



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

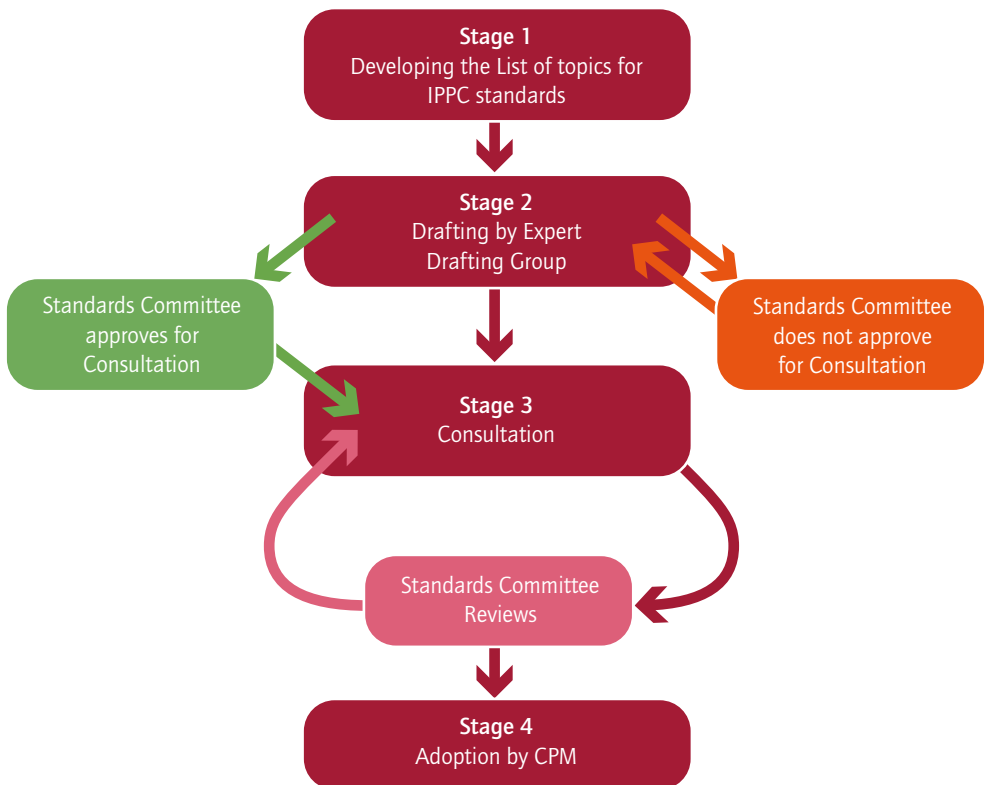
An Introduction to the IPPC Standard Setting Process



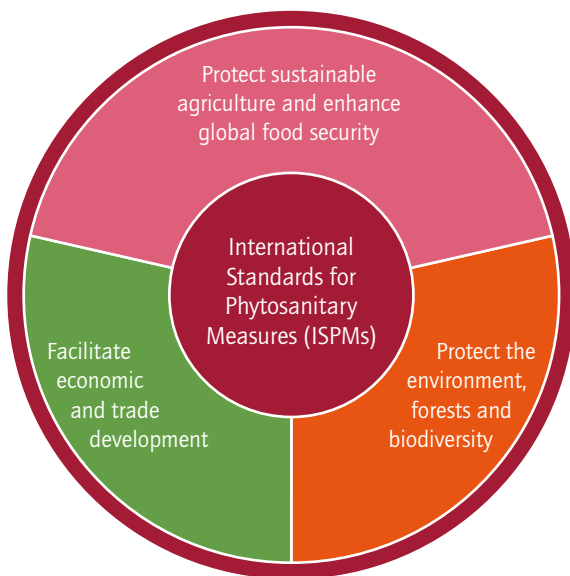
Standard Setting Process

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) are standards adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), which is the governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The IPPC is the only standard setting organization for plant health. In addition, these standards are recognized as the basis for phytosanitary measures applied in international trade by the Members of the World Trade Organization under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).

The following scheme summarizes the main stages of the standard setting process. For more detailed explanation, please visit the web page on standard setting at <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/>



What ISPMs do and how to get involved



Get involved!

- ◆ Participate in expert drafting groups and technical panels
- ◆ Engage with your national and regional plant protection organization
- ◆ Attend the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

We want to hear from you!

- ◆ Submission of topics (every 2 years) and treatments
- ◆ Consultations on draft specifications for standards
- ◆ Consultations on draft standards

Make a contribution!

- ◆ Sponsor the development of a draft standard
- ◆ Sponsor an expert drafting group
- ◆ Fund specific project
- ◆ Contribute to translation of documents into FAO languages
- ◆ Provide human resources to the IPPC



IPPC protects sustainable agriculture and enhances global food security: The draft ISPM on the International movement of grain

Food security – the reliable access to sufficient quantities of affordable, nutritious food – is critical for the entire world.

Recognizing the role that ISPMs play in enhancing food security through the safe trade of commodities, the CPM is currently developing an ISPM on the international movement of grain.

Interview with Ruth Woode, IPPC Standards Committee member from Ghana

How does the international movement of grain affect food security?


The international movement of grains has brought “exotic” pests to my part of the world. The larger Grain Borer (*Prostephanus truncates*) is an example of one of these pests which has spread over long distances and has established itself in the African continent. This has negative impacts on food security and is a serious threat to stored maize and dried cassava chips which are major staple foodstuffs.

How would this standard benefit importing and exporting countries?

The proposed standard would identify and describe specific phytosanitary measures that could help to reduce pest risks prior to export, during transfer, on arrival, and during handling and processing. Exporting and importing countries would benefit from such guidance on harmonized approaches for managing pest risks associated with the international movement of grain.



Building upon a 2011 workshop on the international movement of grain that was held in Vancouver, Canada, the first meeting of the expert working group established for this standard is planned for September 2016 in Melbourne, Australia. This meeting will be an opportunity for importing and exporting countries, along with experts from industry, to gather together and develop a draft ISPM. It is anticipated that, once adopted and implemented, this standard will help reduce the spread of pests and thereby contribute to global food security.



IPPC protects the environment, forests and biodiversity: Fighting against Invasive alien species

IPPC and invasive alien species

- ◆ Invasive alien species can have a devastating impact on terrestrial, marine and freshwater environments, on forests, agriculture and biodiversity.
- ◆ The IPPC is the standard setting organization responsible for preventing the spread and introduction of invasive alien species (pests) affecting plants and plant products.

The threat of pests for the environment, forests and biodiversity

- ◆ Pests like *Anoplophora glabripennis*, the Asian long-horned beetle (ALB), are considered a serious threat to forests. The arrival of this pest in North America in the 1980s in wood packaging material was the driving force for the development of ISPM 15 (*Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*).
- ◆ The European woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*) is a major global threat to forests and the forest sector causing considerable damage and costs for control. Its international spread has been associated with the movement of nursery stock, untreated pine logs and sawnwood, and untreated packing materials.

Demonstrated success against invasive alien species

- ◆ ISPM 15 provides internationally agreed phytosanitary treatments that are applied to wood packaging material, which is then marked with an IPPC symbol to provide proof to importing countries that the wood has been treated appropriately, minimizing the likelihood of pest introduction.

Future standards to protect the environment, forests and biodiversity

The IPPC is continuing to develop standards that will prevent the spread and introduction of pests, thereby protecting the environment, forests and biodiversity, including:

- ◆ International movement of wood (2006-029)
- ◆ International movement of wood products and handicrafts made from wood (2008-008)
- ◆ International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment (2006-004)
- ◆ Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001)
- ◆ International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting (2005-004)



IPPC facilitates economic and trade development: Phytosanitary electronic certification

The IPPC and ISPMs play an essential role in harmonizing how countries manage the international trade of plants and promoting global cooperation on trade facilitation.

In order to reduce the risk of spreading pests, plants are often required to be accompanied by printed phytosanitary certificates, issued by the national plant protection organization of the exporting country, to attest that the commodity meets the requirements of the importing country. However, trade is evolving and the IPPC is evolving with it.

In 2014, the CPM has adopted Appendix 1 to ISPM 12 (*Electronic phytosanitary certificates, information on standard XML schemes and exchange mechanisms*), a crucial step towards the global harmonization of electronic certification schemes.

The IPPC ePhyto Steering Group is responsible for increasing the understanding and supporting the implementation of ePhyto, and monitoring the feasibility study of an ePhyto hub.

Interview with Nico Horn, Chair of the IPPC ePhyto Steering Group

What is an electronic phytosanitary certificate (ePhyto)?

An ePhyto serves the same purpose as the old-fashioned paper equivalent, it attests that a consignment meets phytosanitary import requirements which are established to prevent the movement of pests. Moving towards electronic-based, paper-free technology for the exchange of certificate information will facilitate trade even more.

How would the implementation of ePhyto benefit international trade?

The trade will become much quicker, allowing the exporting country to insert and share information almost in real time. It should also help reduce fraudulent certificates by using secure, direct exchange between national plant protection organizations.

The harmonized data format and content should make it easier to re-use the information for other purposes and will help to ensure the information is more complete and correct.

Speeding up the certification processes and eliminating the expensive paper for certificates will help to make the process more cost effective.

The development of an ePhyto hub may help give developing countries a fair chance to join in the electronic exchange of data at reduced costs.

"An electronic certification system that the whole world can use is certainly the direction that everyone should aim for in order to ensure the reduction of pest risks in international trade while keeping up with the ever faster logistics of trade".



Need further information?

IPPC Secretariat

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- ◆ Website: www.ippc.int

Internet

- ◆ [International Phytosanitary Portal](#)
- ◆ [Adopted standards](#)
- ◆ [Commission on Phytosanitary Measures](#)
- ◆ [Standards Committee](#)
- ◆ [IPP standard setting page](#)

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