

NROs UPDATE

National Reporting Obligations

Protecting the world's plant resources from pests



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Timely reporting of information

It is of utmost importance to provide reports promptly so that stakeholders are able to adjust their processes, conditions and procedures in a way that will not cause any challenges for the transboundary movement of plants and plant products. Failing to do this can result in delays and challenges with the arrival of goods at borders as the product may no longer meet the national phytosanitary requirements. Delays at the borders can often cause major losses to some categories of product and will also result in a substantial increase in costs for transporters.

Time is particularly of essence in case of the reporting of occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests which may be of immediate or potential danger to other contracting parties. Hence, the encouragement in ISPM 17 of initial reports which are not final and are supposed to be updated as more information becomes available – there are good examples of countries undertaking reporting in this manner on the IPP.

Reporting significant instances of non-compliance with phytosanitary certification to the exporting or re-exporting contracting party is crucial as well. The exporting or re-exporting contracting party needs to be informed immediately about the issues with certification in order to carry out an investigation to establish the causes and take corrective actions when necessary without prolonged disruption to trade.

Did you know?

An IPPC Official Contact Point is a standard type of contact. There are also other types of Contact Points:

- *IPPIC Unofficial Contact Point*: for contracting parties which are yet to officially nominate a contact point;
- *IPPIC Information Point*: for non-contracting parties;
- *IPPIC Local Contact*: for dependent territories of contracting parties.



Reporting NRO information – who and what?

The IPPC (1997) stipulates the NROs and some ISPMs further elaborate detail of reporting necessary for a functional IPPC information exchange system. However, this is the minimum expected national reporting that needs to take place to ensure an effective phytosanitary system at both a national and international level.

Instead of only providing the minimal amount of information in your national reports, think about what you are trying to achieve.

What: What do you expect from other contracting party when they report NROs? Timeliness, accuracy, verified information and enough detail to enable you country to assess the impact on your trade (for trading partners) and/or to be able to assess phytosanitary risks associated with imported or transit plants or plant products. What support material may be useful to a contracting party for the given report, if any?

Who: The basic requirements for who should receive the reports are all those stipulated by the IPPC and ISPMs. Which of your trading partners or national partners (e.g. industry), not specifically stipulated in the IPPC or ISPMs, need the information to complete their work effectively and efficiently?

Take a minute to think about what message and information you are going to report and who needs this information to do their work. It will be time well spent.

Remember:

- ✓ that by effectively reporting you are creating an example of good practices that others will be likely to follow – ultimately you will reap the benefits of the initial time and effort spent doing your job well.
- ✓ reporting to more partners and contracting parties is better than under reporting and effecting trade through inappropriate assessment of phytosanitary risks or due to unknown conditions that need to be met (e.g. changing regulations).
- ✓ by reporting all conditions for import in a timely, effective and transparent manner will substantially *reduce* challenges and delays at your borders as stakeholders will know exactly what the conditions and expectations are.
- ✓ timely, accurate and efficient reporting builds trust between trading partners over time.

CPM has agreed that the preferred method of meeting NROs is by reporting through the IPP. This also ensures the information is available to everyone at once and hence the most effective way of transmitting the information to everyone at once.

Year of the IPPC OCP

This series of newsletters (01 – 06) will be published from October 2014 to March 2015 and will focus on the objectives and functioning of OCPs. Please make sure you read them all.

The content of the report

Every report should be as clear and precise as possible, taking into account all the information available during the time of drafting the report. While drafting any report it is often best to place yourself in the recipient's shoes or ask yourself a question: what kind of information I would find useful while reading the reports prepared by other contracting parties.

It is always recommended to consult the [International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures](#) before releasing a report while its content is being debated. For example, the [ISPM No. 8 Determination of pest status in an area](#) should be taken into account while drafting a report on pest status. In case of reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests the [ISPM No. 17 Pest reporting](#) could be found useful, while [ISPM No. 13 Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency actions](#) is useful in reporting those items.

For example, a report on instances of non-compliance with phytosanitary certification and emergency actions should contain:

- Reference number.
- Date.
- Identity of the NPPO of the importing country
- Identity of the NPPO of the exporting country
- Identity of consignment.
- Identity of consignee and consignor
- Date of first action on the consignment
- Specific information regarding the nature of the non-compliance and emergency action including:
 - identity of pest
 - where appropriate, whether part or all of the consignment is affected
 - problems with documentation
 - phytosanitary import requirements to which the non-compliance applies
- Phytosanitary actions taken.

This is the minimum information that is required to accurately identify the consignment and to be able to follow-up appropriately and finally to provide feedback to the importing NPPO.

Before posting a report [on the IPP](#), if you are the IPP editor, it is advisable to make sure that:

- the facts and figures in the report were checked;
- the conclusions in the report were reached in accordance with a procedure existing in your country;
- other governmental and scientific institutions were consulted in accordance with a procedure existing in your country;
- the content is compliant with the IPPC and ISPMs;
- the content is not contradictory to other reports released before;
- data and records on which the report is based have been filed for future reference;
- the content was approved by the Official Contact Point of your country;
- the format is readable and the size is adequate to be posted on the IPP.

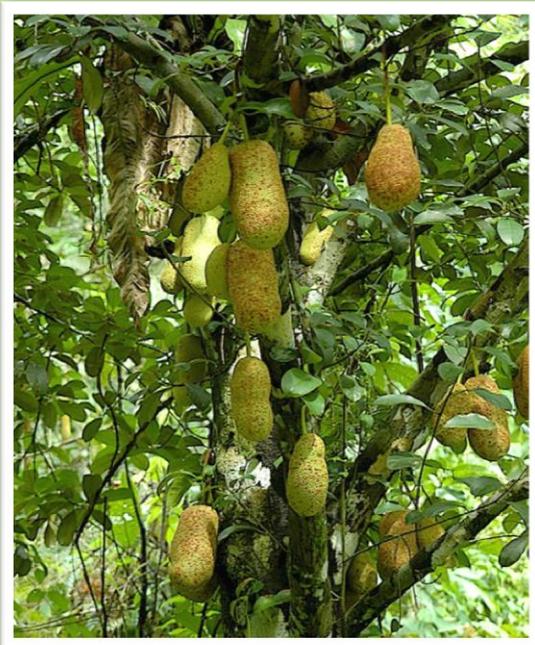
Changes among the OCPs in January

In January 2015, the following contracting parties nominated OCPs:

- Kazakhstan
- Azerbaijan
- Lao People's Democratic Republic

The following local contacts were updated:

- American Samoa
- Guam
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands



Think before your travel – understand the consequences of your actions.

How often do we travel and buy wooden curios, flowers or agricultural products to take home to your friends and family? THINK before you do this – you could be taking pests back to your country that could cause a very significant negative economic, food security or environmental impact.

Prevention is better than cure

Be responsible for your actions!

The acronym finder:

CP	IPPC Contracting Party
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IPP	International Phytosanitary Portal (www.ippc.int)
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
NPPO	National plant protection organization
NROs	National Reporting Obligations
NROAG	National Reporting Obligations Advisory Group
OCP	Official Contact Point of a Contracting Party to the Convention
RPPO	Regional plant protection organization



Contact the IPPC:

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