[PleaseReview document review. Review title: 2025 First Consultation: 2023-014 - Draft specification: Revision of ISPM 23 (Guidelines for inspection). Document title: 2023-014\_DraftSpec\_RevisionOfISPM23\_eng.docx]

***[1]*DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR ISPM: Revision of ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*) (2023-014)**

***[2]***Status box

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| ***[3]***This is not an official part of the specification and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after approval. | |
| ***[4]*Date of this document** | ***[5]***2025-05-26 |
| ***[6]*Document category** | ***[7]***Draft specification for an ISPM |
| ***[8]*Current document stage** | ***[9]****To* first consultation |
| ***[10]*Major stages** | ***[11]***2024-04 CPM-18 added topic *Revision of ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*)* (2023-014), priority 2.  ***[12]***2025-05 Standards Committee (SC) revised and approved for consultation. |
| ***[13]*Steward history** | ***[14]***2024-05 Masahiro SAI (JP, Lead Steward)  ***[15]***2024-11 Steve CÔTÉ (CA, Assistant Steward) |
| ***[16]*Notes** | ***[17]***This is a draft document  ***[18]***2025-05 Edited |

***[19]***Title

***[20]***Revision of ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*) (2023-014).

***[21]***Reason for the revision of the standard

***[22]***ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*) deals with the inspection of consignments and was adopted by the Seventh Session of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in April 2005. Since its adoption, many countries have used ISPM 23 for “the inspection of consignments of plants and plant products moving in international traffic and, where appropriate, the inspection of other regulated articles, particularly with the object of preventing the introduction and/or spread of pests” (Article IV.2(c) of the IPPC). However, since the adoption of ISPM 23, the definitions of “inspection” and other relevant terms (i.e. “compliance procedure (for a consignment)”, “identity”, “integrity”) in ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) have been modified or added. A gap has therefore been created between the requirements of ISPM 23 (especially in relation to the meaning of “inspection”) and the definitions of these ISPM 5 terms.

***[23]***The revised ISPM 5 definition of “inspection”, adopted in 2024, is “official visual examination of plants, plant products or other regulated articles to determine if pests are present or to verify conformity with phytosanitary requirements”. However, the term “inspection” is used in a broader sense in ISPM 23, including other compliance procedures such as the examination of documents and verification of identity and integrity of the consignment. The revised definition of the ISPM 5 term “compliance procedure (for a consignment)”, adopted in 2023, is “official process of document checks, verification of consignment integrity, inspection or testing to verify if a consignment complies with phytosanitary import requirements or phytosanitary requirements related to transit”. Many other ISPMs refer to ISPM 23 but use the term “inspection” in a narrow sense (i.e. visual examination to determine if pests are present or to verify conformity with phytosanitary requirements).

***[24]***In addition to addressing the above inconsistencies, there is a need to revise ISPM 23 to clarify some of the requirements for inspection procedures, including the authorization and responsibilities of third parties if conducting inspection, and to accommodate modern methodologies and technologies. The requirements for field inspection are being developed as an annex to ISPM 23 (draft annex *Field inspection* (2021-018) to ISPM 23), so the core text of ISPM 23 also needs to be revised to connect to this annex.

***[25]***Scope

***[26]***ISPM 23 describes procedures for the inspection of plants, plant products and other regulated articles before export and at import. The revision of ISPM 23 should include the following: ensuring consistency with the definitions of relevant terms in ISPM 5; clarifying the inspection procedure and other relevant compliance procedures (e.g. document and integrity checks); and updating the requirements that cover the necessary steps in the inspection procedure.

***[27]***Purpose

***[28]***The purpose of the revision is to update and clarify the requirements in ISPM 23 and ensure that the standard is consistent with the relevant ISPM 5 definitions.

***[29]***The revised standard will also connect to the content of the newly developed annex *Field inspection* (2021-018).

***[30]***Tasks

***[31]***The expert working group (EWG) should undertake the following tasks:

1. ***[32]***Identify the sections of ISPM 23 that align with the ISPM 5 definition of “inspection” (i.e. visual examination to determine if pests are present or to verify conformity with phytosanitary requirements) and the sections that describe inspection in a broader sense that goes beyond the ISPM 5 definition (including compliance procedures other than inspection).
2. ***[33]***Revise the contents of ISPM 23 to ensure that all aspects of inspection are included and to better connect the draft annex *Field inspection* (2021-018) to the core text based on the recommendations from the EWG on Field Inspection (2021-018).
3. ***[34]***Review the text of ISPM 23 and identify which sections, or parts thereof, if any, could be moved to implementation material. Advise whether any updates to these sections (or parts) would be required and whether any terms would benefit from a definition being included in ISPM 5.
4. ***[35]***Consider whether the revised standard 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 standard.
5. ***[36]***Review all references to ISPM 23 in other ISPMs to ensure they are still relevant and propose consequential changes if necessary. Review all references to ISPMs in the revised ISPM 23 and amend as necessary.

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

***[38]***Expertise

***[39]***Members should have collective knowledge of, and experience in, consignment and field inspection, compliance procedures and pest risk management.

***[40]***Members of the former EWG on Field Inspection (2021-018) are encouraged to apply.

***[41]***Participants

***[42]***Five to seven members.

***[43]***In addition, a member of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) should be invited to attend as an invited expert or an IC representative.

***[44]***Bibliography

***[45]***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.

***[46]***References

***[47]*IPPC Secretariat**. 1997. *International Plant Protection Convention*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/about/convention-text/>

***[48]*ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/622/>

***[49]***Further reading

***[50]*IPPC Secretariat**. 2018. *Report of the 32nd meeting of the Standards Committee, 19–23 November 2018*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86854/>

***[51]*IPPC Secretariat**. 2023. *Report of the meeting of the Technical Panel for the Glossary, 28 November–2 December 2022*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92027/>

***[52]*IPPC Secretariat**. 2023. *Report of the meeting of the Standards Committee, 8–12 May 2023*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92494/>

***[53]*IPPC Secretariat**. 2024. *Explanatory document on ISPM 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms)*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. 57 pp. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87049>

***[54]*ISPM 7**. 2016. *Phytosanitary certification system*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. Adopted 2011. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/613/>

***[55]*ISPM 20**. 2023. *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/602/>

***[56]*ISPM 45**. 2021. *Requirements for national plant protection organizations if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions*. IPPC Secretariat. Rome, FAO. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89734/>

***[57]***Discussion papers

***[58]***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 EWG.