



SPECIFICATION 31

Revision of ISPM 15 (Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade)

(2006)

Title

Revision of ISPM 15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*) (2006-010).

Reason for revision

ICPM-4 (2002) adopted ISPM 15 in March 2002, with a scheduled revision date of 2007. In 2005, the *International Workshop on the Practical Application of ISPM No. 15*, held in Vancouver, Canada, brought to light several key concerns and misunderstandings relating to the standard, some of which are due to ambiguities and inconsistencies within its text. It appears that such issues may be limiting implementation of the standard. Addressing these problems may encourage more widespread implementation of the standard. Based on this, the IPPC Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) met in March, 2005, reviewed the outcomes of the workshop, and recommended a series of specific changes to the standard. In addition, during 2005, Contracting Parties to the IPPC submitted proposals for revision and amendment of the standard, citing specific concerns which they felt had not been addressed adequately in the original version of the standard. One proposal sought more guidance relating to non-compliant wood packaging material and more information on the presence of bark and tolerances thereof (in relation to the meeting of the Expert Working Group on debarking that met in June, 2005). Another proposed an appendix offering practical guidance on carrying out safe and effective methyl bromide fumigation. Finally, during 2006 the TPFQ will be reviewing the outcomes of the International Forest Quarantine Research Group's review of technical justification for debarking/bark freedom requirements for wood packaging, and may be able to modify the standard if appropriate.

Scope and purpose

The scope, purpose, principles, and general format of the existing standard should be maintained in the revised standard, and broadened, if appropriate, to include guidance on preventing infestation after treatment, or re-infestation (or clarified as to whether post-treatment infestation / re-infestation is within the scope). The purpose of this revision is to review and correct ambiguities and inconsistencies identified within the text of the standard, and to make other revisions as appropriate based on new

information that may be available on existing treatments, alternative treatments, and pest risks from bark. During the revision, the drafting group should also consider strategies and methods to limit the use of methyl bromide for wood packing materials, such as the promotion and use of alternative treatments (including heat treatment), and the use of techniques for gas recovery and reduction of emissions and consider how to provide advice for the safe handling and inspection of fumigated wood packaging.

Tasks

The expert drafting group should:

- (1) Review information on the pest risks related to bark on wood packaging including taking into account recommendations produced by the IPPC EWG on Debarking, and modify the standard if appropriate.
- (2) Review information on pest risks related to re-infestation of wood packaging, and modify the standard if appropriate.
- (3) Review information on current treatments included in the standard and alternative treatments, and modify the standard if appropriate.
- (4) Review and revise as appropriate parts of the text previously identified as problematic by the TPFQ based on the outcomes of the *International Workshop on the Practical Application of ISPM No. 15*, taking into account the TPFQ's recommendations (identified, with proposals for revision, in the report of the TPFQ's 2005 meeting).
- (5) Review and revise as appropriate existing guidance on non-compliant wood packaging material.
- (6) Ensure that all sections of the draft-revised standard are consistent with each other, the New Revised Text of the IPPC and, where appropriate, other ISPMs.
- (7) Ensure that any concepts appearing in annexes are first raised in the main text of the standard;
- (8) Review types of wood packaging material not currently included within the scope of ISPM 15 (e.g. manufactured wood) in order to identify those presenting no risk and modify the standard if appropriate.
- (9) If revision will require more than one meeting to complete, consider submitting preliminary technical changes for adoption under the fast track procedure, as appropriate.
- (10) Prepare supportive information in the form of an appendix, providing practical guidance for safe and effective methyl bromide fumigation including information on minimizing emissions of fumigants to the environment and for the safe handling and inspection of fumigated wood packaging after treatment; The TPFQ should consider working with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) on the production of this fumigation guidance and determine whether it is appropriate for this information to appear associated directly with ISPM 15 as an appendix, or to be included in the approved treatments that are intended to be developed by the TPPT. This draft appendix should also be reviewed by the TPPT.
- (11) Consider whether the standard 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 the draft standard.
- (12) 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 SC.

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 IPP (see <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=207776>).

Expertise

This standard should be revised by the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine, with expertise as dictated by Specification for Technical Panels 4. The Montréal Protocol Secretariat should be invited to nominate an expert to attend the relevant parts of the TPFQ meeting(s).

Participants

TPFQ and other experts if deemed necessary.

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.

Publication history

This is not an official part of the specification

2006-04 CPM-1 added topic Revision of ISPM 15 (*Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*): Criteria for treatments for wood packaging material in international trade (2006-010)

2006-05 SC approved specification

2011-11 reformatted

2011-12 applied consistency changes in line with the decision made by SC May 2009

2012-11 SC replaced task regarding implementation issues

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