



MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A GUIDE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF ISPM 15 (2017-043) (VM01)

12 November 2020 at 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. (Central European Time, GMT +1)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] Mr Brent LARSON, the IPPC Secretariat, Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) Team Lead, welcomed the participants. He introduced himself and provided an anecdotal history of the development of ISPM 15: *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade*. He highlighted some of the challenges related to the standard and its development and stressed the need for comprehensive guidance to support its implementation. He also emphasized the value of each expert's contributions to the development of the guide.

2. Meeting arrangements

- [2] There was no objection for the Secretariat to record the meeting.
- [3] The participants introduced themselves and a Zoom group photograph was taken.
- [4] The Working Group (WG) selected Brad GETHING as Chairperson and Marcel DAWSON as rapporteur.
- [5] The agenda for the meeting was adopted and is presented in Appendix 1.

3. Administrative matters

- [6] Mr Guang YANG did not attend the meeting.
- [7] Participants agreed to send any corrections to their contact information to the IPPC Secretariat after the meeting.
- [8] The list of participants is presented in Appendix 2.
- [9] Three WG experts identified difficulties in accessing the restricted work area. The issues were related to both the stability of the server and to navigation between pages within the restricted work area. The IPPC Secretariat thanked the WG for raising these issues and promised to look into improving the interface.

4. Introduction to the IPPC Guides and the process for their development

- [10] Ms Stephanie BLOEM, one of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Leads for the ISPM 15 Guide, gave a presentation which provided information on the role of the IC, the general process for developing Guides and Training Materials and a brief summary of the steps leading to this point where a working group has been struck to develop the guide.

5. Standard setting and the process for the approval of ISPM 15 treatments

- [11] A presentation was delivered by the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) Lead for the Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) and the Steward for ISPM 15, which provided a brief introduction to the work of the Standards Committee (SC) particularly as it relates to ISPM 15. The presentation also highlighted some successes, challenges, common misconceptions and implementation issues associated with this standard. The speaker emphasized the importance of addressing how to interpret interceptions and what constitutes a non-compliance in the guide.

- [12] The IPPC Secretariat provided background on the development of phytosanitary treatments under the Standards Committee. The Technical Panel on Forest Quarantine (TPFQ) reviewed submissions for the inclusion of new treatments in ISPM 15 for practical application and the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) reviewed the treatments for efficacy.
- [13] The criteria for treatments under ISPM 15 are not specified in the standard, however new treatments have been reviewed, ensuring they were effective against *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Pine wood nematode) and *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian long-horned beetle). In general, the TPPT reviews submitted phytosanitary treatments against criteria set out in ISPM 28 which requires a stated level of efficacy for the phytosanitary treatment. The two most recent additions of wood packaging treatments added to ISPM 15 were sulfur dioxide (SF) and dielectric heat (DH).
- [14] DH treatment of wood has also been proposed as an annex to ISPM 28, however an objection to its adoption was submitted, due to concerns related to the application of the treatment. The heading of Annex 1 of ISPM 15 indicates that approved treatments may be applied to units of wood packaging material or to pieces of wood that are to be made into wood packaging material. It does not specify a diameter of wood that can be treated, however it states “*wood packaging material must be heated to achieve a minimum temperature of 60°C for 1 continuous minute throughout the entire profile of the wood (including its surface)*”. The TPPT noted that it may be difficult to reach a uniform heat distribution and ensure that the entire diameter of a bigger piece of wood is properly heated – a treatment application concern. The SC has put adoption of this treatment on hold until guidance on the application of this treatment is available, which is one of the tasks of this WG. The IPPC Secretariat concluded by explaining that the IPPC community is looking to members of this WG to provide good examples and guidance on applying DH treatment so that contracting parties will have confidence and be ready to accept this treatment under ISPM 28.
- [15] The IPPC Secretariat explained that there is an explanatory document¹ for ISPM 15 that was developed a few years ago. It is quite comprehensive, but is somewhat outdated. For example, it does not include the DH or SF treatments. The explanatory document was developed by a group of authors and SC members were invited to review it prior to posting, but it is not considered an official document as it has been neither approved by the SC nor adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. It is expected that the guide developed by this WG will supersede the explanatory document, but that this explanatory document will be a very good starting point for this guide.
- [16] Draft ISPMs on authorization of entities to perform phytosanitary treatments and the linked ISPM on audits are also relevant to the development of this guide. These ISPMs have not yet been adopted. The draft ISPM on *Requirements for NPPOs if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions* (2014-002)² is further along than the draft ISPM on auditing and is expected to be presented to CPM in 2021, but both of these proposed standards have generated a lot of discussion and controversy during consultation.
- [17] Finally, the IPPC Secretariat informed the WG that there is an open call for phytosanitary treatments and that any NPPO or RPPO may propose a treatment at any time for consideration by TPPT for addition to ISPM 28.
- [18] One working group member pointed out that there are a number of challenges related to the implementation of ISPM 15 and that, in his opinion, dunnage poses a much higher risk than pallets and other types of wood packaging material and suggested that dunnage may pose a particular challenge for regulators since it is difficult to control. He also noted that new treatments and new technologies for treating wood packaging material are being developed and that the guide should be structured in a

¹ ISPM 15 Explanatory Document (by S. Sela, T Schroeder, M. Mamoru & M. Ormsby): <https://www.ippc.int/en/work-area-publications/88982/>

² CPM 2020/20 Appendix 1: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88149/>

manner that will be flexible enough to allow the use of new technologies and new treatments in the future. Finally, he stressed the need to balance operational realities with pest risk.

- [19] Another WG member asked the ISPM 15 Steward whether, after the meeting, she would provide data or additional clarity on the issue of re-infestation of treated wood packaging material that she mentioned in her presentation, including what pests have been intercepted.

6. Demonstration of the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)

- [20] A video demonstrating how to navigate the public areas of the IPP and how to access the restricted work area for the ISPM 15 Guide WG was displayed. The presentation showed the broad range of technical resources that are available on the IPP and emphasized those that may be relevant to the development of this guide.

7. Overview of the Draft Outline for the Guide

- [21] Ms Faith NDUNGE, Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) Lead for the ISPM 15 Guide explained the decision by IC to develop a comprehensive guide with step-by-step procedures that show the NPPOs how to implement ISPM 15, including guidance for stakeholders involved. She provided an overview of the draft Outline and highlighted some of the implementation issues that she has observed. She agreed to share some of these observations again, in writing, with the WG after the meeting.
- [22] Some WG members noted that the draft Outline is very broad in scope and the task of developing a guide seems rather daunting and that not all experts have expertise on all types of treatments. One WG noted the importance of parsing out the writing to different WG members. The IFU lead clarified that the draft Outline is very heavily based on the explanatory document and that a lot of really good information has already been prepared. She noted that the draft Outline would be shared with the WG members after the meeting so they may review in detail and add their comments and suggestions to it.

8. Organization of the work of the WG

- [23] Ms Barbara PETERSON, the IFU Lead for the ISPM 15 guide, summarized the roles of the IFU, the IC and the working group experts in developing implementation resources, such as this guide. She explained that the draft Outline was prepared by the IPPC Secretariat in collaboration with the IC leads and that it is heavily based on the explanatory document but that it also considered submissions for topics from USDA-APHIS and comments from the International Forest Quarantine Research Group (IFQRG) and outcomes from the STDF *Policy study on ISPM 15 implementation challenges of Phytosanitary Standards: The Case of ISPM 15 in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique*³.
- [24] She highlighted that the next step is to review the draft Outline and reach consensus on the content of the guide and then to identify which experts would take the lead on developing particular chapters and sections of the Guide.
- [25] The WG agreed that the draft Outline would be open for comment, using the Online Comment System (OCS) from 2020-11-13 to 2020-11-27.
- [26] The WG agreed that their next meeting would be Tuesday, 15 December at 13:00 (Rome time) and that the following items would be included in the agenda for their VM02:
- Discussion of comments on the draft Outline and next steps to finalize the Outline
 - Consider which experts will author which sections/chapters of the Guide
 - Tips for writing IPPC Guides and using the IPPC Style Guide
 - Work plan and time lines

³ STDF/PG/460: <https://www.ippc.int/en/work-area-publications/88984/>

- [27] WG members were informed that the working documents associated with each meeting will be made available to them at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The IPPC Secretariat will therefore post the documents for the next meeting, including the compiled comments on the draft Outline, in the restricted area by 2020-12-01 so the experts may review them prior to VM02 on 15 December 2020.

9. Any other business

- [28] There was no other business

10. Closing

- [29] The Chair and the IFU lead thanked all the experts for their participation and the meeting was closed.

Annex 1: Agenda**First meeting of the Working Group to develop a Guide to support the implementation of ISPM 15 (VM-01)***12 November 2020 at 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. (Central European Time, GMT +1)***PROVISIONAL Agenda***Updated: 2020-11-09*

	AGENDA ITEM	Duration (minutes)	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1	Opening of the Meeting	10	--	Brent LARSON
2	Meeting Arrangements	15	--	Barbara PETERSON
2.1	Introduction of participants		--	All participants
2.2	Election of the chairperson		--	IPPC Secretariat All participants
2.3	Election of the rapporteur		--	Chairperson
2.4	Adoption of the Agenda		01_WG_ISMP15_Guide	Chairperson
3	Administrative matters	5	--	
3.1	Participants list		02_WG_ISMP15_Guide	IPPC Secretariat
4	IPPC Guides: Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC), history of ISPM 15 Guide and general process for developing Guides and Training Materials	30	Presentation 1	IC Lead / IPPC Secretariat
5	Standard setting and the process for the approval of ISPM 15 treatments	10	Presentation 2	ISPM 15 Steward / SSU Lead
	HEALTH BREAK	5		
6	Demonstration of how to access the restricted work area and relevant technical resources on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)	20	www.ippc.org	IPPC Secretariat
7	Draft Outline for the ISPM 15 Guide	30	03_WG_ISMP15_Guide	IC Lead / IPPC Secretariat
8	Organization of the work of the WG	15	Presentation 3	Chairperson / IPPC Secretariat
9	Any Other Business	5	--	Chairperson
10	Close of the Meeting	5	--	Chairperson

Annex 2: Participants list

First meeting of the Working Group to develop a Guide to support the implementation of ISPM 15 (VM-01)

Participants List (Updated 2020-11-19)

Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
WG Member	Mr Corrado CREMONINI Researcher University of Turin, DISAFA Italy	corrado.cremonini@unito.it
WG Member	Mr Marcel DAWSON Manager, forestry and horticulture, plant import/export division Canadian Food Inspection Agency Canada	marcel.dawson@canada.ca (until 2020/11/27) marcel.dawson17@gmail.com (after 2020/11/27)
WG Member	Mr Scott GEFFROS General manager/heat treatment inspections program manager Canadian Wood Pallet and Container Association Canada	scott.geffros@canadianpallets.com
WG Member	Mr Brad A. GETHING Director of science & technology integration National Wooden Pallet & Container Association United States	bgetting@palletcentral.com
WG Member	Mr Christopher HOWARD Acting Assistant Director Plant Import Operations Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Australia	chris.howard@agriculture.gov.au
WG Member	Mr Mohamed MAGDY Phytosanitary unit supervisor & market access Central Administration Of Plant Quarantine Egypt	mm.fao.ispm15@gmail.com
WG Member	Mr Vinod PANDIT Programme Leader, Development, Communication & Extension CABI South Asia India	V.Pandit@CABI.org
WG Member	Ms Debora Maria RODRIGUES CRUZ Federal inspector Department of Plant Health and Agricultural Inputs Brazil	debora.cruz@agricultura.gov.br
IC Lead	Ms Stephanie BLOEM Executive Director NAPPO Secretariat	stephanie.bloem@nappo.org

Region/ Role	Name, mailing, address, telephone	Email address
	North America Plant Protection Organization United States of America	
IC Lead	Ms Faith NDUNGE Head biosafety and phytosanitary services Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services Kenya	fdunge@kephis.org
ISPM 15 Steward	Ms Marina Zlotina IPPC Technical Director, USDA-APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) United States of America	marina.a.zlotina@usda.gov
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