



SPECIFICATION 60

International movement of grain

(2014)

Title

International movement of grain.

Reason for the standard

International trade in grain to be used for human consumption, animal feed or further processing (e.g. milling, oilseed crushing, biofuel production) is important to the economies of both grain-exporting and grain-importing countries. A stable grain trade is critical for feeding the world's growing population and it plays a major role in global food security. Grain has been traded in large volumes for centuries and has been considered a commodity of inherently low risk as it is primarily infested by storage pests that are cosmopolitan. Presently, the international grain trade is well developed and highly globalized, and it uses sophisticated infrastructure. Phytosanitary measures applied to the international movement of grain help reduce the risk of introduction and spread of quarantine pests into new geographical areas. These measures should be technically justified and not more restrictive to trade than required.

Although a number of general ISPMs (e.g. on pest risk analysis (PRA) and pest free areas) provide relevant guidance for the phytosanitary aspects of the international movement of grain, there is currently no adopted ISPM that focuses specifically on phytosanitary measures for the international movement of grain. This has resulted in a lack of harmonized approaches for managing pest risks associated with grain. Many national organizations and trading partners have developed guidelines and quality specifications, including grade standards, applicable to the international movement of grain. While many of these address only grain quality and/or food safety, some may have a significant effect on mitigating pest risk. It is important that national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) focus on phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests. Grain-exporting and grain-importing countries may benefit from guidance on the assessment of pest risks related to grain as a pathway for quarantine pests and on technically justified phytosanitary measures to manage such pest risks. Phytosanitary measures applied before export, during transport, on arrival, and during handling and processing in the importing country can be effective in pest risk mitigation and thereby help to improve food security and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, but international guidance is needed to ensure such measures are technically justified, commensurate with the level of risk, and not more restrictive to trade than required.

Purpose

The standard may facilitate the safe international movement of grain through harmonized guidance and criteria for the establishment of phytosanitary import requirements to be used by NPPOs. The application of this standard may help minimize the spread of pests due to the international movement of grain.

Scope

The standard applies to grain consignments of cereals, oilseeds and pulses intended for processing or consumption moved internationally. It provides more specific guidance than other ISPMs provide (in particular ISPM 11:2013) to assist NPPOs in identifying, assessing and managing the pest risks associated with the international movement of grain. The standard should identify and describe specific phytosanitary measures that could be used to reduce pest risk before export, during transport, on arrival, and during handling and processing in the importing country. The standard does not apply to seeds and does not specifically address issues related to living modified organisms (LMOs), food safety, climate change, and quality.

Tasks

The expert working group (EWG) should:

- (1) Identify and analyse existing international guidance such as standards or industry guidelines and practices (including commercial contract specifications) dealing with the international movement of grain and consider the extent to which these address phytosanitary issues and are relevant to the development and application of phytosanitary measures under the provisions of the IPPC. The frequency of interceptions and types of pests that have been introduced via the grain trade and which may be of quarantine concern should be considered.
- (2) Provide guidance for NPPOs when performing PRA for determining the potential of grain moving in international trade to be a pathway for quarantine pests. The pest risk should be specified for the intended use and the pest group (e.g. distinguishing between risks from insects and from viruses and contamination by weed seeds). Guidance should also be provided on assessing the likelihood of establishment of quarantine pests.
- (3) Identify phytosanitary import requirements most commonly used by NPPOs in relation to imported grain.
- (4) Identify and provide guidance for NPPOs on appropriate phytosanitary measures and their technical justifications and limitations, including consideration of, for example:
 - a) climatic factors (including those related to treatments)
 - b) the specific conditions for grain production, packaging, storage, transport and handling, in particular:
 - i. the relevance and limitations of applying the concepts of pest free areas, areas of low pest prevalence and pest free places of production, taking into account common and current practices and operational limitations
 - ii. the application of one or more pest risk mitigation measures, which may reduce the pest risk to a level that provides an appropriate level of protection to importing countries, while considering the intended use of the product
 - iii. any common practices that affect pest risk where specific guidance could be included
 - iv. sampling methods in relation to the pest of concern
 - c) practices in grain production and trade that may affect pest risk mitigation measures, including:
 - v. secure storage, processing, packaging or confinement of grain before, during shipping and transfer
 - vi. treatments of grain

- vii. situations at and after import such as the processing of grain at destination (e.g. milling, oilseed crushing, malting, biofuel production, pelleting, and cleaning and packaging/repackaging for retail sale)
 - viii. confinement and appropriate disposal or treatment of screenings and residues derived from cleaning the grain before processing, packaging or consumption
 - ix. conveyances.
- (5) Consider the need for guidance on specific situations (e.g. sampling or inspection protocols for pest detection that are, for example, appropriate to the consignment size and packaging) that could be included in annexes or appendixes to the ISPM.
 - (6) Consider whether the ISPM 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 ISPM.
 - (7) 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 Standards Committee.
 - (8) Recommend, where appropriate, the development of supplementary material to aid implementation by contracting parties.

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 International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards>).

Expertise

Eight to ten phytosanitary experts with collective expertise in the following areas: development or implementation of phytosanitary measures to manage pest risks associated with the international movement of grain; PRA; grain inspection, testing or storage; and existing international guidance for the international movement of grain or other plant products. Expertise in exporting and importing countries' needs should be equally represented.

In addition to these experts, two or three experts from the grain industry (producing, packaging, storage, trading, transport, handling or processing) or from relevant international organizations may be invited to participate at the EWG meeting(s) or part of a meeting as invited experts.

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, discussion papers submitted in relation to this work, and guidance

provided from the Open-Ended Workshop on the International Movement of Grain (Vancouver, December 2011).

Discussion papers

Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the EWG.

Publication history

2008-03 CPM-5 added topic *International movement of grain* (2008-007)

2011-12 Open-ended workshop to collect, consider and discuss information on phytosanitary issues related to the international movement of grain

2012-04 SC reviewed draft and approved for MC

2012-09 Steward reviewed countries' comments and redrafted text

2012-11 SC revised draft specification to reflect responses from member consultation and SC discussions. SC has not approved the draft specification.

2013-03 CPM discussed topic and requested contracting parties to submit comments on strategic issues to the SC members from their region

2013-11 SC reviewed draft

2013-12 Member consultation on draft specification

2014-05 SC revised and approved the specification

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