

THE ROLE OF IPPC CONTACT POINTS

The IPPC contact points are used for all information exchanged under the IPPC between contracting parties, between the Secretariat and contracting parties and, in some cases, between contracting parties and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs).

The IPPC contact point should:

- have the necessary authority to communicate on phytosanitary issues on behalf of the contracting party, i.e. as the contracting party's single IPPC enquiry point;
- ensure the information exchange obligations under the IPPC are implemented in a timely manner;
- provide coordination for all official phytosanitary communication between contracting parties related to the effective functioning of the IPPC;
- redirect phytosanitary information received from other contracting parties and from the IPPC Secretariat to appropriate official(s);
- redirect requests for phytosanitary information from contracting parties and the IPPC Secretariat to the appropriate official(s);
- keep track of the status of appropriate responses to information requests that have been made to the contact point; and

The role of the IPPC contact point is central to the effective functioning of the IPPC, and it is important that the IPPC contact point has adequate resources and sufficient authority to ensure that requests for information are dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner.

Article VIII.2 requires contracting parties to designate a contact point, and therefore it is the contracting party which is responsible for making, and informing the Secretariat of, the nomination. There can be only one contact point per contracting party. The contracting party, by making the nomination, agrees that the nominee has the necessary authority to fulfil the functions of the contact point as determined within the framework of the IPPC. Individual persons cannot appoint themselves as contact points.