity to harbour or spread regulated pests there is no need to consider intended use and the commodity should not be regulated.

If an assessment of the **method and degree 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 after import

Intended use may be for:

- planting
- consumption and other uses without further transformation, including decorative and functional uses
- processing.

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

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





2. Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

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

Category 1. Commodities have been processed to the point where they have no capacity to harbour or spread regulated pests. Hence, no further analysis should be necessary and phytosanitary measures should not be applicable.

Annex 1 provides examples





2. Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

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

If the **method and degree of processing** do not eliminate regulated pests, consideration should then be given to the **intended use** to evaluate the probability of establishment and spread of the pests. A PRA may be needed to determine this.

Annex 2 provides examples.





2. Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

Category 3. Commodities have not been processed and the intended use is consumption or processing. PRA should be carried out. Examples include fresh fruits and vegetables.

Because commodities in **categories 2 and 3** have the potential to harbour or spread regulated pests, determining phytosanitary measures may be required based on the result of PRA. The phytosanitary measures determined may differ depending on the **intended use** of the commodity (e.g. Consumption or processing).





2. Phytosanitary Risk Categories and Measures

Category 4. Commodities have not been processed and the intended use is planting. PRA should be carried out.

Including propagative material (e.g. Cuttings, 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

Annex 1 - EXAMPLES OF METHODS OF PROCESSING WITH RESULTANT COMMODITIES THAT **DO NOT REMAIN CAPABLE OF HARBOURING OR SPREADING PESTS**

Annex 2 - EXAMPLES OF METHODS OF PROCESSING WITH RESULTANT COMMODITIES THAT **DO REMAIN CAPABLE OF HARBOURING OR SPREADING PESTS**





Appendix

Appendix 1 - FLOW CHART ILLUSTRATING CATEGORIZATION OF COMMODITIES ACCORDING TO THEIR PHYTOSANITARY RISK





REVIEW OF PRESENTATION

This standard provides guidance for importing contracting parties on how to **categorize commodities** according to their phytosanitary risk when considering import requirements.

The first stage of categorization is based on whether the commodity has been processed and, if so, the method and degree of processing before export. A second stage is based on its intended use after import.

Contaminating pests or storage pests that may become associated with the commodity after processing are not considered in this standard.

