



## SPECIFICATION 56

# International movement of cut flowers and branches

(2012)

### Title

International movement of cut flowers and branches (2008-005).

### Reason for the standard

A large volume of cut flowers and branches is moved in international trade and these products may be a pathway for quarantine pests. Delivery of these perishable commodities may be delayed because of identification or treatment of pests detected at points of entry. Guidelines on how to minimize risks from quarantine pests present in cut flowers and branches prior to importation could contribute to mitigating risks related to the international trade of these commodities and to reducing delays at borders.

### Scope and purpose

The standard will provide guidance to national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) on identifying pest risks associated with cut flowers and branches and on phytosanitary measures (including production practices) available to reduce the likelihood of pests being moved with these commodities in international trade.

### Tasks

The expert working group should undertake the following tasks:

- (1) Assess the importance of cut flowers and branches as pathways for quarantine pests in international trade.
- (2) Provide guidance on particular pest risk and risk mitigation factors pertaining to the class that may need to be taken into account when pest risk assessment is carried out by NPPOs and phytosanitary import requirements are determined, while recognizing that the commodity class of cut flowers and branches has traditionally been considered low risk
- (3) Identify particular pest risks associated with cut flowers and branches obtained from naturally occurring plants (i.e. collected in the wild).
- (4) Gather and analyse information related to current production and trade practices to identify how they influence pest risk and how they could be utilized in pest risk management, taking into consideration the following:
  - a. geographic location of the place of production

- b. production system types (open, closed) and components (water sources, growing medium conditions, seed and other planting material source and quality, climatic conditions, crop cycle)
  - c. pest management practices
  - d. post-harvest treatments (e.g. physical, mechanical, chemical)
  - e. practices in packing facilities and conveyances (e.g. screening, segregation of material (including avoidance of mixing material from different origins in consignments), time of loading, protection of cargo to prevent infestation, packaging system and materials, use of cooling systems)
  - f. use and relative importance of industry practices on arrival.
- (5) Identify appropriate phytosanitary measures to minimize the risks of quarantine pests during the production, harvesting, treatment, packing and transport of cut flowers and branches, taking into consideration, for example, the following:
- a. pest free areas, areas of low pest prevalence, pest free production sites or places of production
  - b. use of a systems approach
  - c. phytosanitary security and consignment integrity up to import clearance.
- (6) Consider including a list of major pest groups associated with cut flowers and branches in international trade and of appropriate phytosanitary measures for each pest group.
- (7) Review relevant existing ISPMs, regional standards and available related agreements, and identify examples of procedures that could be considered during the development of this standard.
- (8) Provide guidance on how to manage the pest risk, particularly pertaining to fruit and other propagules for ornamental use that are associated with cut flowers and branches.
- (9) Consider pest risks associated with dried cut flowers and branches.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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**

Five to seven experts who collectively have phytosanitary expertise in export and import systems dealing with international trade of cut flowers and branches, expertise in commodity risk analysis, and

expertise in production systems and post-harvest treatments for cut flowers and branches. Scientific expertise in specific areas (e.g. entomology, nematology, phytopathology) is 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.

### **Discussion papers**

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

### **Publication history**

*This is not an official part of the specification*

2008-03 CPM-3 added topic *International movement of cut flowers and foliage* (2008-005) to the list of topics for IPPC standards

2010-04 SC deferred draft

2010-11 SC deferred draft

2011-05 SC deferred draft

2012-04 SC revised and approved draft for MC

2012-06 MC

2012-11 SC revised and approved specification

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