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***[1]***DRAFT ANNEX TO ISPM 23: Field inspection (2021-018)

***[2]*Status box**

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| ***[3]***This is not an official part of the standard and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after adoption. |
| ***[4]*Date of this document** | ***[5]***2025-06-04 |
| ***[6]*Document category** | ***[7]***Draft annex to ISPM 23 |
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| ***[10]*Major stages** | ***[11]***2022-04 CPM-16 added topic *Field inspection (including growing season inspection) (Annex to ISPM 23: Guidelines for inspection)* (2021-018) with priority 2.***[12]***2022-11 Standards Committee (SC) approved Specification 74 (*Field inspection*).***[13]***2023-10 Expert working group drafted the annex.***[14]***2024-05 SC revised and approved for first consultation.***[15]***2024-07 Consultation.***[16]***2025-05 SC-7 revised and approved for second consultation. |
| ***[17]*Steward history** | ***[18]***2022-04 Masahiro SAI (JP, Lead Steward)***[19]***2022-05 Mariangela CIAMPITTI (IT, Assistant Steward) |
| ***[20]*Notes** | ***[21]***This section will remain on the drafts going for consultation but will be deleted before adoption.***[22]***2022-11 SC removed reference to growing season from the title of the specification***[23]***2023-11 Edited***[24]***2024-05 Edited***[25]***2025-06 Edited |

***[26]***This annex was adopted by the [XXX] Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in [XXX 20XX].

***[27]***The annex is a prescriptive part of the standard.

***[28]***ANNEX 1: Field inspection

***[29]***1. Scope

***[30]***This annex describes field inspection as a phytosanitary measure in relation to plants being produced for international trade. It provides requirements for field inspection as a stand-alone phytosanitary measure, as a component of a systems approach, or in combination with another phytosanitary measure or measures, to detect pests, or signs or symptoms of pests, or verify conformity with phytosanitary requirements. The annex outlines assumptions involved in the application of field inspection as well as the requirements for the field-inspection process and the associated documentation.

***[31]***In the context of this annex, the term “field inspection” applies to the inspection of plants during the growing period or dormant stage. The term “pest” may refer to a single regulated species or multiple regulated species.

***[32]***If symptoms are detected during field inspection, it may be necessary to take samples for examination by a qualified expert or for laboratory testing to verify the absence of the pest. Such phytosanitary actions are outside the scope of this annex.

***[33]***The annex does not cover inspection of consignments.

***[34]***2. Objectives of field inspection

***[35]***Field inspection is the inspection of plants in fields (including plants in open fields, in nurseries, and in controlled environments). National plant protection organizations (NPPOs) may use field inspection as a phytosanitary measure when it is applied to detect pests, or signs or symptoms of pests, or to verify conformity with phytosanitary requirements.

***[36]***The objectives of field inspection as a phytosanitary measure include, but are not limited to:

* ***[37]***detection of pests, or signs and symptoms of pests; and
* ***[38]***verification of conformity with phytosanitary requirements, including:
* ***[39]***as part of a systems approach (ISPM 14 (*The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*)),
* ***[40]***for the establishment and maintenance of a pest free place of production or production site (ISPM 10 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites*)),
* ***[41]***to verify that plants in a field are free from a specified pest, or
* ***[42]***in certification programmes for export, to verify that infestation of plants for planting by a specified pest has not exceeded the specified threshold.

***[43]***3. Field inspection and specific surveillance

***[44]***National plant protection organizations may use field inspection to verify conformity with phytosanitary requirements for the international movement of plants as described in this annex, but it can also be used as part of specific surveillance (ISPM 6 (*Surveillance*)) to determine pest status in accordance with ISPM 8 (*Determination of pest status in an area*).

***[45]***4. Assumptions involved in the application of field inspection

***[46]***In addition to the assumptions outlined in section 1.2 of the core text of this standard, the use of field inspection to verify the absence of a specified pest or to determine pest incidence in a field is based on the following assumptions:

* ***[47]***The pest or its sign or symptom is visually detectable at a certain stage of plant growth.
* ***[48]***If the pest is detected during field inspection, the commodity derived from those plants may be infested.
* ***[49]***Field inspection can be more effective or practical than testing or inspection of consignments (e.g. rootstocks, seeds).

***[50]***5. Other considerations for field inspection

***[51]***In addition to the factors listed in section 1.5 of the core text of this standard, NPPOs may also consider the following when deciding on the use of field inspection as a phytosanitary measure:

* ***[52]***pest status in the area (present or absent);
* ***[53]***pest prevalence and pest distribution in the field;
* ***[54]***pest biology;
* ***[55]***phenological stage of plants;
* ***[56]***the susceptibility of the plant species and variety or cultivar to the pest of concern;
* ***[57]***the origin of the plants being inspected;
* ***[58]***inspection method, timing and frequency, and the technical equipment needed;
* ***[59]***field size and configuration;
* ***[60]***other biotic factors (e.g. presence of other pests, natural enemies, hosts in the vicinity) and abiotic factors (e.g. climate);
* ***[61]***cultural practices and control measures; and
* ***[62]***length of time between inspection and harvest.

***[63]***6. Specific requirements for field inspection

***[64]***The specific requirements for field inspection relate to the following components of the field-inspection process:

* ***[65]***examination of relevant documents;
* ***[66]***verification of identity of the field and plants; and
* ***[67]***visual examination for pests and conformity with other phytosanitary requirements.

***[68]***6.1 Examination of relevant documents

***[69]***Relevant documents associated with field inspection may include the following:

* ***[70]***field maps, field-identity documents;
* ***[71]***producer records;
* ***[72]***documents confirming registration of the field;
* ***[73]***previous inspection reports;
* ***[74]***previous test reports;
* ***[75]***treatment documents or certificates;
* ***[76]***certificates of origin of plants and plant material;
* ***[77]***certification-programme documentation;
* ***[78]***phytosanitary import requirements; and
* ***[79]***records that ensure traceability (e.g. the necessary information to allow trace-forward and trace-back of plants).

***[80]***6.2 Verification of the identity of the field and plants

***[81]***Inspectors should verify the identity of the field and of the plants that are subject to inspection to ensure that they match the identity provided in the corresponding documents (e.g. location of field; species, varieties and cultivars).

***[82]***6.3 Visual examination for pests and conformity with phytosanitary requirements

***[83]***6.3.1 Detection of pests

***[84]***To determine whether the pest of concern is present in the field or its vicinity, or whether its population size exceeds a specified threshold, the NPPO should select an inspection method.

***[85]***The method and the intensity of inspection should allow the pest to be detected at the desired level of detection with the desired level of confidence. The ability of the method to do this depends on practical and statistical considerations, such as the effectiveness of the method at detecting the pest, the growing conditions, and the number of plants or the size of the field.

***[86]***The method should be based on reliable, documented, technical and operational criteria, and the NPPO should apply it consistently.

***[87]***6.3.2 Verification of conformity with other phytosanitary requirements

***[88]***National plant protection organizations may conduct field inspection to verify conformity with other phytosanitary requirements, such as those relating to:

* ***[89]***the growing medium and substrate for the plants;
* ***[90]***the phenological stage and size of the plants;
* ***[91]***the distance between the field and any specific host plants;
* ***[92]***pest-management practices in the vicinity of the field;
* ***[93]***specific production conditions; or
* ***[94]***sanitation and hygiene.

***[95]***7. Field-inspection methods

***[96]***The field-inspection method should be designed to detect the pest of concern at the desired level of detection with the desired level of confidence. The NPPO should review the method as necessary to take account of the experience gained and new technical developments. The method may include one or more of the following:

* ***[97]***a general visual assessment of a field, or part thereof, to check the physiological condition of the plants, looking for anomalies within the crop and for any noticeable, poorly growing plants or patches of plants or those with obvious symptoms;
* ***[98]***inspection of the entire field, a part of the field, or where appropriate the entire field and its vicinity, depending on phytosanitary requirements;
* ***[99]***an inspection scheme that ensures that relevant parts of the field are adequately and proportionally represented, and that is appropriate for detecting the pest; and
* ***[100]***targeted inspection of individual plants or specific plant parts (including underground parts) that are expected to show signs or symptoms of pests.

***[101]***When selecting the timing and frequency of field inspection, the NPPO should take into account the biology of the pest and the plants:

* ***[102]***The timing should coincide with a life stage of the pest that is suitable for detection and for the plants to show signs or symptoms. This varies between pest and plant species and may depend on the growing conditions and local cropping practices.
* ***[103]***The length of time between the inspection and date of harvest may need to be considered.

***[104]***Visual examination of plants in the field may not be sufficient to verify absence of the pest. Examples of such circumstances include the following:

* ***[105]***the pest is known to exhibit latency;
* ***[106]***infested plants can be asymptomatic;
* ***[107]***the phenological stage of the plants is not appropriate for pest detection (e.g. young plants);
* ***[108]***suspicious signs or symptoms cannot be immediately identified; and
* ***[109]***the life stage of the pest at the time of inspection is difficult to detect.

***[110]***In such circumstances, the NPPO may carry out field inspection in combination with another phytosanitary measure to provide assurance that plants are free from the pest.

***[111]***8. Field inspection outcome

***[112]***The result of the field inspection may contribute to the decision about whether the plants meet phytosanitary requirements.

***[113]***If the pest of concern is detected or its population size exceeds the specified threshold, or if conformity with other phytosanitary requirements is not verified, the NPPO may take further actions to meet phytosanitary requirements. These actions may be determined by the nature of the findings, considering the pest or other objectives, and the circumstances; for example, the NPPO may exclude the place of production from further phytosanitary certification for export.

***[114]***9. Documentation

***[115]***National plant protection organizations should develop official documentation for conducting field inspections and recording the results. Such documentation is essential for promoting consistency, improving the interpretation and reliability of results, and facilitating the audit and verification of field-inspection activities.

***[116]***The NPPO should retain all records about each field inspection for as long as is needed to allow trace-back from a non-compliant consignment or to facilitate the later review of results if necessary. Such records should be made available for audit, and to the NPPO of an importing country on request.

***[117]***10. Responsibilities of national plant protection organizations

***[118]***The responsibilities of NPPOs that conduct field inspection should include the following:

* ***[119]***designing a field inspection programme in accordance with the factors listed in section 1.5 of the core text of this standard and other considerations in section 5 of this annex;
* ***[120]***sharing the field inspection programme with the NPPOs of importing countries, if appropriate;
* ***[121]***ensuring that the field inspection programme is consistently implemented;
* ***[122]***providing sufficient human resources and equipment to design and implement the field inspection programme;
* ***[123]***training personnel to ensure that their skills and expertise are maintained at an adequate level to plan and conduct field inspections effectively and consistently;
* ***[124]***ensuring that inspectors can fulfil the requirements described in section 1.4 of the core text of this standard;
* ***[125]***developing, reviewing and evaluating field-inspection processes as needed; and
* ***[126]***determining the roles and responsibilities of producers with regard to field inspections.

***[127]***Potential implementation issues

***[128]***This section is not part of the standard. The Standards Committee in May 2016 requested the secretariat to gather information on any potential implementation issues related to this draft. Please provide details and proposals on how to address these potential implementation issues.