DRAFT SPECIFICATION FOR ISPM: International movement of grain (2008-007)

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Title

International movement of grain.

Reason for the standard

The international trade in grain for the purposes of human food, animal feed or further processing (for example, milling, oilseed crushing, fractionation, biofuel production) is important to the economies of both grain exporting and grain importing countries. A stable grain trade is critical to feed an expanding world population. Phytosanitary measures applied to the movement of grain to decrease the risk of introduction and spread of quarantine pests into new geographical areas should be technically justified and be the least trade restrictive.

There is currently no international guidance in adopted ISPMs that focuses specifically on phytosanitary measures for the international movement of grain. This has resulted in a lack of harmonized approaches for managing the pest risks associated with grain. Many national organizations and trading partners have developed guidelines, quality standards or specifications applicable to the international movement of grain. While many of these rules are focused solely on quality or food safety[[1]](#footnote-1), it is important that national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) do not confuse grain quality or food safety measures with phytosanitary measures applied to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests. Guidance is needed on the assessment of pest risks related to grain as a pathway for quarantine pests, and on technically justified phytosanitary measures to manage such pest risks. Exporting and importing countries, in particular developing countries, may benefit from such guidance. Phytosanitary measures applied prior to export and at the time of import can be effective in pest risk mitigation and thereby help to improve food security, but international guidance is needed to ensure such measures are technically justified, commensurate with the level of risk, and the least trade restrictive.

Scope and purpose

The standard should apply to consignments of grain[[2]](#footnote-2) moved internationally and provide guidance to assist NPPOs to identify, assess and manage the pest risks associated with the international movement of grain as a pathway. The standard may also facilitate the international movement and trade of grain through harmonized guidance and criteria for phytosanitary import requirements. The standard should identify and describe specific phytosanitary measures that could be used to reduce pest risk prior to export, on arrival, and during handling and processing. The standard would not apply to seed[[3]](#footnote-3) and does not consider issues related to living modified organisms (LMOs) that are not pests. This standard will help minimize the global spread of pests of plants via the grain pathway.

Tasks

The expert drafting group should undertake the following tasks:

1. Identify and analyse existing international guidance such as standards or industry guidelines and practices dealing with the international movement of grain and consider the extent to which these are relevant to the development and application of phytosanitary measures under the provisions of the IPPC.
2. Provide guidance for determining the potential for grain moving in international trade to be a pathway for the introduction and spread of quarantine pests. Such guidance may be used in a pest risk analysis (PRA) conducted in accordance with ISPM 2:2007 (*Framework for pest risk analysis*) and ISPM 11:2004 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms*)*.* Pest risk should, as appropriate, be specified for the intended use and pest group (e.g. clarification of risks of insects versus viruses). Guidance may also be provided on the difference in pest risk associated with the movement of grain versus the movement of seed, risk of pests that are already globally widespread (characteristics of cosmopolitan pests versus quarantine pests) and the ability of pests associated with grain produced in temperate regions to establish in tropical regions and vice versa.
3. Identify phytosanitary import requirements most commonly used by NPPOs in relation to imported grain. Consider providing guidance on the technical justification of the phytosanitary import requirements.
4. Identify and provide guidance on appropriate phytosanitary measures and their limitations:
5. considering climatic factors (including those related to treatments)
6. considering appropriate verification procedures
7. considering the specific conditions for grain production, transportation, handling and trade, in particular:
8. the relevance and limitations of the application of the concepts of pest free area, low pest prevalence and pest free places of production in managing risks related to grain as a pathway of pests and the consideration of current industry practices and operational limitations, in particular regarding traceability of grain lots
9. although the complete elimination of pests may not be achievable if grain is produced in an area where a pest is present, the application of multiple risk mitigation measures may reduce the pest risk to a very low level and provide appropriate protection to importing countries
10. any conditions related to common practices where specific guidance could be included
11. considering pest risk mitigation measures hereunder providing guidance on:
12. containment of grain during shipping and transfer, secure storage, processing or packaging
13. situations at and after import such as the processing of grain at destination (e.g. milling, oilseed crushing, malting, biofuel production, pelleting, or cleaning and packaging/repackaging for retail sale)
14. containment and appropriate disposal or treatment of screenings or residues derived from cleaning of the grain prior to processing, packaging or consumption.
15. Consider the production, harvest, post-harvest storage, sanitation and pest control practices, cleaning to commercial grade or specification standards prior to export and describe the risk mitigation provided by such measures and quality standards throughout the grain procurement, handling, storage and export system. Related specific guidance may be included if possible and useful.
16. Provide guidance with respect to factors that countries should consider when assessing the pest risk associated with grain as a pathway and developing phytosanitary measures taking into account results achieved in work on the tasks 2, 3, 4 and 5.
17. Discuss the need for guidance related to specific concerns (guidance on sampling or inspection protocols for pest detection (e.g. appropriate to the consignment size and packaging), diversion of grain shipments from intended use, grain shipments intended for food aid, risk mitigation for in-transit and trans-shipped grain, risk mitigation of pests and soil present at low levels), which may be provided in specific annexes or appendixes, and consider whether to include such guidance or to recommend inclusion at a later stage, if appropriate.
18. 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.
19. Consider implementation of the standard by contracting parties including potential operational and technical implementation issues.
20. Recommend, if appropriate, the development of supplementary material to aid implementation by contracting parties.

Provision of resources

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.

Collaborator

To be determined.

Steward

Please refer to the list of topics for IPPC standards posted on the IPP (see https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=207776).

Expertise

An expert working group (EWG) of five to seven phytosanitary experts with expertise in one or more of the following areas: the development or implementation of phytosanitary measures to manage pest risk associated with the international movement of grain; pest risk analysis; grain inspection, testing or storage; knowledge of existing international guidance relating to the international movement of grain or other plant products.

In addition to those experts, one to two experts from grain producing, trading, handling or processing industry or international organizations may be invited to attend the relevant parts of the EWG meeting(s) as invited experts.

Participants

To be determined.

References

The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks and guidance provided from the Open-Ended Workshop on the International Movement of Grain (Vancouver, December 2011).

Discussion papers

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.

1. For example, grade specifications, end use quality standards, freedom from or tolerances for living modified organisms (LMOs), tolerances for extraneous material, and tolerances for stored product pests. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Grain is defined as “A commodity class for seeds intended for processing or consumption but not for planting (see seeds)” (ISPM 5). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Seeds are defined as “A commodity class for seeds for planting or intended for planting and not for consumption or processing (see grain)” (ISPM 5). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)