

Forestry researchers inspect trial eucalyptus seedlings at a nursery in Zimbabwe.

Introduction to phytosanitary terminology

This brochure illustrates the importance of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) in relation to the correct use of phytosanitary terminology, and details the essential role played by the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG).

What is phytosanitary terminology?

The IPPC protects the world’s plants and plant products from pests and diseases through science-based ISPMs. These internationally agreed standards require a specific terminology, attributing one concept to one term, and altogether they form the Glossary of phytosanitary terms.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC was established to secure cooperation among contracting parties in protecting global plant resources from the spread and introduction of plant pests, in order to preserve food security and biodiversity, and facilitate trade.

The strategic objectives of the IPPC Strategic Framework are to:

- » enhance global food security and increase sustainable agricultural productivity;
- » protect the environment from the impacts of plant pests; and
- » facilitate safe trade, development and economic growth.



A close-up of a Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) infesting a maize crop in the North Central province of Sri Lanka.

What is the ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms?

Adopted in 1995 as ISPM 5, the Glossary of phytosanitary terms is the reference standard that lists harmonized terms, definitions and abbreviations with specific meaning in a phytosanitary context in each of the FAO languages. The ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) is regularly updated by the TPG through amendments, which are adopted by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM).

ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms

is available in all official FAO languages on the IPPC webpage and a multilingual version is available upon request at FAO.org.

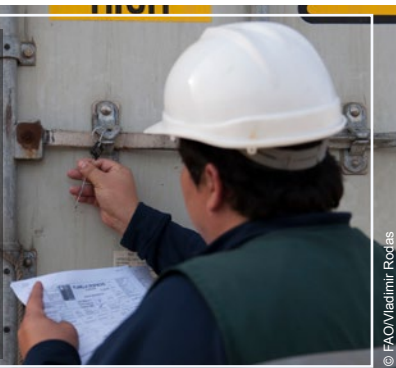


Is it official?

A term that may seem to have a very simple meaning is “official”. When we think of “official”, the first thing that comes to mind is something that may be established or recognized by an authority. But by whom exactly? In phytosanitary context, the term “official” specifically refers to the national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), which establish, authorize or perform certain actions.

compliance procedure (for a consignment)

“ Official process of document checks, verification of consignment integrity, inspection or testing to verify if a consignment complies with phytosanitary import requirements or phytosanitary requirements related to transit



Agriculture and Livestock Service technicians perform inspections of a truck at the Sea Port of Valparaiso, Chile.

What is the Technical Panel for the Glossary?

Established in 2006, the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) is the technical body that reviews and updates the Glossary of phytosanitary terms and ensures the correct use of terminology across ISPMs. The TPG is composed of experts with knowledge of phytosanitary systems and together represent all FAO languages. In particular, the TPG:

- » proposes amendments to the ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) based on needs identified and proposed by contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), IPPC governing and subsidiary bodies and expert working groups, or arising from the development or amendment of ISPMs;
- » develops and revises terms and definitions, and reviews newly proposed or revised terms and definitions; and

- » reviews draft and adopted ISPMs in relation to terms and definitions, contracting parties’ comments on terminology, translation, and consistency within and between ISPMs.

The TPG also reviews and updates the *Explanatory document on ISPM 5*, also known as the “Annotated Glossary”, which provides detailed notes on terms and definitions contained in the Glossary of phytosanitary terms.

Explanatory document on ISPM 5

The Annotated Glossary is available in English on the IPPC webpage.



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[Technical Panel for the Glossary \(TPG\)](#)
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[National plant protection organizations \(NPPOs\)](#)
[Regional plant protection organizations \(RPPOs\)](#)

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