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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Tenth Session

Rome, 16-20 March 2015

Report on activities of the Standards Committee - 2014

Agenda item 8.1

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Standards Committee Chairperson on behalf of the Standards Committee

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the activities of the Standard Committee (SC) since CPM-9 (2014). As always, the SC strives to be transparent and to ensure that reports of meetings are posted quickly. This report summarises information from meetings of the SC, technical panels (TPs), and expert working groups (EWGs). Full details are available on the IPPC (<https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting>).

2. As in other years, the SC had a busy year with many achievements, which would not be possible without the inputs of many people. In particular, I would like to draw the CPM's attention to the efforts of SC members, TP members and the many participants (e.g. in EWGs and providing comments), whose inputs are essential to produce high quality draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and to reach the desirable international harmonization. We would also not be able to function without the dedication and attention to detail of the IPPC Secretariat.

### 1. General issues

#### 1.1 Framework for Standards and Implementation

3. Members will recall that the CPM-7 (2012) agreed that a task force should be set up to consider a Framework for Standards in 2013. A Task Force on the Framework for IPPC standards met in Ottawa in September 2013 and at CPM-9 (2014) the Commission urged the SC to finalize the IPPC Framework for standards gap analysis and present it to the CPM. In May 2014, the SC decided that a small subgroup of SC members should identify gaps and refine the draft Framework. The small group was hosted by Costa Rica in August 2014 (see document CPM 2015/19).

4. The draft Framework is based on the roles and responsibilities in the Convention and the strategic objectives in the IPPC Strategic Framework. As well as identifying gaps in standards, the subgroup also considered the availability of and need for additional information and therefore produced a draft “Framework for Standards and Implementation”. The draft was presented to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in October 2014 and the SC considered it in its November 2014 meeting. At this meeting, the SC reviewed the sections relevant to adopted ISPMs and topics for standards. The SC also identified gaps, taking into account comments from the SPG. The standards portion of the draft Framework for Standards and Implementation is included in CPM 2015/19.

5. The draft Framework for Standards and Implementation will be considered by other IPPC groups over the next year with the aim of presenting a revised version for adoption to CPM-11 in 2016.

6. In November 2014, the SC requested contracting parties to review the draft Framework and submit any comments on the existing and ongoing gap analysis via SC or SPG members. The SC also urged contracting parties to consider the draft Framework for Standards when submitting proposals in the biennial call for topics that is planned to occur in 2015.

7. The SC recommended that, once the Framework for Standards and Implementation is adopted, the SPG considers adding a standing agenda item on identification of new and emerging issues that might require harmonised guidance for inclusion in the Framework. The SC also recommended that the SPG reviews and updates the Framework annually as appropriate and recommends modifications to the CPM for adoption.

## **1.2 Review of the Standard Setting Process**

8. The SC has been reviewing the standard setting process and is due to make recommendations to CPM-11 (2016). An initial discussion took place at the May 2014 meeting, with additional work by a small group after the meeting. In November, due to the number of issues to be addressed, the SC decided that the SC working group, the SC-7, should set aside 2 days to focus on this review. The tasks for the SC-7 are included in Appendix 13 of the November 2014 SC report<sup>1</sup> and the SC-7 will report to the November 2015 SC meeting.

## **1.3 Dealing with Formal Objections**

9. The SC considered four draft ISPMs that had received at least one formal objection (one concept ISPM and three phytosanitary treatments (PTs)). The November 2014 SC report contains details of the issues considered on the draft *Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)*. The SC responses to the formal objections to the PTs have been made publically available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)<sup>2</sup>.

10. The SC consulted the FAO legal officer regarding the process for dealing with formal objections. The SC took into account the concerns expressed by contracting parties at CPM-9 (2014) on voting on PTs and considered alternative options, but there was no simple solution. It is important that ISPMs are not blocked in a continual process of formal objections. The SC therefore recommended to CPM, based on the current standard setting procedure, the drafts for adoption by a vote with no possibility of a formal objection (document CPM 2015/06), recognising that contracting parties, at CPM-10 (2014) can decide how they wish to proceed.

## **1.4 Replacement and revision of standards**

11. In order to prevent confusion and minimise administrative burdens of having multiple versions of ISPMs after they are revised, the SC agreed that old versions of ISPMs should be revoked. The SC also agreed that, wherever possible, the use of direct quotations from ISPMs should be avoided in new or revised ISPMs. This is to help reduce the need for consequential changes to such ISPMs when the original ISPM from which the quotations are taken is revised (see document CPM 2015/05).

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<sup>1</sup> 2014-11 Report of the Standards Committee: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/2014-11-report-standards-committee>

<sup>2</sup> Formal objections web page on IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/formal-objections>

## 1.5 Concept of a standard

12. The SC has discussed the concept of a standard, both in the context of the development of the Framework for Standards and during the last few consultation periods on draft IPSMs, following concerns that some draft standards did not contain requirements that could be harmonised by contracting parties. In the case of the draft ISPM on *International movement of wood*, the SC adjusted the drafts both prior to and after the substantial concerns commenting period in November 2014 to include more requirements that contracting parties should implement. The draft is recommended by the SC for adoption (document CPM 2015/06), but it is important to continue the discussion on the concept of a standard.

13. The concept of a standard is relevant to discussions on the Framework for Standards and Implementation (section 1.1). For example, for each proposed topic or gap it is relevant for the CPM to consider whether a standard or another type of IPPC document is needed and the level of priority the ISPM or other documentation should have. Contracting parties may also wish to consider the concept of a standard when responding to the call for topics planned for this year.

## 2. May 2014 meeting

### 2.1 Draft IPSMs for member consultation

14. The SC approved the following draft IPSMs for member consultation in 2014:

- 1) *International movement of seed* (2009-003),
- 2) *International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment* (2006-004),
- 3) *Amendments to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms)* 2014 (1994-001).

15. Prior to the meeting, the SC had approved the following 6 draft PTs and 4 draft diagnostic protocols (DPs) for member consultation by e-decision:

PTs:

- 1) High temperature forced air treatment for *Bactrocera melanotus* and *B. xanthodes* (diptera: tephritidae) on *Carica papaya* (2009-105),
- 2) Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Carica papaya* var. solo (2009-109),
- 3) Vapour heat treatment for *Ceratitis capitata* on *Mangifera indica* (2010-106),
- 4) Cold treatment for *Ceratitis capitata* on *Citrus clementina* var. *Clemenules* (2010-102),
- 5) Irradiation for *Ostrinia nubilalis* (2012-009),
- 6) Cold treatment for *Ceratitis capitata* on *Citrus sinensis* var. *Navel* and *Valencia-late* (2010-103),

DPs:

- 7) *Phytoplasmas* (2004-018),
- 8) *Erwinia amylovora* (2004-009),
- 9) *Ditylenchus destructor* / *D. dipsaci* (2004-017) and
- 10) Genus *Anastrepha* (2004-015).

### 2.2 Specifications

16. The SC approved two specifications:

- 1) *International movement of grain* (specification 60<sup>3</sup>) and
- 2) *Revision of ISPM 6 Guidelines for surveillance* (specification 61<sup>4</sup>).

### 2.3 Work of the TPs

<sup>3</sup> Specification 60 - International movement of grain: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/specification-60-international-movement-grain>

<sup>4</sup> Specification 61 - Revision of ISPM 6:1997 (Guidelines for surveillance): <https://www.ippc.int/publications/specification-61-revision-isp-61997-guidelines-surveillance>

17. The SC undertook its annual review of the work of the TPs. Regarding the TP for phytosanitary treatments (TPPT), the SC recognised the large amount of work involved in evaluating treatment submissions and also agreed to post the TPPT procedures publically, so that contracting parties are aware of the evidence used to determine whether treatments are acceptable. A TPPT procedure on the acceptance of experience or historical based PTs was discussed and a revised version will be considered in the future by the SC. It was also noted that much valuable information on draft treatments is contained in TPPT reports<sup>5</sup>, which contracting parties are recommended to use when they are considering draft PTs.

18. Part of the work of the TP for the Glossary (TPG) involved reviewing the use of *pest list* and *list of pests* and the TPG considered there was no need for definitions. The SC noted that the terms *commodity pest list* and *host pest list* are already defined and should be used where appropriate.

19. The TPG also made recommendations relating to several ISPMs which should be corrected when they are revised (see TPG report February 2014<sup>6</sup>). The SC noted that *commodity pest list* and *host pest list* are already defined and should be used where appropriate. Results of a review of consistency across ISPMs and other ink amendments are presented in documents CPM 2015/09 and CPM 2015/11.

### 3. SC-7 meeting

20. The SC-7 considered the comments submitted during the 2013 member consultation period and recommended the following four draft ISPMs for the 2014 substantial concerns commenting period (SCCP):

- 1) *International movement of wood* (2006-029),
- 2) *International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting* (2005-004),
- 3) *Phytosanitary procedures for fruit fly (*Tephritidae*) management* (2005-010) and
- 4) *Amendments (2013) to ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms)*.

## 4. November 2014 meeting

### 4.1 Draft IPSMs

21. The SC considered all the comments submitted during the SCCP and adjusted the four draft ISPMs. Four drafts were approved for adoption as indicated in document CPM 2015/06.

22. Following an initial discussion at the May 2014 meeting, the SC agreed that there should be a third meeting of the expert working group on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001). The terms of reference for the group are included as Appendix 16 of the November 2014 report.

23. The SC also discussed the topic *Phytosanitary pre-import clearance* (2005-003) at both the 2014 May and November meetings. An EWG had been held in 2008 and many revisions of the draft ISPM have been produced and considered by the SC since then, but these have not been considered suitable for approval for member consultation. The SC acknowledges that the definition of *pre-clearance* in ISPM 5 is incorrect, but there are many opinions regarding the concept and the SC has considered proposals for new terms such as *pre-import clearance* and *bilateral arrangements*. In May, in order to work on a draft ISPM that could be approved for member consultation, SC members agreed on the following concept, which does not have a name: “in some cases, for facilitating trade logistics, contracting parties may bilaterally negotiate an arrangement for allowing clearance of consignments in the exporting country by the NPPO of the importing country”. The draft ISPM is being revised based on this concept and will be considered in May 2015.

<sup>5</sup> TPPT meeting reports available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments>

<sup>6</sup> 2014 TPG Meeting Report: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/2014-tpg-meeting-report-rome-italy>

## 4.2 Draft specifications

24. Prior to the meeting, the SC approved by e-decision four draft specifications for member consultation:

- 1) Use of specific import authorization (2008-006) (Annex to ISPM 20. *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*),
- 2) Authorization of Non-PPPO entities to perform phytosanitary actions (2014-002),
- 3) Guidance on pest risk management (2014-001) and;
- 4) Requirements for the use of phytosanitary treatments as phytosanitary measures (2014-008).

## 4.3 Other issues

25. There is an ongoing discussion within the SC on the use of the term *phytosanitary measures* and whether it should be used in a limited sense (i.e. only relating to meet phytosanitary export requirements) or whether it should be used in a broader context to include activities relating to quarantine pests generally.

## 5. Other activities

26. Since CPM-9, the SC has adopted on behalf of the CPM the following two DPs:

- 1) *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine) Aa on fruit<sup>7</sup> on fruit and
- 2) *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*<sup>8</sup>.

27. The DP notification period<sup>9</sup> for *Potato spindle tuber viroid* (2006-022) started on 15 December 2014 and closed on 30 January 2015.

28. For the first time there will be two member consultations<sup>10</sup> for DPs during 2015 (30 January – 30 June 2015 and 1 July – 30 November 2015).

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<sup>7</sup> DP 5: *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (McAlpine) Aa on fruit: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/dp-5-2014-phylosticta-citricarpa-mcalpine-aa-fruit>

<sup>8</sup> DP 6: *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/dp-6-2014-xanthomonas-citri-subsp-citri>

<sup>9</sup> DP notification period: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/draft-ispms/notification-period-dps>

<sup>10</sup> Member consultation on draft ISPMs: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-ispms>