



# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Twelfth Session

**Incheon, Republic of Korea , 5-11 April 2017**

**Adjustments to the Language Review Group Process**

**Agenda item 9.5**

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat**

## I. Introduction

1. The Language review group (LRG) process was adopted by CPM-5 (2010) to correct translation issues in ISPMs following adoption. Currently there are LRGs for all languages (except English).

2. The current process foresees that the Secretariat forwards adopted ISPMs to the LRG Coordinators after the adopted ISPMs have been translated by FAO Translation services. The LRGs then review the translations and forward the reviewed standards to the Secretariat, who sends them for review by FAO Translation services. Often, several consultations between the LRGs and FAO Translation services take place before consensus on all or most changes is reached. The Secretariat then prepares a CPM document in six languages and attaches the adjusted standards to the appropriate language version with a recommendation for the CPM to note the changes in the translations.

## II. Considerations

3. Over the past six years, LRGs have presented translation adjustments to the CPM for noting and the CPM has never once proposed modifications or provided additional comments to the LRG adjustments. Preparing the LRG paper in six languages requires significant resources due to the complexity of presenting a document with a large numbers of standards and attaching the appropriate language versions to the appropriate language version of the CPM paper.

4. It is noted that presenting the LRG reviewed standards in languages only concerns the contracting parties who use the specific languages, thus limiting the engagement from other contracting

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parties. This means that contrary to other CPM agenda items, where all contracting parties provide their input on the question of translation adjustments, any potential discussion on one language version, does not engage contracting parties who do not use that language.

5. Therefore, the IPPC Secretariat suggests that the LRG process be revised to reduce the onerous work related to presenting the standards for noting by CPM and to allow CPM to focus on issues where all contracting parties participate. The proposed changes are outlined in Attachment 1 to this paper in strikethrough and underline.

### **III. Proposed changes**

6. The IPPC Secretariat proposes that the adjusted translations will no longer be presented to the CPM for noting but that, instead, all contracting parties will be informed via an email once the LRG adjusted standards have been published. The CPM will continue to note that the LRGs have provided adjustments to the translations of specific standards, but the actual translations will no longer be attached to the CPM paper. A note in the publication history of the standard concerned, will communicate that the CPM noted the standard adjusted by the LRG and that previously adopted versions of the ISPMs had been revoked.

7. Currently, when FAO Translation services and the LRG do not reach consensus, FAO Translation services provides explanations to this effect, which are recorded in the CPM paper. This is primarily done to provide adequate explanations to the LRGs. The IPPC Secretariat suggests that instead focus be placed on reaching consensus and in the event this is not possible, adequate explanations be given in writing. This would entail that the Secretariat receives the explanations in writing to be shared with the LRG in question, however, the explanations would not be made public.

### **IV. Decision**

8. The CPM is invited to

- 1) *approve* the modified LRG process as presented in Attachment 1 to this paper, and agree that the modified process take effect immediately.

**PROPOSED REVISION TO THE  
PROCEDURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIEW GROUPS**

*Agreed by CPM-5 (2010); revised by CPM-6 (2011); revised by CPM-8 (2013)*

*(Updated 2015-03-26)*

Procedure to correct errors in International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in language versions other than English after adoption

1. Representatives from national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) from each FAO language group, other than English, are invited to organize a Language Review Group (LRG) to consider the preferred use of terminology and to identify editing and formatting errors resulting from translation. Each LRG should identify a coordinator for communications with the Secretariat, describe how they will organize communications within the group (e.g. teleconference, exchange of documents etc.), explain its structure and respond to queries from members on how to join the LRG. Each LRG should invite a representative from the appropriate FAO language translation group and the respective TPG member(s) for that language to participate in order to ensure a clear understanding of the LRG issues.
2. Once established and recognized by the Secretariat, each LRG is invited to review adopted ISPMs and submit comments, in track changes, on terminology preferences, editorial and formatting mistakes to the Secretariat through their identified coordinator no later than three months after they have been advised that the adopted ISPMs are posted on the IPP ([www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)); this time begins for the specified language once the ISPM has been posted on the IPP in that language.
3. FAO Translation services may participate as a member of the LRG but any official communication on proposed changes to the ISPMs should come from the LRG Coordinator to the IPPC Secretary ([ippc@fao.org](mailto:ippc@fao.org)) in order to maintain version control of the standards.
4. If no comments are submitted, the version adopted at CPM would remain the final version.
5. If comments are submitted by the LRG coordinators through the above process, the Secretariat will forward the comments, in track changes, to the FAO Translation services.
6. The FAO Translation services will review the proposed changes. If all proposed changes are acceptable by the FAO translation services, the track change version of the ISPM produced by the LRG will be forwarded to the Secretariat. If FAO Translation services disagree with any of the LRG proposed changes, they will document the reasons and consult with the LRG to discuss and seek consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, the FAO Translation service will make the final decision and provide explanations in writing.
7. Comments regarding the translation of glossary terms will be transmitted to the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) through the SC as they may result in consequential changes to numerous ISPMs. Formatting issues would be addressed by the Secretariat.
8. The Secretariat will post the modified ISPMs on the IPP and notify all contracting parties as a document for the next CPM meeting. The CPM agenda will include a standing item for verification noting that the specific standards were adjusted. ~~of modifications and a corresponding paper will indicate which ISPMs have been modified along with reasons why any LRG proposed changes have not been accepted. This agenda item will not be used to re-open discussion on already adopted ISPMs; it is strictly to verify terminology, editorial and formatting corrections~~
9. The CPM will note that the specific standards were adjusted ~~request the IPPC Secretariat to accept all track changes as presented~~ and revoke previously adopted versions of the ISPMs.

Further information on LRG may be found on the IPP page: <https://www.ipcc.int/en/core-activities/governance/standards-setting/ispms/language-review-groups/>