



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH 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 2023 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 its usual two meetings in May and November. There was also the Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) meeting, 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 resulted in the adoption by CPM-17 (2023) of three (3) International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) (including Annexes) and one (1) phytosanitary treatment (PT). In addition, the SC also adopted two (2) diagnostic protocols (DPs) in 2023 on behalf of CPM.³
- [3] The SC has also been engaged in various other work, most notable of which were:
- (a) Drafting substantive adjustments and revision of the Standard Setting Procedure;
 - (b) Involvement in the 2023 IPPC regional workshops;
 - (c) Involvement in IPPC 2023 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation webinar held in June 2023⁴;
 - (d) Continued collaboration between the SC and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) including as members of the Task Force on Topics (TFT);
 - (e) Development by a small group of a paper on the draft ISPM Design and use of systems approaches for phytosanitary certification of seeds Annex to ISPM 38 (*International movement of seeds*) (2018-009) aiming to articulate concerns with the text and propose options for how a common understanding may of systems approaches may be achieved;
 - (f) Making 23 decisions through the electronic decision-making process and provided oversight to the two expert working groups and all four IPPC Technical Panels, which comprise of over 45 experts.
- [4] The work of the SC contributes to the fulfilment of the mission of the IPPC as the sole recognized international standard setting organization in plant health. In addition to the valuable comments received from contracting parties, RPPOs, and other international organizations, the SC has also relied on their support in organizing a number of meetings and other activities. Hence, the SC would like to recognize

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

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

³ Adopted Standards (ISPMs): <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/>

⁴ IPPC Webinar on the 2023 IPPC Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/workshops-events/webinars/2023-ippc-call-for-topics-june-2023/>

the support from the contracting parties in providing SC members and experts to participate in and promoting the standard setting process.

- [5] Progress in the SC's work developing ISPMs depends entirely on the engagement, participation and technical input from experts from all regions. These experts can be drawn from contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), and other international organizations. The engagement of contracting parties in the process of nominating and supporting experts to participate as active members of the SC, technical panels and various expert working groups, is essential for the functioning of the SC.
- [6] In 2023, some members of the SC lacked authorization to attend SC, Technical Panel and Expert Working Group meetings. It is imperative to underscore the importance of full attendance and participation by all SC members during meetings. The function of the SC and its ability to develop draft documents that reflect and accommodate the needs of NPPOs in ISPMs is only possible with this participation. The continued support of NPPOs and RPPOs to provide nominees and if successful, facilitate meeting of the commitments articulated in the Statements of Commitment is critical.
- [7] This report highlights the significant input provided by the SC, the SC stewards and members of technical panels (TPs) and expert working group (EWG). Over 42 of the 73 topics on *the List of topics for IPPC standards*⁵ 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").
- [8] 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 community.

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

- [9] The SC adopted, on behalf of the CPM, the following DPs as annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests) in August 2023:
- DP 32: Genus *Ceratitis*
 - DP 33: *Mononychellus tanajoa*

IPPC Consultations

- [10] The draft ISPMs, PTs, and DPs, listed in this section have been considered and revised by the SC, 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 consultations⁶:

2023 First consultation

Draft ISPMs

- Reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards (2020-001), Priority 1
- Draft annex to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures*): International movement of *Mangifera indica* fruit (2021-011), priority 1
- Draft annex to ISPM 39 (*International movement of wood*): Use of systems approaches in managing the pest risks associated with the movement of wood (2015-004), priority 3

⁵ List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>

⁶ IPPC Consultations: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/consultations/member-consultation-draft-ispm/>

Draft PT

- Vapour heat treatment for *Planococcus lilacinus* (2021-028)

Draft DP

- Revision of DP 09 - *Genus Anastrepha Schiner* (2021-002)
- Revision of DP 27 - *Ips spp.* (2021-004)
- Revision of DP 25 - *Xylella fastidiosa* (2021-003)

2023 Second consultation

Draft ISPMs

- Draft 2022 Amendments to ISPM 5: (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001), Priority 1
- Draft Annex: Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies to ISPM 37 (*Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae)*) (2018-011)

Draft PT

- Cold treatment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis* (2017-029)

Recommendation of draft ISPMs to CPM-18 (2024) for adoption (addressed separately in agenda item 10)

- Draft 2022 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001)
- Draft annex Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies to ISPM 37 (*Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies ((Tephritidae))*) (2018-011)
- Draft revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002)
- Draft PT Cold treatment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis* (2017-029)

Contracting parties' support for the standard setting activities.

- [11] As in the previous years, contracting parties and international organizations continued their support for the activities related to the IPPC standard setting. Special thanks is extended to Australia for providing 100% ongoing in-kind contribution support in 2023 to the IPPC Secretariat with 20% of this time dedicated to the Standard Setting Unit (SSU) and 80% to support the activities of the IPPC on sea containers.
- [12] New Zealand, Japan, Australia, Brazil, 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***Substantive adjustments revision of Standard Setting Procedure***

- [13] In 2023, the SC thoroughly examined several proposed modifications to the Standard Setting Procedure, along with various sections within the IPPC Procedure Manual dedicated to standard setting. Some of the modifications contained recommendations put forward by SC-7 during their meeting in May 2023, after SC requested them to review the document, especially with regard to accommodating the TPCS.
- [14] The SC reviewed several sections: the IPPC Standard Setting Procedure, Topics, Rule 7 of the rules of procedure for the Standards Committee and the Expert Working Groups, including the role of observers and invited experts. The thorough evaluation conducted by the SC concluded in the recommendation for adoption of the proposed revisions by CPM-18. These proposed revisions are addressed in detail in the paper CPM 2024/08.

SC's involvement in the 2023 IPPC regional workshops⁷

- [15] The 2023 IPPC Regional Workshop themed, Plant Health for Environmental Protection, saw the involvement of SC members from the various FAO regions. The SC provided strong contributions to the successful delivery of the 2023 IPPC Regional Workshops, by having at least one SC member participating, providing updates and materials on the draft ISPMs under consultation. Considerable joint effort between the IPPC Secretariat, IC, Bureau, NPPOs and RPPOs successfully delivered these workshops.
- [16] The seven 2023 IPPC regional workshops (RWs) were conducted in August and September, were convened between three to five days and were delivered as in-person or through hybrid mode with an agenda that included the following:
- Discussion and formulation on draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and other documents released for first and second consultation in the Online Commenting System (OCS);
 - Phytosanitary capacity building to raise awareness about phytosanitary resources available for NPPOs in the IPPC community;
 - Regional topics of interest and experiences, and;
 - Perhaps an additional day for a field visit to laboratory and plant production facilities in the host country in some regions.

The SC electronic decision-making process

- [17] To expedite the development of draft ISPMs, specifications, DPs, PTs and other outstanding issues, the SC utilizes electronic means (forums and polls) between meetings, as appropriate and within the scope of the Rules of Procedure.

The types of discussions and decisions listed below may be submitted through the use of electronic communication:

- approval of selected nominations for expert drafting groups
 - approval of subjects (diagnostic protocols, phytosanitary treatments, and terms) to be included in the work programme of technical panels
 - comment on explanatory documents in the reviewing process
 - clearance of draft ISPMs for the first consultation (Step 4)
 - consideration of comments (Step 5)
 - determining how to proceed with draft ISPMs that are modified as a result of comments (Step 6)
 - development and approval of draft specifications for consultation
 - adjustments to stewards (of specifications, draft ISPMs and technical panels)
 - any other tasks decided by the CPM or the SC during a face-to-face meeting
 - exceptional cases determined in consultation with the Secretariat and the SC Chairperson.
- [18] In its May 2023 meeting the SC agreed that the process for the selection of Technical Panel members via e-decision should remain as currently in place, with a decision made only if there are no objections (i.e. only when there is consensus after a poll). The SC also requested that the secretariat update the Procedures for conducting discussions and making decisions by electronic means accordingly and requested that the secretariat seek legal advice on the rules about reaching decisions in the absence of face-to-face meetings and about voting. During their November meeting, the SC followed-up on actions from the SC meetings in May 2023, regarding the review of the e-decision process.

⁷ 2023 IPPC regional workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/regional-ippc-workshops/2023-ippc-regional-workshop/>

The SC's involvement in the IPPC 2023 Call for Topics: Standards and Implementation

[19] IPPC Secretariat organized a webinar held in June 2023⁸. The overall objective of the webinar was to strengthen the capacity and cooperation of NPPOs or RPPOs and raise awareness, enhance understanding, and improve the quality of the submissions. The webinar aimed at demonstrating the Call for Topics process and actions that ensure high-quality submissions. The webinar also allowed participants to raise questions with regard to the submission process, explained in-depth how to complete the electronic submission forms and why they are beneficial, and provided an increased understanding of the information required to develop successful submissions.

Some members of the SC were present to share their experiences and facilitate the webinar. The IPPC Webinar on the 2023 Call for Topics aimed to:

- explain in-depth how to complete the electronic submission forms and why they are beneficial;
- strengthen capacity for better coordination at the national and regional level;
- enhance understanding of importance of cross-regional and global support of submissions;
- improve knowledge on the factors limiting the approval of new topics and references that should be used to ensure the relevance of proposals for the IPPC Community;
- raise awareness among the IPPC community on the Call for topics and the submission process;
- increase understanding of the information required to develop successful submissions;
- clarified roles and responsibilities of Bureau, IC, and SC representatives or their RPPO in planning and developing submissions.

In addition, three SC members were part of TFT during the 2023 IPPC Call for Topics. These SC members assisted in screening the submitted topics and helped develop recommendations to the IC and SC on the best way to address the topics.

Enhanced collaboration between the SC and the IC

[20] In addition to collaboration through the TFT, the SC continued to be invited to provide peer review of IC documents and provided other inputs to the IC, mainly related to identified implementation issues with draft ISPMs. Additionally, IC members continue to be invited to EWG meetings as invited experts. This 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.

Activities of the expert drafting groups

[21] 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)

[22] The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP)⁹ is a group of experts from NPPOs, RPPOs and other international organizations, selected by the SC from nominations received in open calls, to develop international DPs to support the harmonization of pest detections 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.

[23] The TPDP comprises 27 subjects (or draft DPs) under six disciplines and in various stages of development, including five revisions to adopted DPs.

⁸ 2023 IPPC Call for Topics webinar: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/webinars/>

⁹ TPDP webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>

- [24] The TPDP continued to deliver its work programme throughout 2023, managing more than 50 DP authors from various countries¹⁰. In 2023, two DPs was adopted as annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*), five draft DPs were moved through the expert consultation stage, and three draft DPs were approved by the SC to the consultation period.
- [25] The TPDP had two virtual meetings in 2023 and one face-to-face meeting from 30 October to 03 November 2023 at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) HQ in Paris, France.
- [26] The SC agreed that an additional consultation period will be made in January 2024, for draft DPs only, due to the forecast in the increase on the volume of work for this TP. This additional consultation period will be from 30 January to 30 May 2024 via the OCS and will be communicated through the IPP.

Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)

- [27] The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT)¹¹ evaluates data submissions from NPPOs and RPPOs and reviews, revises and develops phytosanitary treatments. The TPPT also provides guidance to the SC on specific phytosanitary treatment issues.
- [28] The TPPT evaluates treatment submissions against the requirements in ISPM 28: Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests working under the guidance of, and reporting to, the SC. Currently, the TPPT is composed of ten members¹², 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 tool¹³, 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 met face-to-face in Rome from 09-13 October 2023 and met four times virtually in June, August, and November.
- [31] The CPM 17 adopted the revised Standard Setting Procedure in order to expedite the development of PTs if no significant comments were submitted during the first country consultation round. The TPPT reviewed both PTs submitted for first and second consultation in July 2023, and recommended one of them for approval for adoption to the SC.
- [32] The TPPT also worked to facilitate new treatment submissions as agreed by the SC in May 2023 and contracting parties have submitted 6 new proposals for PTs in 2023, while the TPPT had identified a number of further treatments that would benefit the IPPC community. The TPPT reviewed these submissions and recommended them for addition to the TPPT work programme.

Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG)

- [33] In addition to continuous updating and improvement of ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*), the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG)¹⁴ also contributes to the SC and other EDG activities, demonstrating its importance and value in the standard setting process. Currently, the TPG is composed

¹⁰ IPPC Diagnostic Protocols (DPs) drafting groups: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2582/>

¹¹ TPPT webpage: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments/>

¹² TPPT membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81655/>

¹³ IPPC Phytosanitary Treatments search tool: <https://www.ippc.int/en/centre-of-excellence/phytosanitary-treatments-tool/>

¹⁴ TPG web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-glossary-phytosanitary-terms-isp-5/>

of ten experts¹⁵ with knowledge of phytosanitary systems and together represent all FAO languages, including the SC steward.

- [34] The current TPG work programme includes the creation, revision, or deletion of Glossary terms/definitions. The TPG had one virtual meeting in 2023 and a face-to-face meeting hosted by the NPPO of Brazil in the local office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply in Fortaleza, Brazil from 04-08 December 2023.

Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS)

- [35] The IPPC Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS)¹⁶ was established by the 14th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-14) in 2019¹⁷ to support the development of commodity standards and ensure that sufficient rigour, resources and focus can be allocated to the development process.
- [36] Currently, there is only one topic under the work programme of the TPCS, as a result from the 2021 IPPC call for topics: Annex to ISPM 46 - International movement of *Mangifera indica* fruit (2021-011), priority 1.
- [37] The draft ISPM was developed, and the first version was presented for first consultation in 2023.
- [38] The TPCS had seven virtual meetings in 2023 and a face-to-face meeting on 16 – 20 January 2023, in Tokyo, Japan.

Expert Working Group on the revision of ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae)) (2021-010)

- [39] The Expert Working Group (EWG) on ISPM 26 proposed crucial revisions to the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 26, specifically addressing the establishment of pest-free areas for fruit flies (*Tephritidae*) in line with Specification 75. The motivation behind ISPM 26 was to establish a comprehensive framework enabling countries to implement standardized phytosanitary measures, thereby creating, and maintaining pest-free areas (PFA) crucial for combatting the substantial impact of fruit flies on agriculture and national economies.
- [40] New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries hosted the EWG meeting from July 10-14, 2023, in Wellington, New Zealand. This revision aimed to bring ISPM 26, adopted in 2006, in harmony with current standards including recently revised standards, such as ISPM 8 and 4, reducing ambiguity and making it applicable to countries with both endemic fruit fly populations and those free of such infestations.

Expert Working Group on the Annex field inspection (2021-018) to ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection)

- [41] The NPPO of Japan hosted the EWG on the annex Field inspection to ISPM 23 in Tokyo, Japan from October 16 -20, 2023. The annex, developed against Specification 74, will complement ISPM 23 by providing specific information on field inspection to promote a common understanding of the concept, objectives, requirements, process of this type of inspection among countries and the responsibilities of the NPPOs. This will facilitate the harmonization of field inspection as a phytosanitary measure and support appropriate application. In addition to developing the draft annex, the EWG also identified and proposed the consequential changes to the body text of ISPM 23, which will be considered by the potential EWG on the revision of ISPM 23.

¹⁵ TPG membership (2023-04-05) <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/8069/>

¹⁶ TPCS web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-on-commodity-standards/>

¹⁷ CPM-14 Report: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/07/CPM-14_Report_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf

Decisions

[42] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the report on the activities of the Standards Committee in 2023