

The IPPC

Harmonization update: 2005

Robert L. Griffin

**Director, Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory
Center for Plant Health Science and Technology
USDA-APHIS-PPQ**

Former Coordinator, IPPC Secretariat (1997-2003)

Key Bodies

- **FAO (Conference)**
- **IPPC Secretariat (1992 - present)**
- **Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures (CEPM) (1993-1999)**
- **Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) (1998 - present)**
- **Standards Committee (1999 - present)**
- **National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs)**
- **Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs)**

History

- **FAO from 1951-1993 – no standards**
- **Secretariat formed by FAO in 1992 and interim standard setting procedures were adopted by FAO in 1993**
- **CEPM formed 1994 (annual meetings 1994-1999)**
- **1997 IPPC revised – 1998 Interim Commission met**
- **CEPM transformed into the Interim Standards Committee in 1999 (two meetings/year 2000 - ?)**

Standards adopted

- **ISPM No. 1 adopted in 1993 by FAO Conference**
- **ISPM No. 2, 3 & 4 adopted by FAO in 1995**
- **ISPM No. 6 & 7 were adopted in 1997**
- **ISPM No. 8 & 9 were adopted in 1998 by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM)**
- **ISPM No. 10-21 were adopted between 1999 and 2004**

By comparison...

- **Codex has been setting standards since 1964; has completed at least 230 standards; and adopts approximately 20 new standards or revisions each year**
- **OIE has been setting standards since 1924; has completed [hundreds] of standards; and adopts approximately a dozen new standards or revisions each year**

First steps - Initiation

- Drafts or proposals are submitted by NPPOs or RPPOs
- Priorities are set by the ICPM
- Specifications are drafted by the Secretariat
- Specifications are agreed by the Standards Committee
- Specifications are commented on by Members and may be revised by the Standards Committee

Development

- Drafting or review and revision are done by an expert working group established by the Secretariat
- Completed drafts are submitted to the Standards Committee for review
- Drafts approved by the Standards Committee are translated and distributed by the Secretariat to governments for 120 days consultation.

Completion

- Comments from countries are considered by the Standards Committee
- The standard is amended and approved or returned to the Secretariat for further development
- If approved, the standard is submitted to the ICPM for adoption

Adoption

- Placed on the ICPM agenda by the Secretariat
- Members choose to adopt or reject
- Informal working group may be needed to resolve minor issues
- Cannot be brought to a vote at first presentation
- May be voted upon in the following Session
- Review date is set or may be decided by the ICPM

Benefits

- **Harmonization – a common view of the risks and procedures for management**
- **Reduce disputes – measures based on standards are not challenged by trading partners**
- **Fewer resources needed for risk assessment**
- **Global dialogue on technical issues – no single country has the burden**

Developing countries

- 84% of ICPM membership
 - ◆ about 80% attendance of meetings
- 50% of expert working groups
- 50% of informal working groups
- 70% of Interim Standards Committee
- 60% of comments from consultation

Strengths

- **Commitment to participation and transparency**
- **Support by developed countries**
- **Opportunities for input**
- **Impartiality**

Weaknesses

- **Lack of experts and expertise from some areas**
- **Poor consultation**
- **Translation/language**
- **Continuity**
- **Funding**
- **Time**

Suggestions for improvement

- **Regional consultations**
- **Funding**
- **References, guides, manuals**
- **Increased continuity (national systems)**
- **Broader and more systematic consultation (national systems)**