



MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP THE IPPC E-COMMERCE GUIDE FOR PLANTS, PLANT PRODUCTS AND OTHER REGULATED ARTICLES (2017-039) (VM-03)

14 April 2021 at noon – 15:00 p.m. (Central European Summer Time, GMT +2)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] Ms Barbara PETERSON, the IPPC Secretariat, Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) Lead for the e-Commerce guide opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She introduced Ms Satoko KAGAWA, Technical Officer, World Customs Organization (WCO) and Ms Dawn WILKES, Security Programme Manager of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) who attended the meeting as presenters.

2. Meeting arrangements

- [2] There was no objection to the Secretariat's request to record the meeting to facilitate note-making.
- [3] The Working Group (WG) selected Mr Bruno GALLANT to be the Chairperson and Mr Cory MARKER as rapporteur for the meeting.

3. Administrative matters

- [4] The Secretariat suggested discussing the next steps for developing the table of contents for the guide and the timing of the next meeting during Other Business. The agenda for the meeting was adopted and is presented in Appendix 1.
- [5] Mr Sam BISHOP and Mr Shane SELA informed the Secretariat prior to the meeting that they were not available for this meeting. Mr Nicolas AUÑON and Mr Mauricio RIBEIRO also did not attend the meeting. The list of meeting participants is presented in Appendix 2.
- [6] The Secretariat confirmed that the agenda and participants list for this meeting are available on the restricted work area and that the Minutes from VM-02 have also been posted.

4. World Customs Organization (WCO) Presentation

- [7] Ms Satoko KAGAWA made a presentation on the WCO Framework of Standards on Cross Border E-Commerce (E-commerce FoS) and the e-Commerce package. She highlighted that the Standards and the tools to support its implementation were developed following broad consultation with WCO members, other international organizations and industry. She also explained that the 15 Standards that make up the FoS are presented within the following broader topics: Advance Electronic Data and Risk Management, Safety and Security, Partnership, Measurement and analysis, Facilitation and Simplification of Procedures, and Fair and Efficient Revenue Collection. She also provided information on Reference data elements for e-Commerce and the WCO Immediate Release Guidelines and identified a number of tools that are available to support implementation.
- [8] In response to questions from the WG, she confirmed that the implementation plan for the FoS does not include a mandatory timeline, but it includes a series of regional and national workshops to explain the topics, the standards and support improved implementation of the e-Commerce standards. The workshops often include presentations by other national customs organizations that have successfully implemented particular aspects of the FoS, such as setting up a pilot for reference data elements. She noted that there is a high level of interest in implementing the FoS from the national customs organizations at this time.

- [9] The presenter informed the WG that the FoS was approved in 2018 and that the first periodic review of the FoS and the e-Commerce package has been initiated and will conclude in 2022. Invitation letters have been sent out to WCO members and international organizations, including the IPPC Secretariat, to seek proposals and contribute to the review process. She explained that there is also an annual review process whereby two annexes are reviewed each year and that one of the annexes currently under review is the annex on reference datasets. The IFU Lead confirmed that the Secretariat submitted comments on this annex and appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the review process.
- [10] The Secretariat asked a question about the Immediate Release Guidelines and the risk of restricted or prohibited articles moving as low value shipments. Ms KAGAWA highlighted the importance of awareness raising, but also the challenge of raising the awareness of stakeholders who are located in other countries. A WG member indicated that fraud and incorrect declarations are key issues since risk management based on using Advance Electronic Data (AED) is limited by the accuracy of the data submitted. The presenter acknowledged that this is a real challenge and that some customs agencies are discussing how to include photographs of the product to compliment the HS code information and then developing artificial intelligence (AI) systems to review this information. She indicated that developing such a system would require obtaining photos of products that are considered higher risk and using those photos to “teach” the AI system. She also highlighted the need for good collaboration with all platforms and vendors, both big and small, and that it is important to consider potential economic benefits to them.
- [11] Authorized Economic Operators (AEO), initially the concept was restricted to just importers or exporters but now it is being expanded to the entire supply chain. The criteria include security checks of employees, management of the facility, security of the consignments, and type of customs information they can provide. More recently customs organizations are recommending various intermediaries in the e-Commerce supply chain, such as express carriers, postal operators and warehouses. However, the challenge is that many of the intermediaries are located in other countries. So some kind of mutual recognition system could be helpful for evaluating whether operators in the e-Commerce chain comply with set criteria. One customs organization may recognize an AEO in their country and then recommend that business to customs organizations in other countries.
- [12] The Chair thanked Ms KAGAWA for her very informative presentation and the interesting discussion.

5. Universal Postal Union (UPU) Presentation

- [13] Ms Dawn Wilkes made a presentation that provided a summary of the institutional framework of UPU and highlighted selected postal security issues and shared e-Commerce challenges and opportunities.
- [14] Following a question from a WG member, Ms WILKES explained that express carriers are not bound by the UPU Convention. However, the Global Express Alliance, which represents the express carriers is a member UPU’s Consultative Committee and the UPU works to represent their members and cooperate with the express carriers to keep the supply chain as safe as possible.
- [15] The presenter also explained the difference between dangerous and prohibited goods. For example, dangerous goods pose a hazard to the mail carrier or to the conveyance whereas prohibited goods are those that are not allowed by the importing country. She explained that the UPU encouraged member countries and postal operators to provide lists of prohibited and restricted goods. These lists are included in the Prohibitions Compendium and are linked to the UPU’s customs declaration system and allow postal operators and customs to identify properly declared items that should not be exported to a particular port of entry. She further clarified that HS codes are not a mandatory data element for mail but recognized that they are an important tool for identifying goods that should not be exported. She explained that the UPU’s Customs Data System (CDS) allows product descriptions to be linked up with HS codes but suggested that countries provide the HS code and the product description in their lists of prohibited and restricted goods.

- [16] Ms WILKES indicated that the UPU postal security group will meet in November and that it may be possible for the IPPC Secretariat to make a presentation to that group on the Guide and on enhancing collaboration. She also confirmed the UPU's willingness to collaborate with other organizations to develop educational materials.
- [17] One WG member asked the speaker to clarify the difference between the CDS and ASYCUDA (a computerized Customs management system). Customs operators that have ASYCUDA should obtain a plug-in from UNCTAD that will create a bridge between ASYCUDA and CDS. This will allow the postal system's CDS and ASYCUDA to be interconnected and communicate with each other.

6. Overview of technical materials submitted by NZ

- [18] Mr Allan Burne, Manager Plant Import Risk Assessment, Biosecurity New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries reviewed the four documents that the NPPO of New Zealand submitted during the IPPC Secretariat call for technical resources to support the development of this guide. These documents included: Risks for NZ Biosecurity from internet trading of plants; NZ post e-Commerce review 2019; and Atlas of Biosecurity Surveillance. He also provided an example of a stakeholder communicate used to raise awareness about the phytosanitary risks of importing ornamental plants.
- [19] The WG discussed the importance of raising public awareness about phytosanitary risks and to make import requirements and other information more accessible to the general public. The chair also noted that there are a lot of available resources developed by other organizations and that some of them would be helpful for developing the IPPC Guide.

7. Other business

- [20] The Secretariat informed the WG that the Minutes from VM-02 have been posted on the IPP and an IPPC Announcement notification was published.
- [21] The Secretariat indicates that the draft Table of Contents for the Guide, including points raised during VM-02 will be posted to the IPPC Online Comment System early next week. The WG agreed that the review period should be open for 3 weeks.
- [22] The WG agreed to hold the next meeting on 26 May 2021 and to invite Mr Sam McKeon to give a presentation on Australia's IBIS web crawler.

8. Closing

- [23] The Chair and the Secretariat thanked all the experts for their participation and the meeting was closed.

APPENDIX 1

Working Group to develop the IPPC e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles (2017-039) (VM-03)

14 April 2021 at noon– 15:00 p.m. (UTC time)

AGENDA

	AGENDA ITEM	Duration (minutes)	DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1	Opening of the Meeting	5		IPPC Secretariat
2	Meeting Arrangements	5		
2.1	Selection of the Chairperson			IPPC Secretariat
2.2	Selection of the Rapporteur			IPPC Secretariat
3	Administrative matters	5		
3.1	Agenda		VM03_01	IPPC Secretariat
3.2	Participants list		VM03_02	IPPC Secretariat
4	World Customs Organization (WCO) Presentation	45		Satoko Kagawa
5	Universal Postal Union (UPU) Presentation	45		Dawn Wilke
6	Overview of technical materials submitted by NZ	15		Allan Burne
7	Other Business	15		Chairperson
8	Close of the Meeting	5		Chairperson / IPPC Secretariat

APPENDIX 2

Working Group to develop an e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles (2017-039)

Participants List (VM-03)

Role	Name, position, organization, country	Email address
WG Member	Mr BURNE, Allan Manager Plant Import Risk Assessment Biosecurity New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries New Zealand	allan.burne3@mpi.govt.nz
WG Member	Mr GALLANT, Bruno Senior Legislation Officer integration Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Canada	bruno.gallant@canada.ca
WG Member	Mr MARKER, Cory Smuggling Interdiction Trade Compliance (SITC) Analyst USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) United States	cory.a.marker@usda.gov
WG Member	Mr McKEON, Samuel Assistant Director, Biosecurity Education Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment Australia	sam.mckeon@awe.gov.au
WG Member	Mr PAN, Xubin Pest Risk Analysis Expert Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine China	xubin.hu.pan@gmail.com
WG Member	Ms PASANEN, Miia Senior Officer Finnish Food Authority Finland	miiia.pasanen@ruokavirasto.fi
WG Member	Ms PIERRE, Adele Senior Plant Protection Officer National Plant Protection Organization, NAREI Guyana	apierre@narei.gov.gy adele17_gy@hotmail.com
WG Member	Ms WILSON GRAHAM, Sanniel Chief Plant Quarantine Officer Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries Jamaica	sanniel.wilsongraham@moa.gov.jm sanniel_wilson@yahoo.co.uk
Presenter	Ms SOYSANLI, Özlem Technical Officer World Customs Organization BELGIUM	ozlem.soysanli@wcoomd.org

Role	Name, position, organization, country	Email address
Presenter	Ms KAGAWA, Satoko Technical Officer World Customs Organization BELGIUM	satoko.kagawa@wcoomd.org
Presenter	Ms WILKES, Dawn Postal Security Programme Manager Universal Postal Union SWITZERLAND	dawn.wilkes@upu.int
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