



SPECIFICATION 70

Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds

(Approved 2020, published 2020)

Title

Annex *Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds* (2018-009) to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*).

Reason for the annex to the standard

As they seek to implement ISPM 38, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and the worldwide seed industry are currently exploring the use of systems approaches to manage the pest risk associated with the international movement of seeds. A systems approach could incorporate industry practices that contribute to a reduction in the pest risk associated with seeds. Relevant industry best-management practices and quality systems could be the bases for the design of systems approaches as an alternative option for the phytosanitary certification of seeds. An annex to ISPM 38 could provide a framework for harmonization of systems approaches and provide guidance to NPPOs on recognition and audit of such systems.

Scope

The proposed annex should apply to any seeds moving internationally (including seeds for sale, production, trialling, bulk-up, breeding, or other purposes). The annex should provide a general, standardized framework of requirements for systems approaches, including existing pest management practices used in the seed industry in combination with quality systems that incorporate defined audit and verification procedures. The annex should also define a harmonized process by which NPPOs may recognize conformity with the requirements of the systems approaches. This recognition by NPPOs could form the basis for phytosanitary certification and would provide an alternative to the existing phytosanitary certification of seeds.

Purpose

Differences in phytosanitary import requirements currently implemented by NPPOs can result in significant complications in the movement of seeds between countries, particularly in re-export situations. This annex will provide standardized guidance for a harmonized alternative to consignment-by-consignment testing and inspection of seeds at export by multilaterally recognizing existing industry measures that minimize the pest risk and incorporating them into systems approaches.

Tasks

The expert working group (EWG) should undertake the following tasks:

- (1) Consider existing standards that are relevant (e.g. ISPM 14 (*The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*), ISPM 36 (*Integrated measures for plants for planting*), ISPM 38, North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) 40 (NAPPO, 2014)).
- (2) Review examples of phytosanitary import requirements for seeds. Examine regional guidance for importation, if such is available, in relation to seed-borne or seed-transmitted pests. Identify potential pest risk management measures for categories of identified pests (e.g. viruses, fungi, bacteria).
- (3) Review existing:
 - (a) management systems for seeds (e.g. Good Seed and Plant Practices (GSPP), the Regulatory Framework for Seed Health (ReFreSH) of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Disease Prevention Program (DPP));
 - (b) relevant systems approaches in other industry and commodity sectors (e.g. the Biosecure Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach, the Systems Approach for Nursery Certification (SANC) of the National Plant Board (covering the 50 states of the United States of America, together with Puerto Rico and Guam).
- (4) Examine how existing seed production practices contribute to the mitigation of pest risk and how they could be incorporated into a systems approach.
- (5) Define the general requirements of a systems approach for seeds, ensuring that the phytosanitary measures included are technically justified.
- (6) Examine how existing management systems adopted by the seed industry (e.g. audits, verification processes) could be incorporated into a systems approach.
- (7) Describe a procedure for potential multilateral recognition by NPPOs of quality systems used by seed companies and how such quality systems could be considered as elements of systems approaches.
- (8) Develop criteria and requirements for multilateral systems approaches.
- (9) Consider whether the annex 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 annex.
- (10) Consider implementation of the annex by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the Standards Committee.

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. Please refer to the *Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat* posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/>).

Collaborator

To be determined.

Steward

Please refer to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* posted on the IPP (see <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards>).

Expertise

Experts with a wide knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas: the development or implementation of phytosanitary measures to manage the pest risk associated with the production, processing and international movement of seeds, pest risk analysis, seed testing and storage, and use of integrated measures in systems approaches specifically for seeds. The EWG should include at least one person with knowledge of existing international guidance related to the international movement of seeds; at least one person with knowledge of quality systems and auditing for compliance; at least two persons with knowledge of seed pathology; and at least one person as an invited expert with knowledge of operational industry seed-quality systems, including seed production, processing and testing, and preferably nominated by the seed industry.

Participants

Five to seven experts and one invited expert.

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.

- ASTA** (American Seed Trade Association). 2019. *ReFreSH – A regulatory framework for seed health* [online]. Concept paper. Ver. 4.0. Alexandria, USA, ASTA. [Cited 14 October 2020]. https://www.betterseed.org/wp-content/uploads/ReFreSH-Concept-Paper-Draft_-2019.pdf
- ISPM 2**. 2019. *Framework for pest risk analysis*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 10**. 2016. *Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 11**. 2019. *Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 12**. 2017. *Phytosanitary certificates*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 14**. 2019. *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 20**. 2019. *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 23**. 2019. *Guidelines for inspection*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 24**. 2017. *Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 27**. 2016. *Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 31**. 2016. *Methodologies for sampling of consignments*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 32**. 2016. *Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 36**. 2019. *Integrated measures for plants for planting*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- ISPM 38**. 2017. *International movement of seeds*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.
- NAPPO** (North American Plant Protection Organization). 2014. *Principles of pest risk management for the import of commodities*. Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) 40. Ottawa, NAPPO. 28 pp.

NAPPO (North American Plant Protection Organization). 2018. *Use of systems approaches to manage pest risks associated with the movement of forest products*. Regional Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM) 41. Raleigh, USA, NAPPO. 54 pp.

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

This is not an official part of the specification

2019-04 CPM-14 added topic *Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (Annex to ISPM 38) (2018-009)*, priority 1.

2019-08 Steward revised the draft specification.

2020-01 Standards Committee (SC) reviewed via e-forum and Steward revised the draft.

2020-07 First consultation.

2020-10 Steward revised the draft based on consultation comments.

2020-11 SC reviewed and approved the specification.

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