



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
REPORT FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SC)
AGENDA ITEM 9.1

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Introduction

- [1] This report provides a record of the activities of the Standards Committee (SC) in 2022 as well as an insight into the work that is on the horizon for the SC and consequently for the contracting parties. This year, the SC held four meetings; two virtual focused meetings in April and July, its “normal” May meeting which was also conducted virtually and for the first time since November 2019, an in-person meeting in November. There was also the Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) meeting, virtually conducted in May. The detailed SC meetings reports¹ and additional supporting information² are available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).
- [2] The productive work of the SC in recent years had resulted in the adoption by CPM-16 (2022) of three (3) International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and five (5) phytosanitary treatments (PTs). In addition, the SC also adopted one (1) diagnostic protocol (DP) in 2022 on behalf of CPM.
- [3] The SC has also been engaged in various other works, most notable of which were:
- (a) the IPPC Commodity Standard webinar held in February 2022, the Webinar³ on the IPPC Standard setting procedure held in March 2022.
 - (b) continued collaboration between the SC and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC)
 - (c) collaboration with the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement Secretariat in the Thematic Session related to IPPC pest risk analysis related standards and lively participation of SC members at the 2022 IPPC Regional Workshops.
 - (d) The SC also formed a small group to revise and further improve the draft ISPM Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds (Annex to ISPM 38 *International movement of seeds*) (2018-009) based on comments of the whole SC.
 - (e) In addition, the SC had a total of 16 electronic decision-making process and provided oversight to the 3 expert working groups and all four IPPC Technical Panels, which comprises of over 45 experts.
- [4] Progress in the SC’s work developing ISPMs depends entirely on the commitment and technical input from experts from all regions of the world. That includes contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and other international organizations. The commitment of contracting parties to provide experts as members of the SC and to the various technical panels and expert working groups is essential for the functioning of the SC. It allows the IPPC to fulfill its mission as the sole international

¹ Standards Committee web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee/>

² Standard Setting web page: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting>

³ IPPC Webinar on the Standard Setting Procedure: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/ippc-webinar-on-the-standard-setting-process/>

standard setting organization in plant health. In addition to the valuable comments received from contracting parties, RPPOs, and international organizations, the SC has also relied on their support in organizing some of the meetings and other activities. Hence, the SC would like to recognize the support from the contracting parties in providing SC members and experts to participate in and promoting the standard setting process.

- [5] This report highlights the significant input provided by the SC and expert drafting groups (EDGs) that include technical panels (TPs) and expert working groups (EWGs) members, and the stewards of draft ISPMs. Over 50 of the 100 topics on *the List of topics for IPPC standards*⁴ have progressed, and this has required considerable input from all involved, i.e., the SC, technical panels, experts, contracting parties, RPPOs, other international organizations, and the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the Secretariat”).
- [6] The collaborative work of the SC and the Secretariat, in particular the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) staff, has allowed for the continued development of international standards through a meaningful, transparent, and inclusive process meeting the expectations of the IPPC and its Community.

Diagnostics Protocols adopted by the Standards Committee (SC) on behalf of CPM

- [7] As above, it should be noted that the SC adopted, on behalf of the CPM, the following DP as annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests):
- DP 31 (‘*Candidatus Liberibacter*’ spp. on *Citrus* spp.) (2004-010)

IPPC Consultations

- [8] The draft ISPMs, PTs, and DPs, listed in this section have been considered and revised by the SC, the SC-7, the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG), the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP), the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) and the Technical Panel on Commodity Standard (TPCS). The drafts went through the following consultations⁵:

2022 First consultation

- [9] Draft ISPMs
- Draft annex to ISPM 37 (Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)): Criteria for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies based on available information (2018-011), priority 1
 - Draft 2022 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001), priority 1
- [10] Draft DP
- *Mononychelus tanajoa* (2018-006)
 - Genus *Ceratitidis* (2016-001)

2022 Second consultation

- [11] Draft ISPMs
- Draft revision of ISPM 18 (*Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*) (2014-007), priority 1
 - Draft ISPM: Revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002), Priority 4
 - Draft annex to ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*): Use of specific import authorizations (2008-006), priority 4

⁴ List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>

⁵ IPPC Consultations: <https://www.ippc.int/en/standards/consultations/>

- Draft 2021 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)

[12] Draft PT

- Irradiation treatment for treatment for *Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi* (2017-027)

2022 Consultation on draft specifications

- Draft specification for ISPM: Annex International movement of mango (*Mangifera indica*) fruit to ISPM 46 (2021-011), Priority 1
- Draft specification for ISPM: Revision of ISPM 26 (*Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies* (Tephritidae)) (2021-010), Priority 2
- Draft specification for ISPM: Annex Field inspection (including growing-season inspection) to ISPM 23 (2021-018), Priority 2

Recommendation of draft ISPMs to CPM-17 (2023) for adoption

- Draft annex to ISPM 20 (*Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*): Use of specific import authorizations (2008-006), priority 4
- Draft revision of ISPM 18 (Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure) (2014-007), priority 1
- Draft 2021 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)

Contracting parties' support for the standard setting activities.

[13] As in the previous years, contracting parties and international organizations continued their support for the activities related to the IPPC standard setting. Special thanks should be directed to Brazil for providing 100% in-kind contribution support in 2021-2022 to the IPPC Secretariat with 80% of this time dedicated to the Standard Setting Unit (SSU). We appreciate this contribution and look forward to continuing this collaboration in the years to come. The IPPC received another in-kind contribution from Australia which started in November 2022, to support the activities of the IPPC on sea containers.

[14] Italy, Chile, Canada and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) also supported standard setting activities by hosting meetings of expert drafting groups.

Main highlights of the SC's work

IPPC Commodity Standards Webinar

[15] A key element of the IPPC's work is to safeguard plant-based agriculture, the environment and to facilitate safe trade. As part of this effort, the new IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 includes the development of commodity and pathway-specific standards. An anticipated key result area is that by 2030, commodity-specific standards with harmonized phytosanitary measures will have facilitated and accelerated trade negotiations and simplified safe trade in plant products.

[16] Members of the SC were present to share their regional experiences and facilitate the webinar. The CPM-14 noted that the strategic value and purpose of commodity standards included facilitation of safe trade, harmonization of measures, optimization of the efficiency of resource usage, support and assistance to developing countries, and maintaining the relevance and influence of the IPPC. Commodity standards present a new direction for the IPPC, and it is recognized that this new direction may represent a challenge for the international phytosanitary community. The IPPC Webinar on Commodity Standards aimed to:

- Raise awareness among the IPPC community on the progress with commodity standard development.
- Increase understanding of the requirements and work of the members of TPCS.
- Identify potential partners for developing commodity standards at the regional and global levels.

Webinar on IPPC Standard setting procedure

- [17] This webinar was organized to raise awareness and enhance understanding of the standard setting procedure and explain how stakeholders can contribute to the standard setting process. While the development of standards is transparent and inclusive, many stakeholders have difficulty understanding how the procedure works for each step and type of standard and how to provide input into the standard setting procedure.
- [18] The SC's role was to facilitate the webinar and provide guidance on how to submit proposals and contribute to the drafting process. The SC noted that the work of the NPPOs and RPPOs is hugely important because they are the contact points to reach out and gather input from countries, develop common positions and coordinated approaches and ultimately agree to adopt and implement the standards.
- [19] The webinar allowed stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the following aspects:
- The standard setting procedure and the role of international standards for phytosanitary measures.
 - Detailed work and activities of the SC and the Expert Drafting Groups.
 - Roles of “stewards”, “assistant stewards”, and the international experts contributing to the drafting and review processes of standards.
 - Roles of NPPOs and RPPOs in the standard setting procedure.
 - Specifics of the standard setting procedure for draft ISPMs, DPs, PTs, and phytosanitary terms.
 - Consultation processes for ISPMs
 - Contribution of new topics and proposals for developing international standards and involvement in the standard setting procedure.

Enhanced collaboration between the SC and the IC

- [20] As in previous years, the SC continued to provide peer review of IC documents and provided inputs to the IC. Additionally, IC members continue to be invited to EWG meetings as invited experts and this is specifically included in draft specifications. This now common practice supports SC and IC collaboration and boosts the effectiveness of the IPPC work. This is also supported by the reciprocal observer membership of one SC member to the IC and one IC member to the SC.

The SC electronic decision-making process

- [21] To expedite the development of draft ISPMs, specifications, DPs, and PTs and address other outstanding issues, the SC electronic means (forums and polls) between meetings, as appropriate.
- [22] The types of discussions and decisions listed below may be made through the use of electronic communication:
- approval of selected nominations for expert drafting groups (SC, November 2005)
 - approval of explanatory documents (SC, November 2005)
 - clearance of draft ISPMs for member consultation (Step 4 – special process) (CPM-3, 2008)
 - consideration of member comments (Step 5 – special process) (CPM-3, 2008)
 - determining how to proceed with draft ISPMs that are modified as a result of comments (Step 6 – special process) (CPM-3, 2008)
 - determining how to proceed with draft ISPMs that have received formal objections 14 days prior to the CPM (Step 7 – special process) (CPM-3, 2008)
 - development and approval of draft specifications for member consultation (SC, November 2009)
 - adjustments to stewards (of specifications, draft ISPMs and technical panels) (SC, November 2009)
 - any other tasks decided by the CPM or the SC during a face to face meeting (SC, November 2005)

- Exceptional cases determined in consultation with the Secretariat and the SC chairperson (SC, November 2005).

[23] During their November meeting, the SC followed-up on actions from the SC meetings in May and July 2022, regarding the review of the e-decision process. The SC agreed that the e-decision process for the selection of experts for expert working groups should be modified as follows:

- When selecting experts for EWGs, the SC members express their preference from the list of nominated experts by considering the expertise of the nominees and the regional representation.
- The secretariat compiles this information into a list, ranked in order of SC preference, and the maximum number of experts allowed by the specification are then selected based on that ranking,
- If the selection of the last position in the EWG is inconclusive, those candidates receiving an equal amount of support are then the subject of a poll,
- If there is still no consensus, the SC chair communicates what they feel are the main points to the SC and the SC is asked to make the ultimate decision;

Activities of the expert drafting groups

[24] The SC oversees the work of the EWGs and Technical Panels. A summary of their work is presented below.

Technical Panel for Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP)

[25] The IPPC's TPDP⁶ is a group of experts from NPPOs, RPPOs and international organizations, nominated by the SC to develop international DPs to support the harmonization of pest detection and identification procedures worldwide. This contributes to greater transparency in the diagnostics for regulated pests and assists in the resolution of disputes between trading partners. As outlined by the CPM Recommendation 7, accurate and rapid pest diagnosis underpins phytosanitary certification, import inspections, and the application of appropriate phytosanitary treatments.

[26] The TPDP is comprised of ten members⁷ and has a work programme with six disciplines and 27 subjects or diagnostic protocols. The TPDP works following the ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests). TPDP held virtual meetings in April and July and a face-to-face meeting from 31 October- 4 November 2022 at EPPO headquarters (Paris, France). A total of seven draft DPs progressed in the standard setting process this year and the TPDP also discussed ways to improve its work, highlighting that there is a high demand and contracting parties still need international diagnostic protocols to be developed, as shown in the last IPPC call for topics and the IPPC Observatory survey on the use of DPs (study to be soon published). The TPDP noted a foreseen increase in the volume of its work in the upcoming years and to support this, two consultation periods may be needed for 2024. One proposed for January would be particularly for draft DPs, as done previously - this would greatly contribute to the development of high quality standards and support the work of the IPPC in achieving its objectives in the strategic framework.

Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)

[27] The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)⁸ evaluates data submissions from NPPOs and RPPOs and reviews, revises and develops phytosanitary treatments. The TPPT also provides guidance to the Standards Committee (SC) regarding specific phytosanitary treatment issues.

[28] The TPPT evaluates treatment submissions against the requirements in ISPM 28 (Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests). The TPPT works under the guidance of, and reports to, the SC.

⁶ TPDP webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>

⁷ TPDP membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81560/>

⁸ TPPT webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments/>

Currently, the TPPT is composed of ten members⁹, and a steward (the representative of the SC). The expertise of the members are: irradiation, fumigation, temperature, modified atmosphere and chemical treatments.

- [29] The TPPT oversees the information on the phytosanitary treatments online search tool, a resource that enables searching of phytosanitary treatments used in international trade (IPPC adopted treatments and others), enhancing contracting parties' access to information and treatment options to support safe trade.
- [30] The TPPT held three meetings in 2022: two virtual meetings and one face-to-face meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome. Contracting parties and RPPOs may submit PTs to be reviewed and assessed for inclusion as contributed resources or adopted as annexes to ISPM 28. The call for PTs remains open (unlike other topics), so treatment review or assessment requests and data packages can be submitted at any time¹⁰.

Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG)

- [31] In addition to continuous updating and improvement of ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*), the TPG¹¹ also contributes to the SC and other EDGs activities, which show its importance and value in the standard setting process. The summary of the TPG's activities and plans for future work is annually submitted for the SC's review¹². Currently, the TPG is composed of nine experts¹³ with knowledge of phytosanitary systems and together represent all FAO languages. The panel's steward is also a member of the SC.
- [32] The current TPG work programme includes the creation, revision, or deletion of 18 Glossary terms/definitions. The last TPG meeting was held in a hybrid format from 28 November- 02 December 2022 at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS)

- [33] The newest established IPPC technical panel¹⁴ started its work after the adoption of ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*) by the CPM-16, and with the inclusion of the topic on International movement of mango (*Mangifera indica*) into the SC work programme. The panel met virtually for the first time in May 2022 to meet each other and receive an overview of the IPPC standard setting process, the ISPM 46 and the technical panel's guiding Specification (TP 06). The development of commodity standards is one of the eight development agenda items in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030, and is one of the priorities of the SC's work programme in the upcoming years. There is broad consensus that commodity standards based on scientific methods and evidence will support the development of technically justified phytosanitary import requirements and harmonization of measures to facilitate safe and more streamlined trade, to the benefit of contracting parties.
- [34] A second virtual meeting of the TPCS was held in December 2022 after the SC approved the Specification 73 on the International movement of mango fruits. The TPCS reviewed the Specification and eight submissions received during the IPPC call for supporting information materials and also discussed the criteria for inclusion of phytosanitary treatments in commodity standards. The first face-to-face meeting of the TPCS is planned for January 2023, hosted by the NPPO of Japan. It is expected

⁹ TPPT membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81655/>

¹⁰ Call for Treatments: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/calls-treatments/>

¹¹ TPG web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-glossary-phytosanitary-terms-isp-5/>

¹² The last overview of the TPG activities is provided in the SC June 2021 virtual focused meeting report: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90092/>

¹³ TPG membership (2022-07-22) <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/8069/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/technical-panels/technical-panel-on-commodity-standards/>

that the first draft of the Annex to ISPM 46 on the International movement of mango (*Mangifera indica*) will be presented to the SC for review in 2023.

Expert Working Group on the criteria for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies Annex to ISPM 37 (2018-011)

- [35] The EWG on the criteria for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies met virtually from 17–28 January 2022 with the main task to elaborate the Annex to ISPM 37 (2018-011). The EWG agreed that the audience for the draft annex was NPPOs, as the responsibility for host-status determination always rests with the NPPOs.
- [36] When describing the reason for the annex and its purpose, the EWG noted that inconsistencies in host status terminology can lead to trade disputes between NPPOs and so part of the purpose for the annex was to assist avoid these.

Expert Working Group on the use of systems approaches in managing pest risks associated with the movement of wood (2015-004)

- [37] The EWG on the use of systems approaches in managing pest risks associated with the movement of wood held a face-to-face meeting in Vancouver, Canada from 13–17 June 2022 to develop the annex to ISPM 39 (*International movement of wood*).
- [38] The EWG drafted text to describe the scope of the annex, saying that it provides guidance to NPPOs on the use of specific phytosanitary measures as part of a systems approach to mitigate the pest risks associated with international movement of wood of gymnosperms and angiosperms, with the exclusion of bamboo and rattan. The EWG also agreed to follow the scope of ISPM 39 and to not address contaminating pests in the draft annex. However, the group noted the importance of contaminating pests and urged the SC representative to consider that the CPM modify the scope of ISPM 39 to address this issue.
- [39] Expert Working Group on the reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards (2020-001)
- [40] The EWG on the reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards held a hybrid meeting in Milan from 07-11 November 2022 to address the tasks allocated to them according to Specification 72 (*Reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards*)¹⁵.
- [41] The EWG integrated sections of ISPM 2 (*Framework for pest risk analysis*) and ISPM 11 relevant to the three stages of PRA, together with the draft ISPM on Pest risk management for quarantine pests (2014-001), to create Annexes 1, 2 and 3, one for each stage of PRA. The EWG placed generic material, such as background information and guidance on documentation in the core text of the new, integrated standard. The EWG noted that inclusion of the original ISPM 11 annexes into the core text would not be user-friendly, and kept these separate, only including necessary information into the core text. Supplementary information that was distributed throughout ISPM 11 on environmental risk, living modified organisms (LMOs), and plants as quarantine pests was moved to three additional annexes: Annex 4, Annex 5 and Annex 6, respectively.

Decisions

- [42] The CPM is invited to:

(1) *note* the report on the activities of the Standards Committee in 2022

¹⁵ Specification 72: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90498/>