



International Plant Protection Convention

**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

DRAFT SPECIFICATION

FOR ISPM

Systems for authorizing phytosanitary activities

**DRAFT
DOCUMENT**

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Major stages	Introduced to work programme by CPM-3 (2008). Draft specification considered by SC April 2010.
Notes	File template: IPPC Styles, May 2010.

DRAFT SPECIFICATION

Title for the standard

Systems for authorizing phytosanitary activities.

Reason for the standard

Authorization is referred to in the IPPC in Article V.2(a), as well as in several standards such as ISPM 7:1997 (*Export certification system*), ISPM 20:2004 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*) and ISPM 23:2005 (*Guidelines for inspection*). However, there is no standard addressing this concept specifically that would provide guidance to countries when authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary activities on their behalf. Authorization of entities is becoming increasingly more common in various regions of the world and an ISPM on this subject would provide the necessary guidance to national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) when they authorize entities to perform certain phytosanitary activities on their behalf.

Scope and purpose

This standard will describe the essential elements required for the authorization of entities, including individuals, facilities, businesses and other organizations, to perform specific phytosanitary activities on behalf of the NPPO. It will provide guidance on the responsibilities of the NPPO in terms of developing criteria for authorization, assessing compliance, and the granting, removal and reinstatement of authorization. In addition, the ISPM should define the responsibilities of the entity to be authorized. Because phytosanitary certificates are issued by authorized public officers only (CPM-4, 2009), this form of phytosanitary activity is not to be included in the consideration.

Tasks

The expert working group (EWG) should:

- (1) consider guidelines for authorization developed and currently used by NPPOs and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs)
- (2) consider the use of “authorize” and similar terms in adopted ISPMs and how this relates to procedures and requirements outlined in this new standard and provide recommendations to the Standards Committee on that matter
- (3) discuss and determine the phytosanitary activities that may be performed by authorized entities (testing, inspection, treatment, etc.)
- (4) discuss and determine the different categories of entities (e.g. individuals, facilities, businesses, organizations) that may be authorized
- (5) discuss and determine the essential elements/criteria required for the authorization of such entities
- (6) prepare guidance on how to determine and list the responsibilities of the NPPO when authorizing entities
- (7) prepare guidance on how to determine and list the responsibilities of the entities being authorized
- (8) prepare guidance on how to determine the minimum requirements to be met when authorizing an entity to conduct specific activities on behalf of an NPPO
- (9) describe the requirements, criteria and processes to be put in place for the authorization of entities including granting the authorization, assessment/audit of compliance, removal and reinstatement of authorization
- (10) determine and describe the minimum requirements for auditors involved in the delivery of audits at authorized entities

- (11) consider whether the new standard could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment, and if so, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft standard.

Provision of resources

Funding for the meeting is provided by the IPPC Secretariat (FAO) except where expert participation is voluntarily funded by the expert's government. 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.

Steward

Please refer to the IPPC standard setting work programme.

Expertise

Six to seven experts who have a wide knowledge in phytosanitary activities including at least one person knowledgeable in authorization programmes and their elements and at least one person knowledgeable in auditing compliance with authorization programmes.

Approval

CPM-3 in 2008 added this topic to the IPPC standard setting work programme.

References

The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work.

Relevant NAPPO standards:

NAPPO RSPM No. 8. 2008. *The authorization of individuals to issue phytosanitary certificates.* Ottawa, NAPPO.

NAPPO RSPM No. 9. 2009. *The authorization of laboratories for phytosanitary testing.* Ottawa, NAPPO.

NAPPO RSPM No. 28. 2009. *Guidelines for authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary services.* Ottawa, NAPPO.

Discussion papers

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