



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention



e-Commerce: reducing the spread of pests distributed through mail and courier pathways

Outline

- 1** IPPC Strategic Framework and e-Commerce
- 2** Phytosanitary risks posed by e-Commerce
- 3** Key challenges faced by NPPOs
- 4** Desired outcomes and how to achieve them
- 5** Update on IPPC Guide and other e-Commerce activities

Context

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IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030)

Managing the phytosanitary risks associated with e-Commerce and the postal and express carrier pathways is one of eight key development agendas.

e-Commerce development agenda

The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) provides oversight on e-Commerce.

IC Team on e-Commerce

The IPPC Secretariat's work on e-Commerce is guided by the IC Team on e-Commerce.



e-Commerce is:



Electronic transaction

Any electronic transaction, that leads to the movement of small, low-value parcels across one or more international borders.



Typically delivered directly

These parcels are typically handled and delivered directly to the destination by postal services or express carriers.



May spread pests

Parcels that contain plants, plant products and other regulated articles may be a pathway for the introduction and spread of plant pests.

Phytosanitary risks

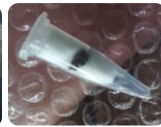
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Seeds

Insects

Plants



Brainstorming session

- What are the key challenges your NPPO is facing with e-Commerce?
- How do you think these challenges could be addressed?



Key challenges for national plant protection organizations

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The growth in e-Commerce

Has resulted in an unprecedented number of small parcels moving across borders by mail and courier.



The rapid growth in digital technologies

May have outpaced the development and implementation of relevant legislation to effectively regulate e-Commerce trade.



Increased volume of small parcels

Puts pressure on the normal components of a phytosanitary import system (e.g., verifying documentation, inspecting, and issuing phytosanitary certificates).



Identifying regulated articles

Identifying plants, plant products and other regulated articles in the mail and courier pathway is one of the biggest challenges faced by NPPO staff at the border.

Desired outcomes

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Effective management of e-Commerce and the postal and courier pathways will result in the following:

- NPPOs **understand the phytosanitary risks** posed by e-commerce.
- NPPOs have **appropriate legislation and authorities** in place
- **Lists of regulated and prohibited articles** are readily available to stakeholders.
- **Buyers, sellers and other stakeholders are aware** of regulatory requirements, risks and responsibilities associated with cross-border e-commerce.
- Risk management measures are used to **screen and intercept** e-commerce consignments that present a phytosanitary risk, while **facilitating legitimate e-commerce trade**.



Desired outcomes

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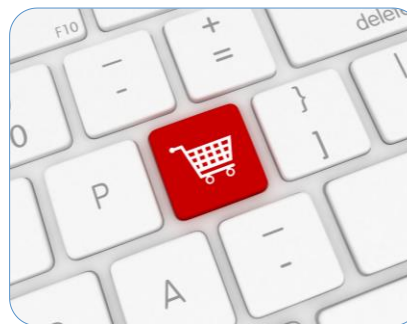
- NPPOs **collaborate with trading partners, other national border agencies and other organizations** involved in the e-commerce supply chain.
- NPPOs **gather data and monitor** e-Commerce non-compliances and regulatory activities
- There is a measurable **reduction in non-compliances** associated with e-Commerce trade.



Coming soon!

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- The **IPPC e-Commerce Guide** will be published soon.
- A **webinar** to **launch** this new IPPC guide will be held in October.
- **Video** and **fact sheet** to **raise awareness** about e-Commerce and the phytosanitary risks associated with buying and selling plants, plant products and other regulated articles on-line.
- Continued **collaboration** with key international organizations such as the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** and the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**.



Case studies about e-Commerce

The new **IPPC e-Commerce Guide** will include several case studies that highlight how some countries are approaching the challenges associated with e-Commerce:

1. Plant material sales via **social media** (United States)
2. Activities to address the risk posed by **seeds** traded through e-commerce (Belgium)
3. Controlling **regulated articles** in e-Commerce trade (Argentina)
4. **Banning the sale of propagative material** through e-Commerce platforms to buyers (United States)
5. Initiatives to **raise awareness** about e-Commerce (Canada)
6. **Exporting** small quantities of dry herbs sold through e-commerce (Jamaica)

Case studies about e-Commerce in new IPPC Guide *(cont'd)*

7. Using a **WebCrawler** to search for e-Commerce platforms that sell regulated articles (Denmark)
8. Using **electronic advance data (EAD)** to manage biosecurity risks (Australia)
9. **Educational engagement with online buyers** of prohibited plants via social media groups (New Zealand)
10. **Cooperation between NPPOs** to enhance phytosanitary compliance (New Zealand)
11. Efforts to **stop repeated online purchasing** of foreign-origin seeds and bulbs (New Zealand)
12. **Addressing smuggling** of agricultural products (United States)
13. Seeking **cooperation from e-Commerce platforms**: going to the source to stop plant imports (New Zealand)

2023-2024 IPPC Observatory survey

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Coming soon!

Objectives:

- **establish a baseline** for measuring the key e-Commerce outcomes specified in the **Implementation plan for the IPPC Strategic Framework** (CPM-17, 2023);
- **evaluate** the extent to which NPPOs and RPPOs have implemented the **CPM Recommendation on Internet trade in plants and other regulated articles**;
- **characterize** the current phytosanitary risks associated with e-Commerce trade; and
- **guide** further work by the IPPC secretariat on e-Commerce.



**Please respond to the survey
later this year and ensure that
your NPPO's voice is heard!**



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Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

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