

2020-011: Specification for Inspection e-learning course

Status box

This status box is not an official part of the Guide and will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat	
Topic number	2020-011
Title	Inspection, e-learning course (2020-011)
Type of implementation resource	e-learning course
Date of this document	2021-10-23
Current document stage	Draft Specification
Major stages completed	<p>2021-03: CPM-15 added this topic to List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics; priority 1</p> <p>2020-11: Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) lead identified (Thorwald GEUZE (NL))</p> <p>2021-04: draft specification prepared by the Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) with input from IC lead</p> <p>2021-04: Commented by the IC through OCS</p> <p>2021-05: Comments reviewed of by the (IC) lead</p> <p>2021-05: IC approved draft specification for consultation (e-decision 2021_eIC_12)</p> <p>2021-07: Consultation</p> <p>2021-09: IC revised and approved draft specification</p>
Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) lead	2020-11: Thorwald GEUZE (NL)
IPPC Secretariat lead	2021-02: Descartes KOUMBA
Working Group experts	
Notes	2021-10

1. Title

Inspection, e-learning course (2020-011)

2. Type of implementation resource

New e-learning course.

3. Convention articles, ISPMs and CPM recommendations to be addressed by the proposed implementation resource

International Plant Protection Convention (Article IV.2(c), V.2(a) and VII.1(j), in particular)

ISPM 12: *Phytosanitary certificates*

ISPM 23: *Guidelines for inspection*

ISPM 31 *Methodologies for sampling of consignments*

ISPM 38: *International movement of seeds*

ISPM 39: *International movement of wood*

ISPM 40: *International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting*

4. Scope

This e-learning course aims to enhance the capacity of national plant protection organization (NPPO) staff and authorized entities to carry out phytosanitary inspections of consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles at import and export. The course will provide guidance on using visual examination to detect pests and regulated articles. It will also focus on sampling methodologies and preparing specimens for submission to a diagnostic laboratory to support the inspection.

5. Purpose

National plant protection organizations (NPPOs) have the responsibility 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).

Inspection is defined as the official visual examination of plants, plant products or other regulated articles to determine if pests are present or to determine compliance with phytosanitary regulations (ISPM 5).

Inspectors determine compliance of consignments or lots with phytosanitary regulations, based on documentary identity and integrity checks and visual examination for detection of pests in regulated articles. The result of inspection should allow an inspector to decide whether to accept, detain or reject the consignment or lot.

The purpose of this e-learning course is to support the implementation of ISPM 23, ISPM 31 and other relevant ISPMs by enhancing inspection and sampling skills. It will provide practical guidance and skills to official staff responsible for phytosanitary inspection of consignments intended for export and import, as

well as to staff of authorized entities. Thus, the course will include the requirements for inspection under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).

6. Content for the proposed implementation resource

Proposed tasks for the working group:

- 1) Describe the responsibilities and obligations of exporting NPPOs related to inspection.
- 2) Describe the requirements for inspectors (authorities, qualifications and competencies, including knowledge of pest identification, access to appropriate facilities, tools and equipment, use of written guidelines, etc.).
- 3) Describe the main elements of a phytosanitary inspection and the associated procedures, including:
 - examination of documents (including electronic documents) associated with a consignment
 - verification of consignment identity and integrity
 - visual examination for pests and other phytosanitary import requirements (such as freedom from soil).
- 4) Discuss the assumptions associated with inspection and identify the main limitations of inspection.
- 5) Provide guidance to help inspectors differentiate between “consignments”, “lots” and “sample units”, and discuss how sampling may be used in inspection.
- 6) Provide general examples of sampling best practices and recommend resources for learning more about sampling methodologies.
- 7) Provide guidance to assist inspectors inspecting consignments of plants and plant products and other regulated articles moving in international trade. This guidance could include how to plan and carry out an inspection, what records need to be kept and how to report findings as well as what follow up steps are needed.
- 8) Provide a checklist for an inspector’s tool kit (what an inspector needs to bring to an inspection), according to the commodity to be inspected.
- 9) Discuss how the verification of pest identity may be incorporated into the inspection procedure. Describe how to collect and prepare specimens for submission to a diagnostic laboratory when the identity of the pest cannot be confirmed on-site.
- 10) Discuss how sampling the commodity that is being inspected may be included as part of the inspection procedure. Provide examples to show how these samples may be collected and submitted to a laboratory for testing.
- 11) Provide elements of an inspection report and highlight the importance of good record-keeping, including the collection of “null data”.
- 12) Inspection outcome and next steps (e.g. export phytosanitary certification, release of the consignment, enforcement actions, reporting non-compliance – depending on circumstance).

- 13) Suggest case studies that would enhance the content of this e-learning course and provide examples of how NPPOs inspect consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles to enhance their phytosanitary import and export systems.

7. Financial and in-kind contributions

This e-learning course will be developed under the FAO support to Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Trade Facilitation Programme (GCP/INT/387/COM).

The Comité de Liaison Europe–Afrique–Caraïbes (COLEACP) will provide in-kind pedagogical and technical support.

8. Selection criteria for working group experts

A working group should be formed to help develop this e-learning course and should be composed of experts with relevant technical and practical expertise in the subject matter. The working group should have a wide geographical representation of experts from both developing and developed countries to ensure that the material developed is globally applicable and reflects best practices from all over the world. The following criteria should be used for selecting working group members:

practical expertise and knowledge in one or more of the following areas:

- carrying out phytosanitary inspection activities;
- import verification;
- export certification;
- developing phytosanitary inspection procedures or sampling methodologies; including handling and transportation of samples for diagnostic research;
- developing and/or delivering training programmes for inspectors, particularly e-learning courses.

9. References

EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization). 2021. EPPO Standards – PM 3 Phytosanitary procedures. In *EPPO*. [Cited 23 October 2021].

https://www.eppo.int/RESOURCES/eppo_standards/pm3_procedures

EPPO. 2006. Sampling of consignments for visual phytosanitary inspection. *EPPO Bulletin*, 36,(1): 195–200. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2338.2006.00910.x>

FAO. forthcoming. Development of an e-Learning on phytosanitary export certification system (2020-003). Rome.

IPPC Secretariat. 2015. *Export Certification: A guide to export certification for national plant protection organizations*. [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021].

<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86042/>

IPPC Secretariat. 2015. *Import Certification: A guide to export certification for national plant protection organizations*. [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021].

<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86041/>

IPPC Secretariat. 2015. *Operation of a National Plant Protection Organization: A guide to understanding the principal requirements for operating an organization to protect national plant resources from pests*. [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86039/>

IPPC Secretariat. 1997. International Plant Protection Convention. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO.

ISPM 5. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/622/>

ISPM 7. 2021. *Phytosanitary certification system* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/613/>

ISPM 12. 2021. *Phytosanitary certificates* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/609/>

ISPM 20. 2021. *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/602/>

ISPM 23. 2021. *Guidelines for inspection* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/598/>

ISPM 31. 2021. *Methodologies for sampling of consignments* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/588/>

ISPM 38. 2021. *International movement of seeds* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84340/>

ISPM 39. 2021. *International movement of wood* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84341/>

ISPM 40. 2021. *International movement of growing media in association with plants for planting* [online]. Rome, IPPC Secretariat, FAO. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84342/>

NAPPO (North American Plant Protection Organization). 2021. Resources and Learning Tools for Risk-Based Sampling. In *NAPPO*. [Cited 23 October 2021]. <https://nappo.org/english/learning-tools/Resources-and-Learning-Tools-for-Risk-Based-Sampling>