DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR ISPM: ISPM 31 - Methodologies for sampling of consignments

Status box

This is not an official part of the specification and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after approval	
Date of this document	
Document category	
Current document stage	
Major stages	
Steward history	
Notes	

Title

[1] ISPM 31 - Methodologies for sampling of consignments.

Reason for the revision of the standard

[2] Review of the ISPM 31 to provide guidance on application of varied levels of detection based on an operationally based decision that inspection intensity above a certain level is not practical and selection of detection levels is for a specific pests or a group of pests. Also to provide guidance on application of confidence levels where other phytosanitary measures have been applied prior to the consignments being presented for exit point inspection. There is also need for guidance on risk based sampling.

Scope

[3] Sampling intensity and risk based sampling. Selection of levels of detection for different lots in a consignment and on the existing pests of concern in the available in a consignment.

Purpose

[4] Many countries apply the provisions of the statistical based sampling methods of ISPM 31 during sampling for both import and export certification. The confidence level indicates the probability that a consignment with a degree of infestation exceeding the level of detection will be detected. A confidence level of 95% is commonly used. Section 3.1.1.3 of ISPM 31 provides that the NPPO may choose to require different confidence levels depending on the intended use of the commodity. For example, a higher confidence level for detection may be required for commodities for planting than for commodities for consumption, and the confidence level may also vary with the strength of the phytosanitary measures applied and historical evidence of non-compliance. The standard does not provide guidance on the variation based on the phytosanitary measures applied to consignments prior to exit point inspection and historical evidence of non- compliance. This therefore leaves the decision of the variation to NPPOs who mostly vary when carrying out import inspection at their borders but require exporting NPPOs to apply the provisions of the ISPM as they are. This is often not practical as many NPPOs are moving towards a systems approach where different measures cumulatively reduces the risk of the pest being present in the final product.

[5] Detection levels vary based on various pests of concern or a group of pest that may infect particular lots in a consignment. If selection of detection levels is based on an operational decision that inspection intensity above a certain level is not practical, then the sample size would vary considerably on such discretional operational decisions depending on the practicality of the selected detection level by the exporting NPPO. A given size sample which would be minimum for one to attain a certain level of detection needs to be decided. So that the detection level may be constant for the desired output.

[6] Section 3.1.1.2 Level of detection of ISPM 31 provides that the NPPO may derive detection levels from an operationally based decision that inspection intensity above a certain level is not practical. If the two are applied both for exit point inspection, the importing NPPO may have a decision , during non-conformity assessment that the detection level was not attained , depending on their own operational practical considerations , that may not be tenable by the exporting NPPO. Even though the standard provides for the varying detection levels, it should be able to provide a minimum detection level agreeable as a standard, to be applicable by both exporting and importing NPPOs during entry/exit point inspections and clearance.

[7] There is no guidance on risk based sampling.

Tasks

(1) Consider the current sampling practice by NPPOs in relation to the provisions of ISPM 31;

(2) Consider additional measures aimed at assurance of compliance e.g. field inspection, treatment, and their effect on compliance;

(3) Review the section of the ISPM 31 touching on confidence level to include guidance on inclusion of additional measures prior to exit point inspection.

Provision of resources

[8] 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

[9] To be determined.

Steward

[10] Please refer to the *List of topics for IPPC standards* posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) (see https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards).

Expertise

[11] [Five to seven] experts with wide knowledge and experience in [phytosanitary actions], including at least one person knowledgeable in [authorization programmes and their elements] and at least one person knowledgeable in [auditing compliance with authorization programmes] and two knowledgeable in statistics.

Participants

[12] [To be determined.]

References

[13] 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.

(1) Lane SE, Cannon RM, Arthur AD, Robinson AP (2019) Sample size for inspection intended to manage risk within mixed consignments. NeoBiota 42: 59–69.

(2) https://doi.org/10.3897/neobiota.42.29757

(3) https://nappo.org/application/files/7916/1471/8930/Manual_RBS_Part_I_Eng_Final20200224.pdf

Discussion papers

[14] Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the EDG.