



Introduction to the International Plant Protection Convention e-course

Lesson 2 - International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures

Learning Objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Define what International Standards of Phytosanitary Measure and their objectives are
2. Describe the Standard Setting Procedure step by step
3. Provide examples of International Standards of Phytosanitary Measure

1. Definition and objectives

The intention of international standards is to harmonize phytosanitary measures with the purpose of facilitating safe international trade. ISPMs cover a wide range of activities, which include but are not limited to, surveillance, pest risk analysis, the establishment of pest free areas, export certification, phytosanitary certificates and pest reporting. Additionally, IPPC has responded to the need to harmonize phytosanitary treatments (PT) and diagnostic protocols (DP) as annexes of ISPMs. To ensure global applicability the IPPC Standards Committee oversees the development of ISPMs, which are then adopted by contracting parties at the annual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) - the governing body of the IPPC.

The availability of ISPMs is a significant benefit to contracting parties as it allows them access to a set of globally harmonized standards that are the basis for phytosanitary measures, and their associated activities, to be applied in international trade. This provides contracting parties with certainty and credibility in the establishment and management of their phytosanitary systems.

2. Standard Setting Procedure



Stages

Stage 1: Developing the List of topics for IPPC standards

Step 1: Call for topics



Figure 2: Stage 1, step 1 of the IPPC Standard setting process "call for topics".

The IPPC Secretariat makes a call for topics [= ideas for the creation of a new standard or revision of an old standard] every two years. Contracting parties (CPs) and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) submit detailed proposals for new topics or for the revision of existing ISPMs to the IPPC Secretariat. Submissions should be accompanied with a draft specification, a literature review and justification.

The Standards Committee (SC) reviews the submissions and conveys its recommendations to the CPM.

The CPM reviews, changes and adopts the List of topics for IPPC standards, including assigning a priority for each topic.

Step 2: Annual review of the List of topics for IPPC standards

Annually the SC reviews the List of topics for IPPC standards and recommends changes (including deletions, or changes in priority) to the CPM.

The CPM reviews the List of topics for IPPC standards recommended by the SC. The CPM changes and adopts the List of topics for IPPC standards, including assigning a priority for each topic.

During the next stages, the IPPC Secretariat solicits comments through the IPPC Online Comment System (OCS) from CPs, RPPOs, relevant international organizations, and other entities as needed. The length of each commenting period is specified in the IPPC Procedure Manual for Standard Setting. Then, the IPPC Secretariat compiles the comments received, makes them publicly available and submits them for further consideration according to the Procedure.

The IPPC Secretariat also organizes annually regional workshops for countries to discuss draft ISPMs.

Stage 2: Drafting

Step 3: Development of a specification

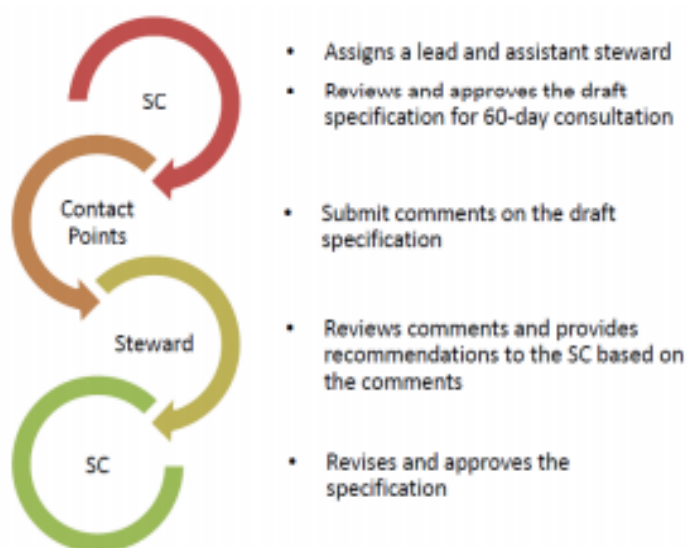


Figure 3: Stage 2, step 3 of the IPPC Standard setting process "development of a specification"

The SC assigns a lead steward and assistant(s) for each topic.

The SC reviews the draft specification that accompanied each submitted topic [Specifications are guidelines that should be followed when drafting or revising a standard, they include information on the scope of a standard and tasks involved].

The IPPC Secretariat solicits comments on draft specification within 60 days.

The specification is revised and approved by the SC and made publicly available.

Step 4: Preparation of a draft ISPM

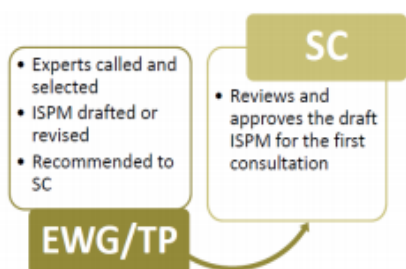


Figure 4a: Stage 2, step 4 of the IPPC Standard setting process "preparation of a draft ISPM"

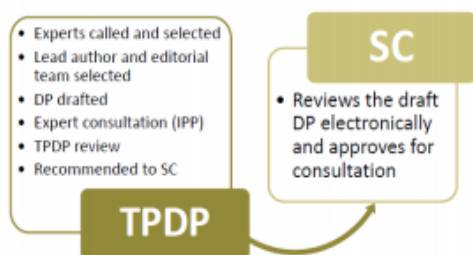


Figure 4b: Stage 2, step 4 of the IPPC Standard setting process "preparation of a draft DP"

An expert drafting group (EDG) (i.e. expert working group [EWG] or technical panel [TP]) drafts or revises the draft ISPM in accordance with the relevant specification. The SC may request the IPPC Secretariat to solicit comments from scientists around the world to ensure the scientific quality of drafts. The resulting draft ISPM is recommended to the SC.

The SC reviews the draft ISPM at a meeting and decides whether to approve it for consultation, to return it to the steward or an EDG or to put it on hold.

Stage 3: Consultation and review

Draft ISPMs are submitted to two consultation periods.

Step 5: First consultation



Figure 5a: Stage 3, step 5 of the IPPC Standard setting process "first consultation for ISPMs"

SC-7 is Standard Committee Working Group of 7 members.

Once the SC approves draft ISPM for the first consultation, the IPPC Secretariat makes it publicly available. The IPPC Secretariat solicits comments on draft ISPM within 90 days.

The steward reviews the comments, prepares responses to the comments, revises the draft ISPM and submits them to the IPPC Secretariat. These are made available to the SC.

Alternatively, to approving the draft ISPM, the SC may for example return it to the steward or an EDG, submit it for another round of consultation or put it on hold.

Step 6: Second consultation



Figure 6: Stage 3, step 6 of the IPPC Standard setting process "second consultation"

Once the SC approves the draft ISPM for the second consultation, the IPPC Secretariat solicits comments within 90 days.

The steward reviews the comments, prepares responses to the comments, revises the draft ISPM and submits the revised draft ISPM to the IPPC Secretariat. These are made available to the SC and the revised draft ISPM is made available to CPs and RPPOs.

The SC reviews the comments, the steward's responses to the comments and the revised draft ISPM. For draft ISPMs, the SC provides a summary of the major issues discussed by the SC. These summaries are recorded in the report of the SC meeting.

Alternatively to recommending the draft ISPM to the CPM, the SC may for example return it to the steward or an EDG, submit it for another round of consultation, or put it on hold.

Stage 4: Adoption and publication

Step 7: Adoption

For draft ISPMs:

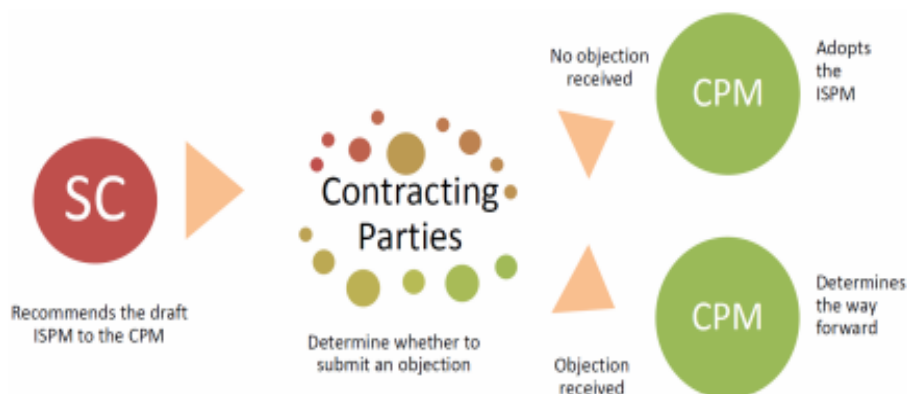


Figure 7a: Stage 4, step 7 of the IPPC Standard setting process (excluding DPs) "adoption"

Following recommendation by the SC, the draft ISPM is included on the agenda of the CPM session. The IPPC Secretariat makes the draft ISPM presented to the CPM for adoption available in the FAO official languages at least six weeks before the opening of the CPM meeting.

If all CPs support the adoption of the draft ISPM, the CPM adopts the ISPM without discussion.

If a CP does not support the adoption of the draft ISPM, the CP may submit an objection. An objection must be accompanied by technical justification and suggestions for improvement – there is a specific procedure to be followed in case of objections.

Step 8: Publication

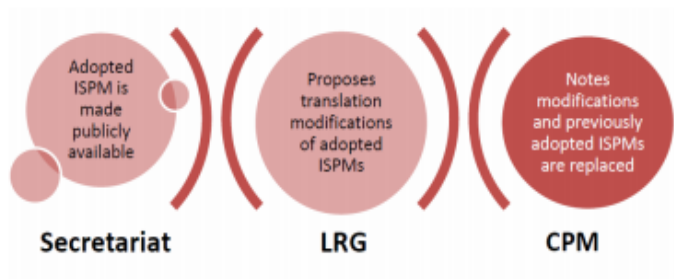


Figure 8: Stage 4, step 8 of the IPPC Standard setting process "publication"

The adopted ISPM is made publicly available.

3. Examples of standards

ISPMs cover all sorts of activities carried out at the national level. Those activities may start with surveillance and monitoring for pests and diseases, phytosanitary inspections and often result in the detection of an organism. In that case activities are connected to a response to a detected outbreak such as eradication or containment measures. Assessing risks connected with pests and diseases is also covered by standards. In general, ISPMs are intended to harmonize phytosanitary measures taken by countries in order to ultimately secure phytosanitary safe international trade of plants, plant products and related objects.

Detection, surveillance and inspection:

ISPM 06	Guidelines for surveillance
ISPM 07	Phytosanitary certification system
ISPM 08	Determination of pest status in an area
ISPM 12	Phytosanitary certificates
ISPM 20	Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system
ISPM 23	Guidelines for inspection
ISPM 27	Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests
ISPM 28	Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests
ISPM 31	Methodologies for sampling of consignments

Response and management of outbreaks:

ISPM 09	Guidelines for pest eradication programmes
ISPM 13	Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action
ISPM 14	The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management
ISPM 17	Pest reporting
ISPM 22	Requirements for the establishment of areas of low pest prevalence

Assessing risks:

ISPM 02	Framework for pest risk analysis
ISPM 11	Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests
ISPM 21	Pest risk analysis for regulated non quarantine pests
ISPM 32	Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk

There are also standards that refer to a specific commodity or a way of transport, such as:

ISPM 15	Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade
ISPM 36	Integrated measures for plants for planting
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
ISPM 41	International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment