



SPECIFICATION 43

Movement of soil and growing media in association with plants in international trade

(2007)

Title

Movement of soil and growing media in association with plants in international trade (2005-004).

Reason for the standard

Soil and growing media are recognized internationally as high risk pathways for the introduction of regulated pests. Despite this, it is difficult to totally avoid the movement of soil or growing media associated with plants. In cases where plants are cleaned, e.g. with deciduous plants for transplanting, it is not practically possible to remove all soil. In other cases, trees/plants of special interest should retain and be transported with their growing medium. There is a need for guidelines to recommend measures to avoid/minimize the risk of introduction of pests with such movement of soil and/or growing media attached to plants and planting material. It was approved in ICPM-7 as normal priority of topics and priority for standards.

Scope and purpose

This standard will provide guidance for the evaluation of risks associated with soil and growing media and describe phytosanitary measures to manage the pest risks of soil attached to imported plants in the country of origin and on arrival.

Tasks

The expert drafting group should:

- (1) Identify risks of soil and growing media that accompany plants in international trade taking into account the soil and growing media types and conditions.
- (2) Identify potential phytosanitary import requirements for soil and growing media in association with plants to prevent the introduction of regulated pests associated with the soil and growing media.
- (3) Produce an indicative appendix of most commonly listed pests that can accompany soil and growing media.
- (4) Determine the characteristics of specific types of growing media or production methods that prevent or limit the transfer of pests.

- (5) Consider whether guidelines for recommended tolerance limits for quantities of soil remaining with root systems of plants in international trade could be provided; for example, an indication could be provided of how much the pest risk increases with the quantity of soil present.
- (6) Describe the process of corrective action in case of non compliance.
- (7) Give a definition for “soil”.
- (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

Experts having practical experience in different disciplines of soil borne pests, invasive plant species, horticulture. Expertise in phytosanitary issues, developing phytosanitary measures for import of soil in relation with plants and the standard setting procedure of the IPPC are also desirable.

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 position on soil movement (2003).

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 Movement of growing media in association with plants for planting in international trade (2005-004)

2007-05 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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