Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Plant Protection Convention

CPM 18

IPPC resources on e-commerce

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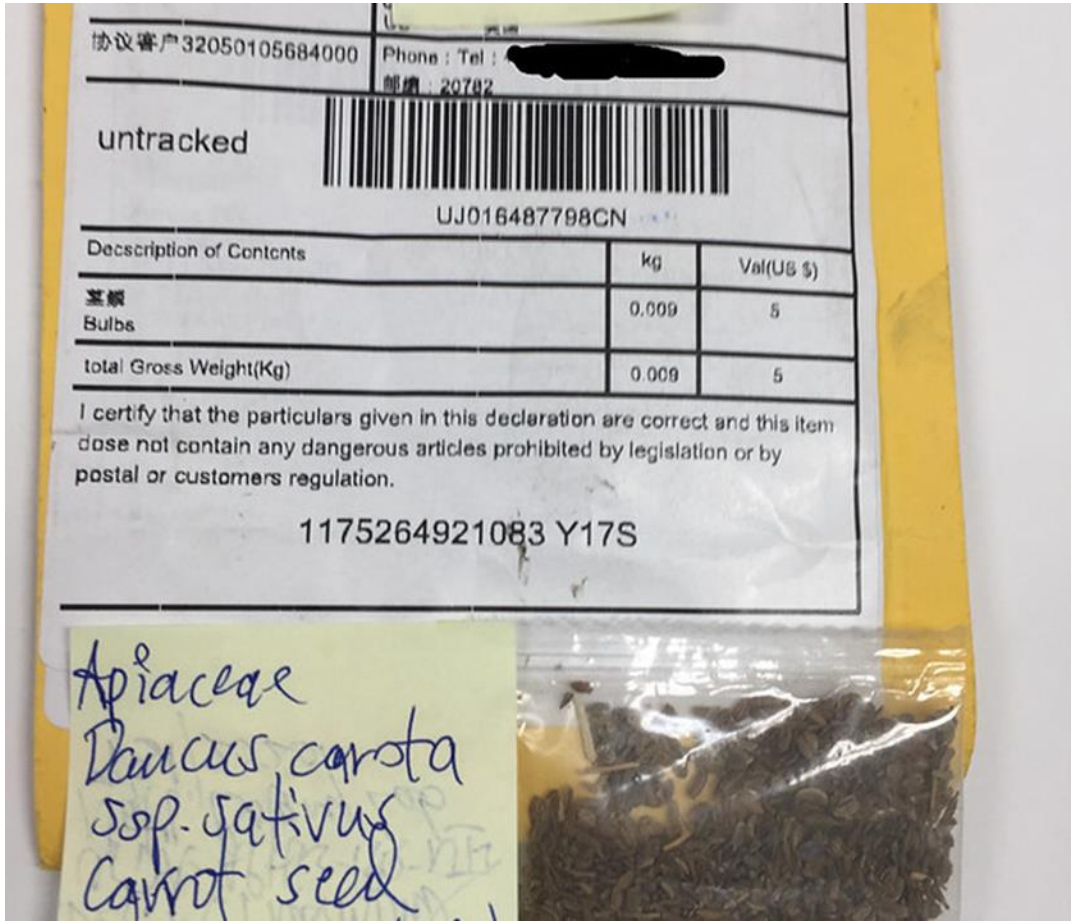
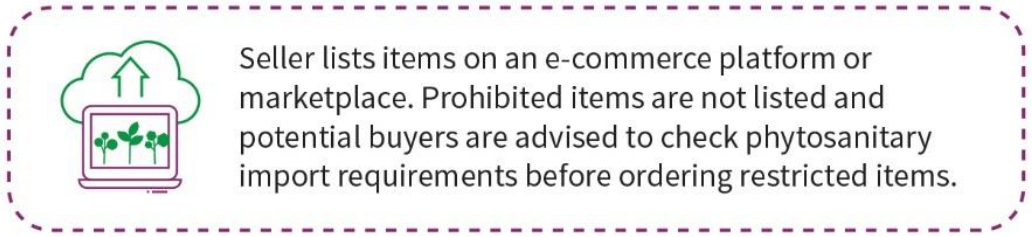
E-commerce challenges

- huge volume of small parcels moving on the postal and courier pathways (often away from normal inspection points)
- direct sales to consumers who demand rapid delivery
- many new, casual or infrequent sellers and buyers
- limited information on the content of the parcels
- anonymity of the internet makes it difficult to identify sellers
- deliberate misrepresentation and fraud is common



E-commerce supply chain



IPPC resources on e-commerce

- Infographic video (English with subtitles to all FAO languages)
- E-commerce webpage on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP → Strategic objectives → Plant Health & Safe Trade → E-commerce)
- Videos
- News stories
- Contributed resources
- IPPC e-commerce guide

E-commerce

Key Facts

- 161 billion parcels, or 5102 parcels per second, were shipped in 2022 (Pitney Bowes, 2023).
- The huge growth in parcel volume puts pressure on the normal components of phytosanitary export and import systems.
- Intercepting parcels that contain goods that do not meet the phytosanitary import requirements of the destination county is one of the biggest challenges facing NPPOs.
- Managing e-commerce and the postal and courier pathways is a key priority within the IPPC strategic framework.

The global rise of e-commerce has brought about a transformative shift in the way goods are bought and sold and moved in international trade.

While presenting economic opportunities, the growth in e-commerce also poses significant challenges to national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) because of the potential spread of plant pests through parcels moving on postal and courier pathways.

On this page you will find key resources about e-commerce and plant health, including a video highlighting the role of all e-commerce stakeholders in addressing pest risks, the IPPC guide on e-commerce, news stories featuring country case studies and links to other national and international e-commerce resources.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Related ISPMs

- ISPM 7: Phytosanitary certification system
- ISPM 12: Phytosanitary certificates
- ISPM 20: Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system

Videos

Managing e-commerce pest risk
En Ar Es Fr Ru Zh

Plant health and e-commerce
En

IPPC Guides

E-commerce: A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways.
En

Export Certification: A guide to export certification for national plant protection organizations.
En Ar Fr Ru

Import Verification: A guide to import verification for national plant protection organizations.
En Fr Ru

News

Thu, 14 Mar 2024
Revamped IPPC webpage to serve as hub for resources on e-commerce and plant health

Thu, 30 Nov 2023
New IPPC guide to protect plant health and reduce pest risk associated with e-commerce

Fri, 12 May 2023
Think before you click - Mitigating the risks of e-commerce to plant health

Mon, 24 Feb 2020
Engagement of the IPPC Secretariat in the World Customs Organization's Work e-Commerce Standards

E-COMMERCE

Contributed resources (External resources)

Contributed resources are phytosanitary technical resources that were developed by National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and other organizations for their own use and which are shared with the entire IPPC community.

Disclaimer: Resources on this page are not intended to be interpretations of ISPMs and terminology used may not be consistent with ISPM 5. Unless otherwise indicated resources, or pest distributions contained within them are not endorsed/adopted/agreed by the CPM nor developed under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat, and are the exclusive responsibility of the author of the contributed phytosanitary resource.

Resources contributed by the World Customs Organization (WCO)

Cross-Border e-Commerce (En, Fr)
e-Commerce Package (En, Fr)
Framework of Standards on Cross-Border e-Commerce (e-Commerce FoS) (En,Fr)

Resources contributed by the Universal Postal Union (UPU)

UPU e-Commerce Guide (En, Ar, Es, Fr, Ru)
UPU: Cooperating with Customs (En, Fr)

Resources contributed by National Plant Protection Organizations

Risks for New Zealand's biosecurity from internet trading of plants (En)
Ornamental Plant Imports Stakeholder communique (En)
Atlas of Biosecurity Surveillance (En)

<< Phytosanitary system page

E-Commerce

1. Main page
2. **Contributed Resources**

See also

- Implementation & Capacity Development
- Adopted ISPMs
- CPM Recommendations
- Guides and training materials
- Contributed resources

ISPM 5 GLOSSARY OF PHYTOSANITARY TERMS

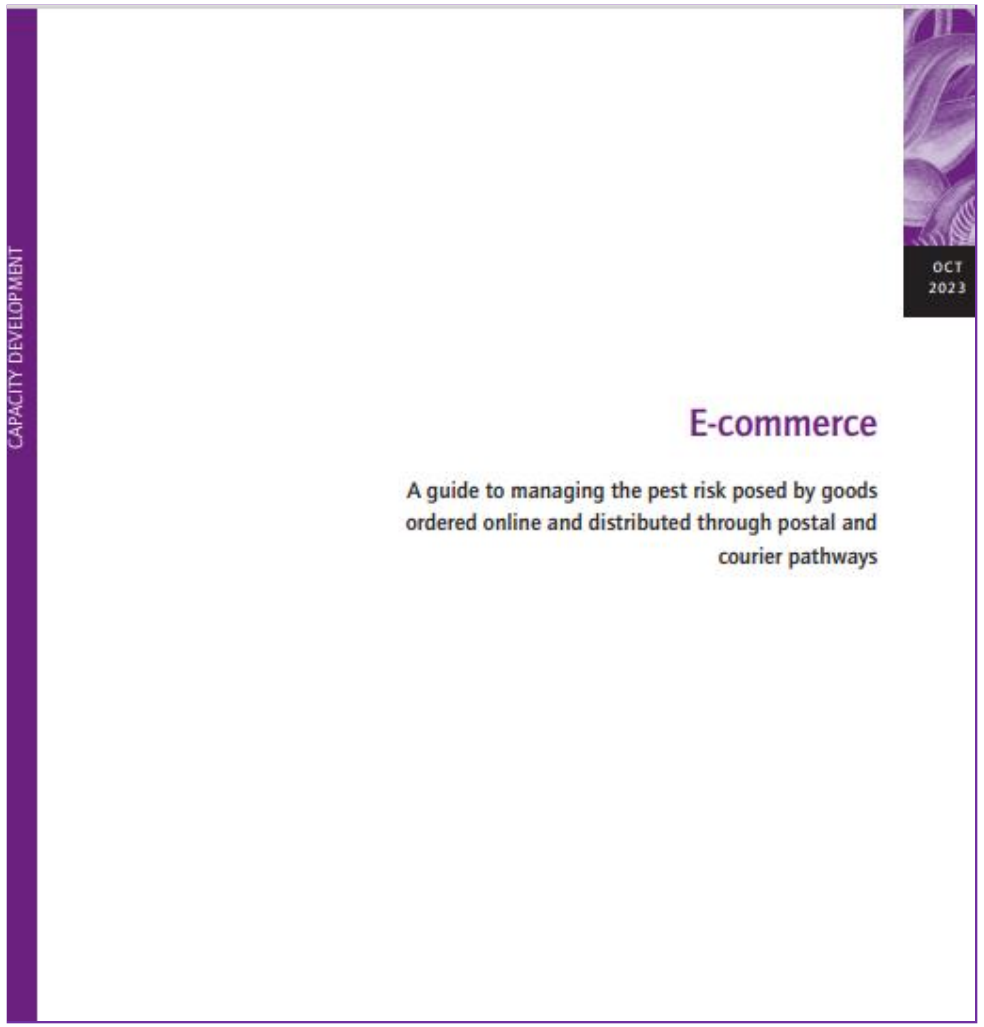
This reference standard is a listing of terms and definitions with specific meaning for phytosanitary systems worldwide. It has been developed to provide a harmonized internationally agreed vocabulary associated with the implementation of the IPPC and ISPMs.

Country information

The country page shows the contact information of the IPPC Official Contact Points of the IPPC Contracting Parties and local contacts of non-Contracting parties and

E-commerce: A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways

- identifies key challenges faced by NPPOs
- provides practical guidance for improving cooperation and collaboration with key stakeholders
- highlights pre-border and border activities that NPPOs may use to help mitigate pest risk on postal and courier pathways, how to identify and respond to non-compliance, and the importance of monitoring regulated articles moving on postal and courier pathways
- includes a diagram of a typical e-commerce supply chain
- several country case studies



Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

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