

REPORT

Rome,
Italy,
19-23 November
2001

**Interim Standards
Committee
Fourth meeting**

**Meeting Report
AGP/2001**

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
INTERIM STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Rome, Italy: 19-23 November 2001



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2002**

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was opened by Mr Griffin, Coordinator of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention. Mr Griffin noted that this would be the last meeting of the Interim Standards Committee (ISC) since it is expected that the Standards Committee will be established by the Fourth Session of the Interim Commission of Phytosanitary Measures in March 2002. He noted the significant accomplishments of the ISC and expressed the importance of the Standards Committee continuing the work of the ISC.

Mr Vereecke was invited and agreed to continue as Chairperson for the meeting. He noted that this group had been working together for seven years and this would be the last occasion it would meet. He expressed his appreciation for contributions to the work programme made in previous meetings by members of the ISC. Finally, the Chairperson noted that the meeting had four draft standards and amendments to the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms to review. He suggested that additional draft standards such as Pest Listing could be reviewed if time allowed.

It was noted that Mr Roddy Burgess had been invited by the Secretariat as an ad hoc expert to assist in the review of the draft standard, *Guidelines for the use of wood packaging material used in the transport of commodities*. Mr Burgess, who participated in the Working Group that developed the standard, has considerable experience and expertise on this particular subject.

2. REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE ISC (MAY 2001)

The report of the third Meeting of the ISC was introduced by the Coordinator, and considered and adopted by the ISC.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE GLOSSARY OF PHYTOSANITARY TERMS

The ISC considered comments on proposed amendments to the *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* resulting from the Glossary Working Group meeting in March 2001. The meeting also discussed how new terms and definitions included in draft standards could be handled. It was agreed that new terms and definitions arising from draft standards would be developed in the context of the draft standards, rather than in the context of amendments to *the Glossary of phytosanitary terms*. However, a list of new terms to be adopted with standards will be included in the amendments to the Glossary for consideration by the ICPM.

The meeting discussed whether the term *growing season* should be deleted from the Glossary and if the term *growing period* could be considered synonymous with *growing season*. It was agreed that the term *growing season* is applicable to countries in temperate regions but may not be applicable to countries in tropical regions where seasonality is less important. Nonetheless, it was also agreed that the two terms cover distinct concepts and that both terms should be retained in the Glossary. It was noted that the term *growing period* usually refers to plants while *growing season* usually refers to time of year. The meeting therefore agreed to retain the term *growing season* in the Glossary and to have the Glossary Working Group reconsider the term *growing period*.

It was noted that the proposed revision for the definition of the term *phytosanitary measure* will differ from the definition given in the IPPC (1997). The meeting agreed to add “to contain or prevent the spread of pests,” but recommended that this change be brought to the attention of the ICPM when it meets in March 2002.

There was some question as to the legal implications of modifying a term defined in the IPPC (1997) and it was therefore recommended to include explanatory text on the ‘agreed

interpretation' in the definition. The text to be included with the proposed revision of *phytosanitary measure* is:

The agreed interpretation of the term phytosanitary measure accounts for the relationship of phytosanitary measures to regulated non-quarantine pests. The relationship is not adequately reflected in the definition found in Article II of the IPPC (1997).

The meeting agreed that this text should accompany the definition of *phytosanitary measure* wherever it occurs in any new standards to ensure clarity.

The meeting noted that the term *occurrence* had been revised in the Third meeting of the ISC. However, the definition in English and Spanish includes “and/or”, while the definition in French includes only “and”. It was recommended that the oversight in the French definition should be corrected and amended in the Glossary.

The term *consignment in transit* was discussed in relation to the term *re-exported consignment*. It was noted that the two terms are complementary but distinct. Specifically, a *consignment in transit* does not require certification, is not combined with other consignments and does not normally have special conditions applied to it. A *re-exported consignment* may be subject to certain conditions in the country from which it is re-exported. The meeting agreed that the definition of *consignment in transit* does not need to be reviewed by the Glossary Working Group, but further agreed that the definition could be reviewed in the future if necessary.

Discussions on the term *outbreak* were focussed on the need to include the concept that an outbreak involves a situation when there is a sudden increase in the level of the pest population in addition to the term applying to the presence of a new pest in an area. However, the term *outbreak* may be viewed as unnecessarily alarming and a different term like ‘incursion’ may be more appropriate. The meeting agreed that the term *outbreak* should be included in the standard on Pest Reporting, while the term *incursion* should be considered by the Glossary Working Group.

The meeting noted that concepts surrounding economic damage should be considered by the Glossary Group. Terms needing definitions or explanations include *potential economic importance*, *economically unacceptable impact*, *economically important loss*, *direct loss (primary and secondary)* and *indirect economic impacts*. Likewise, the meeting agreed that the term *safeguard* should be referred to the Glossary Working Group for its consideration.

Revisions to the *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* were approved by the ISC for submission to the ICPM (Annex II).

4. PEST REPORTING

The Chairperson introduced the draft standard on pest reporting. The meeting discussed the scope of the standard and agreed that pest reporting is aimed at alerting trading partners and neighboring countries of changes in pest status that could be of immediate danger. It agreed that the standard did not apply to the reporting of interceptions in consignments. Likewise, reporting on eradication or Pest Free Areas was noted to be important but not an obligation.

The meeting agreed to include the definitions for *pathway*, *RPPO* and *Pest Free Area* but to delete the terms *phytosanitary procedure* and *phytosanitary regulation* since they are not mentioned in the text.

The meeting briefly discussed other pest reporting systems, including those under the Office International des Epizooties and the use of A1 and A2 pest terms. It was agreed that neither of

these systems was especially applicable to use under the IPPC. Similarly, the meeting discussed sources of information on pest outbreaks. The meeting agreed that other groups, such as universities or grower organizations, may gather and provide information on pests, but NPPOs should verify any data collected by these groups if it is used in official pest reports.

With regard to the purpose of pest reporting, the meeting agreed to retain language stating that any phytosanitary measures taken as a result of pest reports should be commensurate with the pest risk involved. Although the standard does not deal with risk management per se, it was felt that a statement on pest risk was important since countries may be reluctant to report on pest outbreaks if they fear overreaction from trading partners.

In discussions on the timing of reports, the meeting agreed that reports on outbreaks that pose an immediate or potential danger to neighbors or trading partners should be made without delay. In view of this, it was understood that in some cases, preliminary reports containing a minimum of information could be made, but that these preliminary reports could be updated if and when additional information became available.

Finally, the meeting discussed how pest reports should best be made available to concerned parties (e.g. neighboring countries and trading partners). While recognizing that developing countries may have limited access to the Internet, the meeting agreed that countries should provide pest reports through the official NPPO websites, and ensure that the pathway to the pest reporting information is easily accessible on the NPPO website. It was noted that the IPP could be used to assist developing countries with the development of their websites and for pest reporting. It was further agreed that pest reports should not be limited to the Internet, but that, in particular for high risk situations, there could also be direct communication from the reporting NPPO through mail or e-mail.

The modified standard was approved by the ISC for submission to the ICPM (Annex III).

5. GUIDELINES FOR REGULATING WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr Roddy Burgess, who has served on the working groups that developed the draft standard, was invited to assist the ISC in reviewing the draft standard.

The meeting began by agreeing that the preferred term is “wood packaging material” rather than “wood packing material.” The meeting discussed whether to include an extensive bibliography of scientific and technical references dealing with pests of wood packaging material and treatments for these pests. The ISC recognized the value of these references but felt that they should not be included in the standard. However, in order to make this information available to interested parties, the ISC recommended that the bibliography should be made available on the IPP, and updated accordingly.

It was suggested and agreed that some sections of the standard be substantially reorganized in order to improve the flow of the document. The meeting agreed to move the sections on approved measures, marking for wood packaging material and measures being considered for approval to appendixes. The meeting also agreed to include a table of the most significant pests killed by heat treatment and methyl bromide in the appendix for approved measures (Annex I). The Committee noted that the standard suffered from the lack of experience and agreement on evaluating the efficacy of measures. The ISC stressed the importance of developing standards and procedures for this purpose and it encouraged the Secretariat to give priority to this work.

In discussing the annex for measures being considered for approval (Annex III in the draft), the meeting discussed how new measures could be reviewed and added to the standard. The ISC recognized that information on new treatments would need to be reviewed periodically and added to the standard as necessary. Therefore, the ISC recommended that the adoption of the standard be done with the understanding that it will require annual review. These reviews would be to determine the nature and extent of changes that may be needed to update the standard based on experience and new information, particularly regarding the addition of new approved measures. The Committee suggested that the ICPM encourage NPPOs to submit relevant information to the Secretariat, as it becomes available.

The meeting discussed how wood packaging material should be marked to indicate that it had been subjected to an approved measure. It was agreed that a universally applied mark should be easily recognized and indicate country of origin, producer, and treatment. The meeting questioned whether there were legal issues (such as copyright) associated with the adoption of a mark. The Secretariat noted the need to consult the FAO Legal Office on this issue.

It was suggested that a definition for the term *mark* be included in the terms and definitions of the standard, recognizing that the term may be applicable to phytosanitary issues beyond the scope of this standard. The meeting also discussed how dunnage should be treated in the standard with respect to other types of wood packaging material. The meeting agreed that dunnage is normally made from very low quality wood, was difficult to mark appropriately and could pose higher levels of risk than other wood packaging material. The meeting recognized that any measures related to dunnage need to be operationally practical, and agreed that ideally dunnage should be marked, but that it was subject to special consideration because of the operational issues.

The modified standard was approved by the ISC for submission to the ICPM (Annex IV).

6. INTEGRATED MEASURES FOR PEST RISK MANAGEMENT (SYSTEMS APPROACHES)

The title of the standard was discussed by the meeting. It was noted that the term “systems approach” was widely cited in the literature and has gained widespread acceptance. However, the meeting agreed to retain the title as it is since the context of the term is difficult to translate into other languages and “Integrated measures for pest risk management” more completely describes the concept.

The Committee discussed how the types of systems approaches should be described, and to what extent, in the standard. It was agreed that the HACCP system is an excellent example of a systems approach but the meeting felt that including extensive reference to the HACCP system in the body of the standard would be confusing. Another concern that was raised with respect to extensive descriptions of the HACCP system was that it could be perceived as a requirement for phytosanitary systems. It was agreed that the HACCP system could serve as a useful model for designing a systems approach for phytosanitary purposes, but that it was not necessary for there to be measures applied to every critical control point (as is done in food safety applications). The meeting suggested using the more general term of “control point system”, of which HACCP is an example.

It was suggested to add an additional section on “pre-planting options” to the list of measures that may be used in systems approaches. The inclusion of Pest Free Areas, and pest free sites or places of production was also discussed. Although a Pest Free Area would be a sufficient measure for any one pest, the meeting agreed that a systems approach could be applied to a group of pests. In that sense, the meeting agreed to retain “Pest Free Area” and “pest free sites or places of production” in the list of measures that could be used in systems approaches.

The meeting discussed whether to use examples in explaining the concepts of independent and dependent measures used in systems approaches. The meeting agreed that due to the complicated nature of the material, the examples provided would be useful in the interpretation and application of these concepts.

The modified standard was approved by the ISC for submission to the ICPM (Annex V).

7. REGULATED NON-QUARANTINE PESTS: CONCEPT AND APPLICATION

The meeting agreed that the standard could be reorganized in order to improve the flow of the standard. In particular, it was felt that the comparison of regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQP) to quarantine pests should be included at the beginning of the standard so that the concept of a RNQP is immediately distinguished from that of a quarantine pest.

The meeting had an extensive discussion on whether regulated non-quarantine pests should be already present in a country or not. It was agreed that a pest that is not already present in a country might be considered a quarantine pest, and that the term RNQP only refers to regulated pests already present in the importing country. The meeting did agree that RNQPs, although present in the country, may be of limited regional or sub-national distribution. Additionally, it was agreed that pest effects on other types of host plants (besides those being imported) could also be considered with respect to RNQPs.

The meeting also discussed how RNQPs differ from quarantine pests and “quality pests.” The meeting agreed to include a table comparing RNQPs to quarantine pests, including comparisons of their official status. It was further agreed that “quality pests” are outside the scope of both the standard and the IPPC. However, the meeting agreed to include a statement that pests that are not regulated for phytosanitary reasons may still cause damage of a commercial nature and be subject other types of regulations (non-phytosanitary).

The modified standard was approved by the ISC for submission to the ICPM (Annex VI).

8. PLANNING FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Mr Hedley, Vice-Chairperson of the ICPM, noted that the procedure to be used by the new Standards Committee for handling draft standards will need to be addressed by the next meeting of the ICPM. Considering the experience of the ISC, he requested the meeting to provide suggestions on how the procedure may be made more efficient and ensure the same consistent high quality work as in the past.

Members of the ISC noted that the comments received from countries and Regional Plant Protection Organizations were often extensive, detailed and time consuming to review. In order to reduce the amount of time required to review comments on draft standards, it was suggested that comments could be categorized by the countries themselves according to whether they were editorial/grammatical, translation problems, or comments on the technical content of the standard. It was further suggested that the steward for each draft standard could assist the process by ensuring that comments were assembled according to category. It was felt that this change in procedure would greatly enhance the efficiency of reviewing comments on draft standards.

The meeting also discussed how the small expert group would function in relation to the full Committee. One suggestion was that the small expert group would meet in May to review draft standards to be sent for comments from countries. The November meeting would include all 20 members, and be aimed at preparing draft standards for adoption by the ICPM.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

While reviewing the draft standard, the ISC noted that the New Revised Text of the IPPC is cited numerous times, but that there did not appear to be consistency in how it is referenced. Mr Griffin suggested, and the meeting agreed, that in the future, the New Revised Text of the IPPC should be referred to as “IPPC (1997)”, while the text currently in force be referred to as “IPPC (1979).”

In reviewing the draft standard *Integrated measures for pest risk management (Systems Approaches)*, the application of the principle of equivalence was discussed in the meeting. The meeting agreed that while equivalence is clearly an important aspect of systems approaches, the application of equivalence extends beyond this single standard, and is broadly applicable to many ISPMs. The Coordinator noted that this issue is repeatedly raised in meetings of the SPS Committee, and further noted that it is possible that the IPPC may be formally requested by the SPS Committee to develop a position on the application of equivalence. The ISC recommends that work be undertaken to provide guidance on the interpretation and application of the concept of equivalence, in particular taking account of its relationship to systems approaches and the efficacy of measures.

In reviewing the draft standard for wood packaging material, the ISC discussed the future use of methyl bromide as a quarantine treatment in light of the requirements of the Montreal Protocol. It was noted that, although methyl bromide will be phased out as a pesticide, its use as a quarantine treatment is exempted from Montreal Protocol. Nonetheless, the meeting agreed that the use of methyl bromide for quarantine treatment could be addressed with a view to developing a policy on its use as a quarantine treatment. The ISC therefore recommends that the use of methyl bromide could be reviewed by the ICPM.

10. DATE AND VENUE OF THE FIRST STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

The Secretariat has tentatively established the date and venue for the First Standards Committee Meeting for 13–17 May 2002 in Rome, subject to approval of the ICPM.

11. CLOSURE

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to the committee for its hard work and noted that the Committee had accomplished its goals for the week. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Mr Vereecke for his skill, expertise and positive approach as Chairperson. The Members thanked him for his patience and considerable efforts. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and the meeting was then closed.

Interim Standards Committee

FOURTH MEETING

Rome: 19-23 November 2001

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Welcome Address
3. Election of Chairman
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Adoption of the Report of the Third Session of the Interim Standards Committee
6. Review of Comments from Country Consultation on Draft Standards:
 - Amendments to the Glossary of phytosanitary terms
 - Regulated non-quarantine pests: concept and applications
 - Guidelines for regulating wood packing material used in the transport of commodities
 - Pest reporting
 - Integrated measures for pest risk management (systems approaches)
7. Other Business
8. Close of Meeting

AMENDMENTS TO THE GLOSSARY OF PHYTOSANITARY TERMS

APPROVED BY THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE INTERIM STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(NOVEMBER 2001)

1. Revised terms and definitions

Plants *in vitro* A commodity class for plants growing in an aseptic medium in a closed container [replaces **Plants in tissue culture**]

Phytopsanitary measure
(agreed interpretation) Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests

The agreed interpretation of the term phytopsanitary measure accounts for the relationship of phytopsanitary measures to regulated non-quarantine pests. This relationship is not adequately reflected in the definition found in Article II of the IPPC (1997).

Re-exported consignment Consignment which has been imported into a country from which it is then exported. The consignment may be stored, split up, combined with other consignments or have its packaging changed

2. Terms to be deleted

- Country of re-export
- Plants in tissue culture
- Region

3. Other recommendations

- a) Use the term *issue* instead of *issuance* in English text.
- b) *Emergency actions* in Article VII.6 of the English version of International Plant Protection Convention (1997) should be interpreted to be consistent with the Glossary term *emergency measures*.
- c) Recognize that *actions* in English is interpreted to be consistent with *medidas* (Spanish) and *mesures* (French).
- d) Recognize that *outbreak* in English is translated as *apparition* in the French version of the IPPC (1997).
- e) Correct the French definition of *analyse* as follows:

Analyse *Examen officiel, autre que visuel, permettant de déterminer la présence ou l'absence d'organismes nuisibles, ou le cas échéant, de les identifier*

- f) Maintain *marchandise* as the French translation of the English term *commodity*.
- g) Use *exigence* as the French translation for the English term *requirement* recognizing that this is equivalent to *disposition* (as in the heading of Article VII of the New Revised Text of the IPPC) and *prescription* (as in the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures).

ANNEX II

- h) Correct the French definition of *occurrence* to be consistent with the other languages by replacing *and* with *and/or*.

4. New or revised terms and definitions to be added to the Glossary through the adoption of ISPMs

Bark-free wood	Wood from which all bark excluding the vascular cambium, ingrown bark around knots, and bark pockets between rings of annual growth has been removed
Consignment in transit	A consignment which is not imported into a country but passes through it to another country, subject to official procedures which ensure that it remains enclosed, and is not split up, not combined with other consignments nor has its packaging changed
Control point	A step in a system where specific procedures can be applied to achieve a defined effect and can be measured, monitored, controlled and corrected
CPI	Chemical pressure impregnation
Dunnage	Wood packaging material used to secure or support a commodity but which does not remain associated with the commodity
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
Intended use	Declared purpose for which plant, plant products, or other regulated articles are imported, produced or used
HT	Heat treatment
KD	Kiln drying
Mark	An official stamp or brand, internationally recognized, applied to a regulated article to attest to its phytosanitary status
MB	Methyl bromide
Occurrence	The presence in an area of a pest officially recognized to be indigenous or introduced and/or not officially reported to have been eradicated
Outbreak	An isolated pest population, recently detected and expected to survive for the immediate future or a sudden increase in an existing population
Raw wood	Wood which has not undergone processing or treatment
Systems approaches	The integration of different pest risk management measures, at least two of which act independently, and which cumulatively achieve the required level of phytosanitary protection
Treatment	Officially authorized procedure for the killing or removal of pests or rendering pests infertile
Wood packaging material	Wood or wood products (excluding paper products) used in supporting, protecting or carrying a consignment