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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Ninth Session

Rome, 31 March - 4 April 2014

Update on the topic: *International movement of grain (2008-007)*

Agenda item 9.4.2

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

## I. Background

1. A paper<sup>1</sup> on the Open-ended workshop on the international movement of grain held in December 2011<sup>2</sup> was presented to CPM-7 (2012).

2. Following CPM-7 (2012) decisions<sup>3</sup>, the April 2012<sup>4</sup> Standards Committee (SC) approved the draft specification for an ISPM on the *International movement of grain (2008-007)* for member consultation. In November 2012<sup>5</sup>, the SC revised the draft specification based on member comments, and developed three options for CPM consideration on how to move forward on this topic:

- 1) Development of an ISPM.
- 2) Development of a Guide to the implementation of ISPMs on the international movement of grain.
- 3) Development of an ISPM with a reduced scope.

<sup>1</sup> CPM 2012/19 Rev1 available at: <https://www.ippc.int/cpm>

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Open-ended workshop on the international movement of grain (December 2011) available at: <https://www.ippc.int/node/510>

<sup>3</sup> CPM-7 (2012) report, section 8.1.8, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/cpm>

<sup>4</sup> Report of the SC April 2012, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/2012-04-report-standards-committee>

<sup>5</sup> Report of the SC November 2012, section 8.1, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/2012-11-report-standards-committee>

3. A paper<sup>6</sup> on the issue was presented to CPM-8 (2013)<sup>7</sup>. The CPM Chairperson convened a Friends of the Chair meeting and subsequently an informal meeting between those wanting to address the interventions made by contracting parties and to reach consensus. Taking into account the recommendations from the informal meeting group, the CPM agreed to the continued development of an ISPM on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007). The CPM requested the SC to limit the scope of the specification to phytosanitary issues, in particular to exclude living modified organisms (LMOs), climate change, food safety and quality issues, and to determine if traceability should or should not be excluded. Contracting parties were requested to submit comments on these strategic issues to the SC members from their region. The CPM also agreed that the IPPC Secretariat in consultation with the SC Chair could invite experts with experience in strategic matters to participate in the SC 2013 May meeting. After the SC had revised the draft specification on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007), the revised draft specification would be sent for a second member consultation. In addition, the CPM agreed to reconsider the need for guidance document(s) on the international movement of grain after the draft standard is developed, noting that this would be subject to availability of extra-budgetary funding.

## II. Review of the draft specification by the Standards Committee

4. The May 2013<sup>8</sup> SC discussed the issue. As decided by CPM-8 (2013), the IPPC Secretariat in consultation with the SC Chair had approached several experts with experience in strategic matters, but it had not been possible to arrange for their participation due to lack of time between CPM-8 (2013) and the May 2013 SC meeting. The SC decided not to work further on the specification before input was obtained from strategic experts and requested the IPPC Secretariat to arrange for their participation in the November 2013 SC meeting. A few contracting parties had sent comments on strategic issues to the SC members from their region; the SC felt it was important to share these comments with the whole SC. As agreed by the SC, the IPPC Secretariat also sought further input from contracting parties after the May 2013 SC meeting.

5. The following three experts with experience in strategic matters were invited to the November 2013 SC meeting<sup>9</sup>: Mr KEDERA (Kenya), Mr GRIFFIN (USA) and Mr BAGOLIN (Brazil). Following an initial discussion the SC requested they develop a paper for consideration later during the SC meeting. The following issues were identified and further considered by the SC:

- **Scope of the standard.** As requested by CPM-8 (2013), the section on the scope in the draft specification was modified to state that the standard does not specifically address LMOs, climate change, food safety and quality issues. However, it was recognised that some of these aspects may have an indirect impact on phytosanitary issues.
- **Definition of grain.** The three experts had identified that *grain* was currently defined in ISPM 5 (*Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*) as seed for processing and consumption and not for planting. However, some seeds covered by this definition would not normally be considered as conventional grain (e.g. coffee beans). The SC agreed that the scope of the standard should cover cereals, oilseeds and pulses intended for processing and consumption, and that the definition of *grain* should be revised. They added the term *grain* to the *List of topics for IPPC Standards* as a subject to be considered by the Technical Panel for the Glossary.
- **The concept of intended use.** The experts considered that general guidance on intended use would be useful. A proposal for an ISPM on *Diversion from intended use* had been received in the 2013 call for topics. The SC did not recommend adding this to the *List of topics for IPPC*

<sup>6</sup> CPM 2013/06 available at: <https://www.ippc.int/cpm>

<sup>7</sup> Report of the CPM-8 (2013), section 8.1.4, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/cpm>

<sup>8</sup> May 2013 SC report, section 7.1, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>

<sup>9</sup> November 2013 SC report, section 8.1, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>

*Standards*. However, they recognised that diversion from intended use is an important issue and agreed to consider it at a future SC meeting. The SC agreed that the Export Working Group (EWG) on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007) should concentrate on processing and consumption as intended uses of grain; references to diversion from intended use were removed from the draft specification.

- **Traceability.** The experts proposed that a definition of traceability as it is applied in a phytosanitary context be developed. They noted that more guidance was needed on the concept of traceability in general and how it can be used for different phytosanitary purposes. The SC agreed that the concept of traceability as it applies to phytosanitary matters should be discussed and understood before a definition is developed. The SC decided that the CPM should be informed of the issue and proposed further discussion on the concept.
- **Food aid.** The experts believed that food aid would not be subject to special conditions (such as waiving phytosanitary requirements to speed up the delivery of food aid) as the risks would remain the same. The IPPC Secretariat noted that this is a sensitive issue which had been recently discussed by the CPM Bureau. The SC agreed that food aid should not be specifically considered as it is outside the remit of the IPPC; the reference to food aid was removed from the draft specification.
- **Need for supplementary material (guidance document(s)).** The experts suggested that such material be developed after the standard is adopted, and that industry should be invited to support its development. The need for guidance in annexes or appendices to the standard would be considered by the EWG. The SC agreed with the experts' suggestion.

6. The SC revised the draft specification on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007) taking into account the above points and approved it for member consultation. The IPPC Secretariat submitted the draft specification<sup>10</sup> to member consultation on 20 December 2013 (closing on 20 February 2014). After this the IPPC Secretariat will compile member comments, post them on the International Phytosanitary Portal<sup>11</sup>, and send them to the steward. The SC will then reconsider the draft specification using the steward's response to member comments.

### III. Recommendations

7. The CPM is invited to:
- 1) *agree* that further work be done by the SC to explore and address the concept of “*diversion from intended use*” as a cross cutting topic affecting other commodities besides grain trade.
  - 2) *consider* options on how to consider the concept of traceability in the phytosanitary context: e.g. organization of an open-ended working group on the issue, consideration by the Strategic Planning Group or by the CPM.
  - 3) *agree* that supplemental material would be developed after the adoption of the standard.
  - 4) *note* the above update on the proposed development on an ISPM on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007).

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<sup>10</sup> Draft specification on the *International movement of grain* (2008-007), available in English, Spanish and French at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/member-consultation-draft-specifications-ispms>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/compiled-member-comments-draft-specifications>