



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

REPORT FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 9.1

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the SC chairperson)

1. Introduction

[1] This report provides a record of the activities of the Standards Committee (SC) in 2025 as well as an insight into the future work.

[2] The detailed SC and Standards Committee Working Group (SC-7) meeting reports are available on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).¹

[3] This report highlights the significant input provided by the SC, the SC stewards and members of technical panels. Progressed topics and subjects on the *List of topics for IPPC standards*² have required considerable input from all involved: the SC, technical panels, experts, contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), other international organizations, and the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”). Hence, the SC and the Standard Setting Unit of the secretariat would like to recognize the support from contracting parties, RPPOs and other international organizations in providing SC members and experts to participate in and promote the standard setting process.

2. IPPC consultations

[4] Contracting party participation in reviewing draft ISPMs during consultation is essential. The development process typically involves two consultation rounds, except for phytosanitary treatments. Early comments ensure drafts align with contracting party expectations. Support is available through regional SC members, IPPC regional workshops, and the secretariat. The draft specifications and draft ISPMs listed below went through the corresponding consultations in 2025.³

2025 First consultation

[5] Draft specifications:

- annex *Remote audits* (2023-031) to ISPM 47 (*Audit in the phytosanitary context*);
- revision of ISPM 12 (*Phytosanitary certificates*) (2023-020); and
- revision of ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*) (2023-014).

[6] Draft annexes to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures*):

- International movement of fresh *Musa* spp. fruit (2023-028); and
- International movement of fresh *Colocasia esculenta* (2023-023).

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

² *List of topics for IPPC standards*: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>

³ IPPC consultations: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/consultations/member-consultation-draft-ispm/>

2025 Second consultation

[7] Draft ISPMs:

- revision of ISPM 26 (*Establishment and maintenance of pest free areas for tephritid fruit flies*) (2021-010); and
- annex *Field inspection* (2021-018) to ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*).

[8] Draft annexes to ISPM 28 (*Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests*):

- Irradiation treatment for *Pseudococcus baliteus* (2023-033).

3. Recommendation of draft ISPMs to CPM-20 (2026) for adoption (addressed separately in agenda item 11)

[9] Draft ISPMs:

- revision of ISPM 26 (*Establishment and maintenance of pest free areas for tephritid fruit flies*) (2021-010); and
- annex *Field inspection* (2021-018) to ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*);
- annex to ISPM 28: Irradiation treatment for *Paracoccus marginatus* (2023-034); and
- annex to ISPM 28: Irradiation treatment for *Planococcus lilacinus* (2023-035).

4. Diagnostic protocols adopted by the Standards Committee on behalf of the CPM

[10] On behalf of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), the SC adopted the following two diagnostic protocols (DPs) as annexes to ISPM 27 (*Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests*) in the period since April 2025 and the CPM is invited to note them (addressed separately in agenda item 11):

- DP 35 (*Meloidogyne malii*); and
- DP 36 (Genus *Pospiviroid*).

5. Contracting parties' support for standard setting activities

[11] Contracting parties and international organizations continue to support the activities related to IPPC standard setting. Special thanks are extended to Denmark, France, Japan, Kenya and New Zealand for hosting meetings and Australia, South Africa and the United States of America for their in-kind contribution of members of the secretariat.

6. Main highlights of the Standard Committee's work

6.1 Standards Committee November meeting 2025⁴

SC small working group on developing a position paper on the future of ISPMs

[12] At its May 2025 meeting, the SC established a small working group to develop a paper on the future of ISPMs. Following discussions, the draft position paper was shared with the full SC for comments and suggestions through the Online Comment System.

[13] The finalized version was subsequently submitted for SC approval via the e-decision process and later forwarded to the Strategic Planning Group for further discussion. The paper was also presented to the SC for consideration at its November 2025 meeting. The SC agreed to forward the SC position paper on rethinking ISPMs, as submitted to the Strategic Planning Group, to CPM-20 (2026) for consideration.

⁴ Standards Committee: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/>

SC small working group on developing guidance and responsibilities of stewards and assistant stewards

[14] At its May 2025 meeting, the SC began reviewing the “Guidelines on the role of lead and assistant steward(s)” but determined that insufficient time remained to complete the review. The SC agreed that the small working group should continue its work and present an updated version of the text at a subsequent meeting.

[15] The SC continued this discussion during its November 2025 meeting and requested that the secretariat upload the draft guidance to the Online Comment System for SC member feedback by the end of February 2026. The SC will further review the revised guidance at its May 2026 meeting.

SC small working group on clarifying “pest absence” and “pest free area” in ISPMs

[16] During the May SC meeting, the steward of the draft ISPM 26 revision raised a terminological concern from the expert working group: National plant protection organizations (NPPOs) might interpret the ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) definition of “pest free area” as making official maintenance optional rather than mandatory, contradicting requirements in ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) and ISPM 26. Additionally, the EWG noted that the distinction between “pest absent” (ISPM 8 (*Determination of pest status in an area*)) and official pest free area establishment was unclear. The SC formed a small working group to assess these issues.

[17] Following the working group’s analysis, the SC added revision of the ISPM 5 term “pest free area” to its work programme and recommended that CPM-20 (2026) add the focused revision of ISPM 8 regarding “pest absent” descriptions as priority 1 to resolve ambiguity. The SC also invited the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) to propose solutions for addressing phytosanitary import requirements of pest absence in commodity standards for SC consideration in May 2026.

SC small working group on the rationale for the proposed change to the status of the topic Minimizing pest movement by air containers and aircraft (2008-002)

[18] During its November 2025 meeting, the SC established a small working group to develop a paper for CPM-20 (2026) addressing the rationale for the proposed status change of the topic *Minimizing pest movement by air containers and aircraft* (2008-002). The SC agreed that the paper should incorporate several key aspects to strengthen the justification: the One Health approach, demonstrating how plant health connects with broader health and environmental considerations; linkages to the ongoing work on sea containers to ensure consistency and leverage lessons learned from that initiative; and opportunities for collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission or Secretariat and the World Organization for Animal Health, the other standard setting bodies under the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. This comprehensive approach aims to provide CPM-20 (2026) with a well-reasoned basis for deciding on the topic’s future direction within the IPPC work programme.

Other matters requiring CPM-20 (2026) consideration

[19] The SC November 2025 meeting addressed some matters requiring CPM-20 (2026) consideration. First, recognizing the importance of comprehensive input for commodity standards development, the SC emphasized the need for broader contracting party engagement in submitting pests and measures for inclusion in draft annexes to ISPM 46. The SC noted that, while additional pests and measures could be proposed during first consultation, early submission during the call for information phase would enhance the quality and completeness of draft standards.

[20] Second, the SC reviewed its terms of reference and identified a necessary clarification regarding Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) representation. The current wording “IC member may attend as an observer” creates ambiguity about attendance expectations, whereas “IC representative attends as an observer” establishes clear, consistent participation that strengthens coordination and clarity between the two committees and ensures the IC remains informed of standards development work.

6.2 Recognition of outgoing Standards Committee members' contributions

[21] The SC has 25 members from each of the seven FAO regions.⁵ David KAMANGIRA (Malawi), Eyad MOHAMMED (Syrian Arab Republic), Gerald Glenn F. PANGANIBAN (Philippines) and Marina ZLOTINA (United States of America) all completed their terms or resigned from the SC over the period since CPM-19 (2025). Through this paper, the SC, on behalf of the IPPC community, thanks these members for their contributions to standard setting over the course of their membership.

6.3 Standards Committee's support in delivery of the 2025 IPPC regional workshops⁶

[22] Standards Committee members actively contributed to the 2025 IPPC regional workshops, serving on organizing committees, developing and delivering presentations on draft ISPMs and related issues, and facilitating discussions on ISPMs under consultation. Seven regional workshops, held during August and September over three to five days in person or in hybrid format, succeeded through the collaboration among the secretariat, IC, CPM Bureau, national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), RPPOs, and the broader IPPC community.

[23] The 2025 IPPC regional workshops covered:

- discussion and formulation of comments on draft ISPMs and other documents released for first and second consultation in the Online Comment System;
- phytosanitary capacity building to raise awareness about phytosanitary resources available for NPPOs in the IPPC community;
- priority regional plant-health topics; and
- field visits (e.g. laboratory and plant production facilities) or other regional governance meetings.

[24] The SC expresses its appreciation to the NPPOs of Argentina, Congo, Fiji, Republic of Korea, Oman, Trinidad and Tobago, and Türkiye for hosting the seven regional workshops.

6.4 Enhanced collaboration between the SC and the IC

[25] The SC and IC continuously explore ways to strengthen collaboration to enhance support to contracting parties in implementing ISPMs and the convention. The SC continued to provide inputs to the IC, primarily on implementation issues identified in draft ISPMs. Following agreement by the SC and IC, the secretariat developed a repository system in the restricted area of the IPP to manage implementation issues raised on draft or adopted standards. Issues identified by the SC for draft ISPMs and those raised during consultation periods are stored in the repository both to facilitate future IC consideration and to ensure easy access to implementation information.

[26] To further strengthen the connection between ISPMs and implementation material, the SC supported the IC proposal to include links to relevant implementation materials on ISPM subpages within the IPP. Collaboration is also further reinforced through reciprocal participation: one SC member attends IC meetings, and one IC member participates in SC meetings. The SC also recommended to CPM-20 (2026) that the SC terms of reference be revised from “IC member may attend as an observer” to “IC representative attends as an observer”. In addition, IC members participate in SC expert working group meetings.

7. Activities of the expert drafting groups

[27] The SC oversees the work of expert drafting groups (expert working groups and technical panels). A summary of technical panel work is presented below.

⁵ SC membership: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/1109/>

⁶ 2025 IPPC regional workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/regional-ippc-workshops/2025-ippc-regional-workshops/>

7.1 Technical Panel for Diagnostic Protocols

[28] The Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) develops international DPs to support the harmonization of pest detections and identification procedures worldwide.⁷ As outlined in the CPM recommendation on *The importance of pest diagnosis* (R-07),⁸ accurate and rapid pest diagnosis underpins phytosanitary certification, import inspections, and the application of appropriate phytosanitary treatments.

[29] The TPDP continued to deliver its work programme in hybrid modality, managing more than 50 DP authors from various countries. In the period since April 2025, two DPs were adopted by the SC on behalf of the CPM.

[30] **TPDP meetings.** The TPDP had two virtual meetings in June and October 2025 and one face-to-face meeting on 21–25 July 2025 at Angers, France.

[31] **TPDP membership.** TPDP membership and contact information can be found on the IPP.⁹

7.2 Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments

[32] The Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) evaluates data submissions from NPPOs and RPPOs and reviews, revises and develops phytosanitary treatment (PTs) based on this submitted information.¹⁰

[33] 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. The TPPT also provides guidance to the SC on specific phytosanitary treatment issues if requested.

[34] The TPPT oversees the information on the phytosanitary treatments online search tool,¹¹ which enables the 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.

[35] **TPPT meetings.** The TPPT had one virtual meeting in 2025 and met face-to-face in Yokohama, Japan, on 16–20 June 2025.

[36] **TPPT membership.** TPPT membership and contact information can be found on the IPP.¹²

[37] **TPPT work programme.** In 2025, the TPPT received and considered five new treatment submissions at the June 2025 meeting, which the SC agreed to add to the TPPT work programme:

- Cold treatment for *Ceratitis capitata* on *Actinidia* spp. (2024-003);
- Hot water treatment protocols for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Mangifera indica* (2025-001);
- Hot water treatment protocols for *Thaumatomibia leucotreta* on *Capsicum annuum* L. (2025-002);
- Ethanodinitrile fumigation of wood for *Hylurgus ligniperda* and *Hylastes ater* (2025-003); and
- Irradiation treatment for *Drosophila suzukii* on all host fruits and vegetables (2025-004).

[38] Priorities for these five treatments will be discussed and reviewed by the TPPT in 2026.

⁷ TPDP web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-diagnostic-protocols/>

⁸ The importance of pest diagnosis: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84234/>

⁹ TPDP membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92200/>

¹⁰ TPPT web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-phytosanitary-treatments/>

¹¹ IPPC phytosanitary treatments search tool: <https://www.ippc.int/en/centre-of-excellence/phytosanitary-treatments-tool/>

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

[39] Following the June 2025 meeting, the TPPT received six new treatment submissions:

- Cold treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* on *Citrus sinensis*;
- Irradiation treatment for *Bactrocera correcta* on all fruits and vegetables that are hosts of *Bactrocera correcta*;
- Vapour heat treatment with low pressure for *Chlorophorus annularis* on bamboo products;
- Gaseous phosphine fumigation for *Paracoccus marginatus* on succulents;
- Vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera dorsalis* in dragon fruit *Hylocereus undatus* Britt; and
- Cold treatment schedule for *Ceratitis capitata* (Diptera: Tephritidae) on pomegranate fruit.

[40] **ISPM 15 (Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade) criteria.** The TPPT presented draft criteria for developing PTs for ISPM 15 to the SC in November 2025. The SC approved the criteria for inclusion in the *IPPC procedure manual for standard setting* and confirmed that, with regard to ISPM 15, the TPPT (as per Task 8 of Specification TP 3 (*Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments*)) may work on annexes to existing ISPMs on topics relating to phytosanitary treatments.

7.3 Technical Panel for the Glossary

[41] In addition to continuous updating and improvement of ISPM 5, the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) also provides contributions to the SC and expert drafting groups, and develops additional resource materials.¹³ In particular, in 2025 the TPG:

- provided circa 60 recommendations on phytosanitary terminology and consistency to the stewards of the draft ISPMs that were submitted for first consultation, and 35 recommendations on the translation of terms;
- reviewed adopted ISPMs for consistency;
- agreed on the deletion of a term from ISPM 5 and on translation consistency changes to the Spanish version of ISPM 15, to be applied by means of ink amendments;
- updated the section “General recommendations on use of terms in ISPMs” in the *IPPC style guide*;
- revised the IPPC brochure *Introduction to Phytosanitary Terminology*, which was published on the IPP;¹⁴ and
- updated the *Explanatory document on ISPM 5* (also known as the “Annotated Glossary”), which was published on the IPP.¹⁵

[42] **TPG meeting.** The TPG met virtually from 27 to 31 October 2025.

[43] **TPG membership.** TPG membership and contact information can be found on the IPP.¹⁶

7.4 Technical Panel on Commodity Standards

[44] The TPCS supports the development of commodity standards and ensures that sufficient rigour, resources and focus can be provided.¹⁷

¹³ TPG web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-glossary-phytosanitary-terms-ispm-5/>

¹⁴ *Introduction to phytosanitary terminology*: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd4506en>

¹⁵ *Explanatory document on ISPM 5* (Annotated Glossary): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87049/>

¹⁶ TPG membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/8069/>

¹⁷ TPCS web page: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/standards-committee/technical-panels/technical-panel-on-commodity-standards/>

[45] **TPCS work programme.** The first annex to ISPM 46, the *International movement of fresh Mangifera indica fruit* (2021-011), was adopted by CPM-19 (2025) as Commodity Standard (CS) 1.¹⁸ Currently, there are seven topics under the work programme of the TPCS.¹⁹

[46] **TPCS meetings.** The TPCS had six virtual meetings in 2025. Two face-to-face meetings were also held: the first on 9–13 June 2025 in Auckland, New Zealand and the second on 8–12 December 2025 in Rome, Italy.

[47] **TPCS membership.** The TPCS membership and contact information can be found on the IPP.²⁰

Recommendations

[48] The CPM is *invited* to:

- (1) *note* the report on the activities of the Standards Committee in 2025;
- (2) *thank* contracting parties and members of the SC, both past and present, for their support of the standard setting process;
- (3) *thank* SC members who completed or retired in 2025:
 - David KAMANGIRA (Malawi),
 - Eyad MOHAMMED (Syria),
 - Gerald Glenn F. PANGANIBAN (Philippines), and
 - Marina ZLOTINA (United States of America);
- (4) *acknowledge* the contributions of the Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols members who left in 2025:
 - Vessela MAVRODIEVA (United States of America), and
 - Yazmin RIVERA (United States of America);
- (5) *acknowledge* the contributions of the Technical Panel on Commodity Standards members who left in 2025:
 - Douglas KERRUISH (Australia);
- (6) *acknowledge* the contributions of the Technical Panel for the Glossary members who left in 2025:
 - Ebbe NORDBO (Denmark), and
 - Shaza Roshdy OMAR (Egypt);
- (7) *acknowledge* the contributions of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments members who left in 2025:
 - Toshiyuki DOHINO (Japan), and
 - Eduardo WILLINK (Argentina);
- (8) *approve* the revision of the SC terms of reference from “IC member may attend as an observer” to “IC representative attends as an observer”; and
- (9) *encourage* contracting parties to submit pests and measures for inclusion in draft annexes to ISPM 46 during the call for information, with any additional pests and measures being proposed during the first consultation.

¹⁸ CS 1 (International movement of fresh *Mangifera indica* fruit): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/94727/>

¹⁹ List of topics for IPPC standards: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/list-topics-ippc-standards/list>

²⁰ TPCS membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91212/>

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