



IFQRG
Webpage



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Elucidating the efficacy of
phytosanitary measures for
invasive alien
species moving in wood
packaging material

International Forestry Quarantine Research Group – Phytosanitary science to support the safe global movement of forest products

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Introduction

What is IFQRG?

IFQRG is an open and independent international group of scientists, regulators and industry participants that provides scientific analysis and review of global forestry-related phytosanitary issues.

The goals of IFQRG are to:

- Identify and respond to high priority questions that face the international forestry phytosanitary community
- Carry out collaborative independent research and analysis as required
- Provide advice to the regulatory community including the bodies of the International Plant Protection Convention
- Convene annual face to face meetings (supporting virtual attendance) to allow focussed discussion and strengthen collaborative bonds

Key linkages with the IPPC

Since 2004, IFQRG has responded to requests for scientific information on forestry quarantine issues from the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the Standards Committee, Implementation Committee and the associated Technical Panels and Expert Working Groups. IFQRG supports the IPPC Community by addressing critical forestry quarantine issues for the global plant protection community through scientific analysis, discussion and collaborative research.



Figure 1. Inset: *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian longhorned beetle ALB) emerging from untreated wood packaging material, background: crates with stone (photos by Thomas Schröder, BMLEH)



Figure 2A, B. Dead standing spruce trees due to *Ips typographus* (European spruce bark beetle) (photos by Thomas Schröder, BMLEH)



Figure 3. IFQRG participants at annual meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome, November 2024 (photo by IPPC photographer)

Main deliverables

IFQRG has played a significant role in:

- Providing science to support treatment guidance for the revision of **ISPM 15**
- Coordination of scientific research to support new phytosanitary treatments for **ISPM 15** including:
 - Revisions to the methyl bromide schedule;
 - Establishment of bark thresholds on wood packaging material;
 - Research and operational development of dielectric heat and sulfuryl fluoride treatments for WPM;
 - The provision of data and scientific basis for the development of an Annex on the criteria for treatments
- Providing expertise, research and data to support:
 - The movement of wood standard **ISPM 39** and the annex to ISPM No. 39 on systems approaches for wood commodities
 - The NAPPO forest products systems approach standard **RSPM 41**, NAPPO Science and Technology Document 8 on Contaminating Pests, NAPPO Water Bath Interlaboratory Study

Future directions

- The IFQRG Molecular Tools Working Group development of a manuscript for publication on the use of molecular tools in phytosanitary trade
- Development of a manuscript on the issue of dry wood pests associated with treated wood packaging material
- IFQRG membership to pursue collaboration and research on:
 - treatments and guidance for wood chip trade
 - forest germplasm pathway analysis and treatment gaps
 - alternative treatments to methyl bromide support and research

Conclusions

IFQRG draws its membership from science, regulatory agencies and the international forest industry. To find out more about the annual IFQRG meeting, terms of reference, past meeting reports please visit the IFQRG webpage.



Figure 4. Heat treatment water bath for determining the specific lethal dose for forest product pests at the Pacific Forestry Centre (photo by Meghan Noseworthy, NRCan)



Figure 5. Experimental testing using a lab kiln for heat treatment of sawn green wood at 52 °C for 30 minutes to determine minimum lethal temperatures for pinewood nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (photo of experimental kiln at FPIInnovations by Angela Dale, NRCan)