[PleaseReview document review. Review title: 2020 Consultation on draft Outline for a Guide on e-Commerce (2017-039). Document title: 2020 Consultation on draft Outline for a Guide on e-Commerce (2017-039).docx]

[1]**2020 Consultation on draft Outline: IPPC e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles (2017-039)**

[2]**Status box**

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| [3]This status box is not an official part of the Guide and will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat |
| [4]**Date of this document** | [5]2020-04-03 |
| [6]**Document category**  | [7]Draft Outline for a new IPPC Guide |
| [8]**Title** | [9]IPPC e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles (2017-039) |
| [10]**Current document stage** | [11]Consultation on Draft Outline |
| [12]**Major stages** | * [13]2018-05: e-Commerce Guide added to List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics; priority level 3
* [14]2019-05: Implementation Committee (IC) meeting: IC lead identified
* [15]2019-05: IC meeting: recommend raising priority level from 3 to 1
* [16]2020-01: submission form and draft outline prepared by the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU)
* [17]2020-03: Call (N1) for submission of e-Commerce resources
* [18]2020\_eIC\_May\_03: Draft Outline approved by IC for consultation
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| [19]**Implementation Committee lead** | [20]2019-05 IC Mr Mamoun ALBAKRI (JOR) |
| [21]**IPPC Secretariat lead** | [22]2019-05 IFU Ms Barbara PETERSON |
| [23]**Working Group experts**  | [24] |
| [25]**Notes** | [26] |

[27]Submitted by: IPPC Secretariat on behalf of CPM Bureau and IC

[28]**Submission number:** 2017-039

1. [29]**Title**

[30]IPPC e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles

1. [31]**Type of implementation resource**

[32]**New** implementation resource:

[33]**✓** Guide (e.g. Manual)

1. [34]**Convention articles, ISPMs and CPM recommendations to be addressed by the proposed implementation resource**

[35][ISPM 7: *Phytosanitary certification system*](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/613/)

[36][ISPM 13: *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action*](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/608/)

[37][ISPM 20: *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/602/)

[38][ISPM 32: *Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/587/)

[39][R-05: *Internet trade (e-commerce) in plants and other regulated articles*](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84232/)

1. [40]**Scope**

[41]This guide provides guidance and implementation resources for NPPOs and e-Commerce stakeholders to address the issue of plants, plant products and other regulated articles sold through e-Commerce and distributed through mail and courier pathways.

1. [42]**Background / Purpose**

[43]The pace of digital transformation of economies and businesses has accelerated and become a key driver of global trade. Furthermore, mobile technology, the internet and electronic payment systems have revolutionized the way businesses and consumers are selling and buying goods. The growth in cross-border e-Commerce has resulted in new trade patterns, including growth in business-to-consumer (B2C) and consumer-to-consumer (C2C) transactions.

[44]The increased role of consumers in individual transactions has led to a phenomenal growth in the number of smaller consignments crossing borders. Worldwide, parcel volume rose by 17% to 74.4 billion parcels in 2017, up from 63.6 billion in 2016. Unfortunately, these small parcels can potentially bypass normal phytosanitary controls and thereby increase the risk of introducing plant pests into new territories.

[45]The purpose of this Guide is to increase awareness among IPPC contracting parties, e-Commerce stakeholders and different international organizations about the potential phytosanitary risks associated with e-Commerce trade of plants, plant products and other regulated goods and to provide guidance to reduce the incidence of pests and other phytosanitary risks associated with cross-border e-Commerce trade.

1. [46]**Content for the proposed implementation resource**

[47]**Proposed tasks for the working group:**

1. [48]Describe trends in e-Commerce trade and increased phytosanitary risks posed by e-Commerce.
2. [49]Discuss e-Commerce in the context of the international framework (World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement), the Convention on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (WTO TFA).
3. [50]Highlight the responsibilities of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) in managing the phytosanitary risks associated with cross-border e-Commerce and consider national legislative requirements to support phytosanitary security in association with cross-border e-Commerce.
4. [51]Describe the responsibilities of international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization (WCO) and Universal Postal Union (UPU) relative to e-Commerce trade and identify existing standards, specifications, tools, and other materials that may be useful to the IPPC community.
5. [52]Consider how the World Customs Organization (WCO) Framework of Standards, Technical Specifications and other tools could be used by NPPOs to promote increased phytosanitary security in cross-border e-Commerce trade.
6. [53]Consider the WCO’s definitions for: (1) cross-border e-Commerce; (2) e-Commerce stakeholders; (3) carriers; and (4) low-value shipments and recommend whether these same terms and definitions are appropriate for use in the phytosanitary context. If needed, propose additional plant health definitions related to e-Commerce for discussion by the Technical panel for the glossary on phytosanitary terms.
7. [54]Describe the most common e-Commerce business models and identify key e-Commerce stakeholder groups.
8. [55]Develop guidance to assist NPPOs in identifying the key e-Commerce stakeholders (e.g. vendors, platforms, buyers/consumers, brokers, postal services and express couriers) based within their countries and regions.
9. [56]Describe the roles and responsibilities of key e-Commerce stakeholders, including: e-Commerce platforms/marketplaces; vendors; buyers/consumers; financial intermediaries and e-payment service providers; logistics providers; customs brokers; freight forwarders; fulfilment centres/warehouses; express carriers; postal operators; national Customs Administrations; other government agencies; NPPOs; RPPOs; IPPC and other international organizations. Identify control points along e-Commerce supply chain/pathway and recommend phytosanitary measures that could be applied. Consider opportunities for NPPOs to engage with these different stakeholder groups to seek their assistance in managing the phytosanitary risks associated with cross-border e-Commerce.
10. [57]Provide guidance to NPPOs on preparing and maintaining a list of regulated articles (e.g. seeds and other propagative plant material, aquatic plants, insects, soil, wood) for their respective countries, including how to approach general surveillance and pest risk analysis as it relates to e-Commerce.
11. [58]Recommend how to make the list of regulated articles readily available to e-Commerce buyers/consumers in their own country and to vendors/platforms/market places/carriers in other countries.
12. [59]Consider how to raise awareness of phytosanitary risks among e-Commerce stakeholders and promote compliance with the phytosanitary requirements of importing countries.
13. [60]Provide recommendations to strengthen coordination between NPPOs and their national Customs Administrations, border services and postal services and between NPPOs and other e-Commerce stakeholders.
14. [61]Provide guidance to exporting and importing NPPOs regarding how to manage phytosanitary risks associated with cross-border e-Commerce, bearing in mind that large volumes of small packages are moving through the postal or courier delivery systems and there is considerable pressure for express delivery of these parcels.
15. [62]Consider the limitations of visual inspection and recommend other possible options for effective phytosanitary risk management (e.g. advance electronic data, electronic data interchange (EDI), single window, risk based inspection/sampling, preferred carriers/brokers (Authorized Economic Operators, AEO), non-intrusive inspection (NII) technologies, web-crawlers; etc.).
16. [63]Provide guidance to exporting and importing NPPOs with respect to implementing ISPM 7, ISPM 13, ISPM 20 and ISPM 32 in the context of cross-border e-Commerce.
17. [64]Provide guidance/best practices with respect to notification, response and emergency actions in association with cross-border e-Commerce.
18. [65]Provide case studies and examples to enhance the information in the guide.
19. [66]Identify existing, relevant technical resources that could be made available on the IPP.
20. [67]**List of existing photographs, figures, tables, forms, lists, infographics, case studies, etc. with copyright [name, institution, country] and captions. Please attach the list and files to email.**

[68]*NPPOs, RPPOs and international organizations are encouraged to submit phytosanitary technical resources and case studies related to e-Commerce (e.g. manuals, standard operating procedures, advocacy materials, factsheets, infographics, training materials, risk assessments, guidelines, tools), as per the IPPC Secretariat call (March 2020):* [*https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-phytosanitary-technical-resources-related-to-e-commerce-pra-and-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems-that-may-be-shared-with-the-ippc-community/*](https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-phytosanitary-technical-resources-related-to-e-commerce-pra-and-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems-that-may-be-shared-with-the-ippc-community/)

1. [69]**List of proposed photographs, figures, tables, forms, lists, infographics, case studies, etc.**
* [70]Infographic(s) or flowchart(s) that illustrate common e-Commerce business models, key e-Commerce stakeholder groups and potential control points along e-Commerce supply chain/pathway
* [71]Example of an NPPO list of regulated articles
* [72]Case studies that highlight activities that have been undertaken by NPPOs to manage the phytosanitary risk associated with e-Commerce trade
1. [73]**Key references and other supporting materials**

[74]IRSS Study on Internet Trade (e-Commerce) in Plants: Potential Phytosanitary Risks (2012)[[1]](#footnote-1)

[76]The World Customs Organization (WCO) e-Commerce Package[[2]](#footnote-2) includes the Framework of Standards on cross-border e-Commerce as well as documents supporting the implementation of the Framework by national Customs Administrations. These tools include:

* [78]Technical Specifications
* [79]Definitions
* [80]e-Commerce Business Models
* [81]Implementation Strategy, Action Plan and Capacity Building Mechanism

[82]

[83]**Additional question for NPPOs and RPPOs (this is not part of the draft Outline)**

[84]Please provide comments on your preference to the timing and duration of this consultation. Allowing some flexibility, would you prefer the IPPC Secretariat to request comments on draft Outlines for guides and other implementation resources[[3]](#footnote-3):

* [86]Annually, at the same time as the consultation on draft Specifications  (i.e. 1 July – 31 August)
* [87]On an *as needed* basis[[4]](#footnote-4)?
1. [75] <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88263/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [77]<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/instrument-and-tools/frameworks-of-standards/ecommerce.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [85] This consultation on the draft Outline for the e-Commerce Guide is being carried out in accordance with the [Process for the Development of IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Guides and Training Materials](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/03/Process_for_the_Development_of_IPPC_Guides_and_Training_Materials_2018-12-17_REV01.pdf), approved by the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [88] The development of IPPC guides and training materials is often supported by voluntary donor contributions or co-funding arrangements. Having ad hoc consultations on draft Outlines provides a degree of flexibility, since it allows the IPPC Secretariat to initiate work on a new guide when funds for that guide become available. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)