[PleaseReview document review. Review title: 2024 consultation: Draft specification on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid (2021-020). Document title: Draft Specification - Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid (2021-020)\_eng.docx]

***[1]*COVER PAPER - BACKGROUND**

***[2]***The eighteenth meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-18) agreed that this draft specification on Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid (2021-020) would be presented to IPPC contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) for consultation period in 2024.

***[3]***The CPM-18 also agreed that a cover note would accompany the draft specification, to provide guidance to contracting parties on the approach being taken with this document.

***[4]***This draft specification was developed by the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid, as part of their Terms of Reference, as approved by CPM-16 in 2022.

***[5]***The issue of safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid is complex, and the views on how to address the issue is varied. To provide contracting parties the opportunity to provide their views and allow for the focus group to understand their positions, it was agreed that the comments from this round of consultation will be addressed by the focus group, prior to provision of the revised draft to the Standards Committee and recommendation to the CPM-19 (2025) on a way forward.

***[6]***The release of this draft specification does not pre-empt the decision by CPM-19 to proceed to the development of an ISPM or not. This consultation simply serves as a way to provide contracting parties the opportunity to provide input and formally submit views on the document.

***[7]*DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR ISPM: Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid (2021-020)**

***[8]*Status box**

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| ***[9]***This is not an official part of the specification and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after approval | |
| ***[10]*Date of this document** | ***[11]***2024-01-03 |
| ***[12]*Document category** | ***[13]***Draft specification for ISPM |
| ***[14]*Current document stage** | ***[15]****To* consultation period |
| ***[16]*Major stages** | ***[17]***2021-06 Topic *Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid* (2021-020) submitted during IPPC call for topics.  ***[18]***2023-02 CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid revised.  ***[19]***2023-01Focus group revised  ***[20]***2023-06 CPM Bureau commented.  ***[21]***2023-10 Focus group revised.  ***[22]***2023-10 Presented to CPM Bureau and Strategic Planning Group.  ***[23]***2023-11 Focus group revised.  ***[24]***2024-04 CPM-18 approved for consultation period. |
| ***[25]*Steward history** | ***[26]*** |
| ***[27]*Notes** | ***[28]***This is a draft document  ***[29]***2023-11 Edited |

***[30]***Title

***[31]***Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid (2021-020).

***[32]***Reason for the standard

***[33]***The regulation of traditional trade pathways is well defined and understood within the rules-based systems that underpin implementation of the IPPC. However, the pest risk posed by the provision of food and other humanitarian aid is not adequately addressed in these systems because of the variable nature of the aid supply chain, the potential lack of phytosanitary import requirements for specific aid supplies and the inability of the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the recipient country to fulfil its usual functions as described in the IPPC. The aid supply chain is complex and the donor, transit and recipient country are not always known in advance. The aid supply chain may also include emergency pathways,[[1]](#footnote-1) in which aid is moved via unregulated means, with the NPPO of the recipient (or transit) country unable to fulfil its normal functions (e.g. pest risk analysis, inspection, treatments, communication of phytosanitary import requirements).

***[35]***Countries receiving aid may be exposed to pests that, unless appropriate and timely phytosanitary measures are applied, may become established and have a long-term impact on the economy, environment and communities long after the country has recovered from the emergency situation. The growing number of global cases of pest introductions through aid demonstrates a gap in current processes (Murphy and Cheesman, 2006) and there is recent evidence of pest interceptions by border services during emergency situations (Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid, personal communication, 2023).

***[36]***Scope

***[37]***This standard should provide guidance for the NPPOs of donor, transit or recipient countries on the safe movement of aid.

***[38]***The standard should address the pest risk associated with the use of emergency pathways and regulated pathways in emergency situations. It should describe how adopted ISPMs should apply in such situations, as well as addressing the remaining gaps identified along the aid supply chain.

***[39]***The standard should not cover issues of food safety or animal pests associated with the food-aid supply chain. However, some measures included in the standard may help mitigate the introduction and spread of organisms that may pose a risk to food safety or animal health.

***[40]***Purpose

***[41]***The standard will help to mitigate the pest risk posed by aid that is moved along the supply chain by stakeholders (e.g. governments, aid agencies, exporters and importers, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), diasporas and the private sector). It will also guide donor, transit and recipient NPPOs to facilitate the safe movement of aid.

***[42]***The standard will support the preservation of contracting parties’ sovereign authority to regulate, in accordance with applicable international agreements, the entry of plants and plant products and other regulated articles (Article VII of the IPPC) during the provision of aid.

***[43]***Tasks

***[44]***The Expert Drafting Group (EDG) should undertake the following tasks:

1. ***[45]***Identify goods frequently moved as food or other humanitarian aid, including types of packaging material.
2. ***[46]***Identify the potential pest risk posed by the goods (and packaging material) associated with emergency pathways (as defined by the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid).
3. ***[47]***Identify pest risk management options, which are recognized as effective in addressing pest risk, to manage the identified risks along the aid supply chain.
4. ***[48]***Consider descriptions of roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms between donors (countries of origin) and the NPPOs of transit and recipient countries with reference to the principles developed by the CPM focus group.
5. ***[49]***Consider the pest risk associated with the movement of aid along regulated pathways and emergency pathways (including the transport, transfer, storage, hubbing, transit and delivery of aid, and arrangements for aid to be moved via hubs).
6. ***[50]***With reference to ISPM 32 (*Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*) and other ISPMs and information resources as required, consider generating a holistic table of goods (plant products and regulated articles), risks and possible pest risk management options, together with the corresponding information resources.
7. ***[51]***Identify other stakeholders with whom NPPOs should liaise in order to achieve national implementation of the standard (e.g. governments, aid agencies, exporters and importers, RPPOs, the diaspora and the private sector).
8. ***[52]***Identify the mechanisms for providing information to these other identified stakeholders to enhance capacity for reducing the pest risk posed by goods provided in an emergency situation.
9. ***[53]***Develop templates that exporting organizations and suppliers can use to provide information that will support the safe movement of aid (e.g. listing the goods they export or supply to assist in pest risk profiling).
10. ***[54]***Consider the relationship between aid and sovereignty in relation to other international conventions (e.g. Food Assistance Convention, Geneva Convention).
11. ***[55]***Consider whether the ISPM could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment. If this is the case, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft ISPM.

***[56]***Consider implementation of the standard by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the Standards Committee.

***[57]***Provision of resources

***[58]***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/>).

***[59]***Collaborator

***[60]***To be determined.

***[61]***Steward

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

***[63]***Expertise

***[64]***Members of the EDG should have knowledge of the provisions of the IPPC, the IPPC strategic framework (IPPC Secretariat, 2021) and the activities of bodies mandated under the IPPC. Members should, primarily and collectively, have the following:

* ***[65]***knowledge and experience in providing or receiving humanitarian aid;
* ***[66]***expertise in plant-health policy and the management of pest risk; and
* ***[67]***expertise in the clearance, pest risk assessment and management of imported goods under operating conditions compromised by emergency or disaster constraints.

***[68]***Participants

***[69]***Seven to nine experts. In addition, up to three experts from donor agencies with expertise in the procurement and supply of humanitarian aid in the private sector and the public sector (e.g. International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, World Food Programme) and an RPPO representative should be invited to participate as invited experts.

***[70]***References

***[71]***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.

***[72]***Information on pests introduced through food aid, published by United Nations agencies, by CABI, in academic journals, and so on.

***[73]*IPPC Secretariat**. 1997. *International Plant Protection Convention*. Rome, IPPC secretariat, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/131/>

***[74]*IPPC Secretariat**. 2021. *Strategic framework for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2020–2030*. Rome, IPPC secretariat, FAO. 28 pp. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3995en>

***[75]*ISPM 32**. 2016. *Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk*. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. Adopted 2009. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/587/>

***[76]*Murphy S.T., Cheesman, O.D**. 2006. The Aid Trade International Assistance Programs as Pathways for the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species (a preliminary report). A paper prepared by C.A.B.I. Bioscience, U.K. Centre. 38 p.

***[77]***Discussion papers

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

1. ***[34]*** Emergency pathway: a pathway in which aid is moved via unregulated means, with the NPPO of the recipient (or transit) country unable to fulfil its normal functions (e.g. pest risk analysis, inspection, treatments, communication of phytosanitary import requirements). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)