



SPECIFICATION 54

International movement of seed

(2011)

Title

International movement of seed (2009-003).

Reason for the standard

Many seeds (including pelleted and coated seeds) are moved internationally primarily for food and ornamental plant production but also for a number of other purposes (for example, production of biofuels, fibre, pharmacological as well as for pre-commercial (research, seed increase) purposes). Effective phytosanitary measures applied to the movement of seed are likely to decrease the number of potential regulated pests moving to new areas. They may also aid in improving food security by helping to ensure that imported seeds are free of pests of concern that could decrease seed fecundity and/or yield.

There is currently no international guidance focused specifically on phytosanitary measures for the international movement of seed in adopted IPPC standards resulting in a lack of harmonized approaches to managing phytosanitary risks associated with seeds. Several international organizations and industry associations (for example, the International Seed Federation (ISF) and the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)) have developed widely recognized tests, guidelines and standards applicable to the international movement of seed. While many of these tests, guidelines and standards are solely focused on ensuring the quality of seeds (for purity, germination capacity, etc.) it is important that national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) do not confuse measures applied to ensure seed quality with phytosanitary measures applied to manage pest risk. In addition, there are also some commercial practices that have the potential to cause phytosanitary issues for NPPOs (for example, mixing of seeds from a number of production sites to increase germination percentages may result in the inability of NPPOs to clearly identify the true origin of a consignment). Additional international guidance on phytosanitary measures related to the international movement of seed is required so as to provide harmonized guidance on managing pest risks associated with the movement of seed.

The potential for widespread movement of pests associated with seeds moved internationally is well understood. Since numerous important pests are seed-borne or seed-transmissible, the movement of infested seed may pose a risk for the international spread of pests. Many NPPOs have already established specific phytosanitary import requirements for treatment, origin-based restrictions, and associated phytosanitary certification of seed to manage the risk of pests associated with the international movement of seed. As more NPPOs move to establish such requirements, an international standard will provide useful guidance and will help promote international harmonization of phytosanitary import requirements for seed.

Scope and purpose

This standard would apply to seed¹ moved internationally (including forest tree seeds). The proposed standard is intended to provide additional guidance to assist NPPOs to identify, assess and manage the pest risk associated with the international movement of seed. The standard may also facilitate the international movement of seed through increased harmonization of phytosanitary import requirements. The standard should identify and describe specific phytosanitary measures that could be used to reduce pest risk associated with the international movement of seed, including phytosanitary measures that may be applied during growth, at seed harvest, seed extraction, during post-harvest seed processing, and on arrival, inspection and testing. The standard would not apply to grain². This standard will help minimize the risk of the global spread of pests of plants including those which can be considered invasive alien species and other organisms whose pest risk has not yet been identified.

Tasks

The expert drafting group should undertake the following tasks:

- (1) Identify and analyse existing international guidance, such as agreements, standards or industry guidelines dealing with the international movement of seed and consider the extent to which these are relevant to the development and application of phytosanitary measures under the IPPC (for example, UN organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); intergovernmental organizations: Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI), Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (seed schemes); and non-governmental organizations: International Seed Federation (ISF)).
- (2) Identify information and provide guidance required for determining the potential of pests to be associated with seeds moving in international trade and their potential as a pathway for the introduction and spread of such pests that may be used in a PRA conducted in accordance with ISPM 2:2007, ISPM 11:2004 and ISPM 21:2004 including, for example, risks related to specific pest groups associated with seed-borne or seed-transmissible pests, plants as pests, development of tolerances for regulated non-quarantine pests, risks associated with pelleted or coated seeds.
- (3) Consider the relationship between the potential for pests to establish and the intended use of the seeds, including whether different measures should be applied to seeds intended for field sowing without restrictions versus those seeds intended for research and development.
- (4) Identify and provide guidance in relation to any phytosanitary measures and verification methods developed in accordance with IPPC guidance (for example, ISPM 2:2007, ISPM 11:2004 and ISPM 21:2004) that are currently utilized by countries with the intent of decreasing the movement of pests associated with seeds moved internationally. Elements to consider when assessing the pest risk and developing phytosanitary measures may include:
 - . pest free areas, areas of low pest prevalence or other measures during growth
 - . seed treatments
 - . harvest and production methods to minimize contamination or to prevent build-up of pests during processing (e.g. methods of seed extraction, post-harvest seed cleaning or other method of purification)
 - . post-harvest storage methods
 - . laboratory testing methods, including rapid ones, and diagnostics to detect and identify contaminants, various seed-borne or seed-transmissible pests
 - . methods of packaging for preventing pest spread and to ensure phytosanitary security

¹ Seeds are defined as “A commodity class for seeds for planting or intended for planting and not for consumption or processing” (ISPM 5).

² Grain is defined as “A commodity class for seeds intended for processing or consumption but not for planting (see seeds)” (ISPM 5).

- . inspection and testing of pelletized, coated or treated seeds
 - . requirements for the mixing of seeds from different origins
 - . seed production process and field inspections
 - . prohibiting import (for some high-risk seeds)
 - . post-entry quarantine (including limitation on quantity of seed)
 - . designation of planting areas (for example, isolation).
- (5) Identify the phytosanitary import requirements most commonly used by NPPOs in relation to imported seed consignments. Consider providing guidance on their technical basis including identifying the need for any specific guidance in relation to the technical justification of the phytosanitary import requirement.
- (6) Make recommendations, as appropriate, for basic information that may be included on phytosanitary certificates to allow for the international movement of seed such as origin description of the consignment (lot number, year of harvest) taking into account existing guidance in adopted ISPMs. Identify and, if appropriate, describe harmonized additional declarations of phytosanitary certificates developed for phytosanitary measures identified under task 4.
- (7) Discuss and recommend, if appropriate, the need for specific technical annexes and appendixes containing information related to this ISPM. The annexes and appendixes may, for example, contain reference to the major seed-transmitted commodity pest lists, ISTA/ISF-agreed testing methods and test methods for specific pest/host combinations, seed cleaning and treatment methodology. Consider whether to identify and describe major pest groups or types according to their pest risks.
- (8) Consider whether the ISPM 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 ISPM.
- (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

An expert working group (EWG) of five to ten phytosanitary experts with expertise in one or more of the following areas: the development and/or implementation of phytosanitary measures to manage pest risk associated with the international movement of seeds, pest risk analysis (PRA), seed testing and storage, knowledge of existing international guidance relating to the international movement of seed.

In addition to those experts, ISTA should be invited to nominate an expert to be considered by the Standards Committee as a member of this EWG.

ISF should be requested to nominate a participant who will be invited to attend the relevant parts of the EWG meeting(s) as an invited expert.

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.

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

2009-11 SC introduced topic *International movement of seed* (2009-003)

2010-03 CPM-5 added topic

2010-12 SC approved draft specification for MC via e-decision

2011-02 MC

2011-05 SC revised and approved specification

2011-11 SC added new tasks regarding implementation issues

2011-11 reformatted

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

Specification 54. 2011. *International movement of seed*. Rome, IPPC, FAO.

2012-11 SC replaced task regarding implementation issues

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