



SPECIFICATION 42

Pre-clearance for regulated articles

(2006)

Title

Pre-clearance for regulated articles (2005-003).

Reasons for the standard

The movement of regulated articles in trade is increasing as international markets expand. This movement may also result in a higher risk of the introduction and/or spread of regulated pests associated with these articles.

It is the responsibility of the exporting contracting party to make arrangements for phytosanitary certification ensuring that exported consignments conform with the certifying statement of phytosanitary certificates issued. Inspection and related activities leading to the issuance of phytosanitary certificates should be carried out only by or under the authority of the official NPPO of the exporting country.

However, in exceptional cases, for facilitating trade logistics at the request of the exporting country, contracting parties may bilaterally negotiate an agreement for allowing clearance in the country of origin by the NPPO of the country of destination. Arrangements of that nature may be called pre-clearance. Also joint auditing of the export certification system to facilitate new trade may be called pre-clearance. The agreement should include procedures for the regular review, intensity reduction, phasing-out and termination of the arrangements.

Currently, some countries apply various arrangements of this kind. Arrangements differ significantly between countries and may in some cases turn out discriminatory and un-transparent. The standard will provide general guidance to criteria that may justify such arrangements and to their use and implementation compatible with the basic principles of the IPPC.

Scope and purpose

The document should provide guidance on the justification, establishing, reviewing, phasing out and terminating of pre-clearance arrangements and a model framework for pre-clearance programs (where justified), including criteria for terminating pre-clearance arrangements in favour of other phytosanitary measures.

Tasks

The expert drafting group should develop a document that will:

- (1) Consider the coverage of pre-clearance by the IPPC and its articles.

- (2) Consider whether this can be an annex or supplement to another existing standard.
- (3) Clarify the use of the concept and term pre-clearance and consider the differences between pre-inspection and pre-clearance, if any, and, if necessary, propose a definition for pre-inspection and/or redefinition for pre-clearance.
- (4) Provide criteria which may be used in the establishment of pre-clearance programs.
- (5) Identify and describe essential procedures required to ensure compliance with the phytosanitary measures of the importing country.
- (6) Develop a model framework for arrangements on pre-clearance programs, including consideration of allocation of costs of such programs to the parties involved and phase-out ('sunset clause') considerations.
- (7) Identify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders (NPPOs, importers and exporters).
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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

A working group of five to seven experts with experience in establishment, implementation and maintenance of pre-inspection and pre-clearance programs.

Participants

To be determined.

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.

NAPPO RSPM No. 2. 2008. *Guidelines for Pre-clearance Programs.*

Discussion papers

Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the expert drafting group.

Publication history

This is not an official part of the specification

2005-04 ICPM-7 added topic Phytosanitary pre-import clearance (2005-003)

2006-11 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

Specification 42. 2006. *Pre-clearance for regulated articles*, Rome, IPPC, FAO.

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