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# **INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

***PRINCIPLES OF PLANT QUARANTINE AS  
RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE***



Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
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### **PRINCIPLES OF PLANT QUARANTINE AS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

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***Endorsement***

International standards for phytosanitary measures are prepared by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention as part of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's global programme of policy and technical assistance in plant quarantine. This programme makes available to FAO Members and other interested parties these standards, guidelines and recommendations to achieve international harmonization of phytosanitary measures, with the aim to facilitate trade and avoid the use of unjustifiable measures as barriers to trade.

The following standard was endorsed by the 27th Session of the FAO Conference in November 1993.

Jacques Diouf  
Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

***Review and amendment***

International standards for phytosanitary measures are subject to periodic review and amendment. The next review date for this standard is December 1996, or such other date as may be agreed upon by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures.

Standards will be updated and republished as necessary. Standard holders should ensure that the current edition of this standard is being used.

***Distribution***

International standards for phytosanitary measures are distributed by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention to all FAO Members, plus the Executive/Technical Secretariats of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations:

- Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
- Caribbean Plant Protection Commission
- Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal para el Cono Sur
- Comunidad Andina
- European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
- Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
- North American Plant Protection Organization
- Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
- Pacific Plant Protection Organization.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **SCOPE**

This reference standard describes the general and specific principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade.

### **REFERENCES**

*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*, 1997. ISPM Pub. No. 5, FAO, Rome.<sup>1</sup>  
*International Plant Protection Convention*, 1992. FAO, Rome.

### **DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

Area	An officially defined country, part of a country or all or parts of several countries.
Introduction	Entry of a pest resulting in its establishment.
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention, as deposited in 1951 with FAO in Rome and as subsequently amended.
National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO)	Official service established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.
Official	Established, authorized or performed by a National Plant Protection Organization.
Pest	Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent, injurious to plants or plant products.
Pest free area	An area in which a specific pest does not occur as demonstrated by scientific evidence and in which, where appropriate, this condition is being officially maintained.
Pest risk analysis	Pest risk assessment and pest risk management.
Pest risk assessment	Determination of whether a pest is a quarantine pest and evaluation of its introduction potential.

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<sup>1</sup> The terms and definitions published in 1995 in this standard conform to this edition of the *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*.

Pest risk management	The decision-making process of reducing the risk of introduction of a quarantine pest.
Phytosanitary measure	Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests.
Phytosanitary regulation	Official rule to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, by regulating the production, movement or existence of commodities or other articles, or the normal activity of persons, and by establishing schemes for phytosanitary certification.
Quarantine pest	A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.
Spread	Expansion of the geographical distribution of a pest within an area.

## **OUTLINE OF REFERENCE**

The primary aim in formulating the following principles is to facilitate the process of developing international standards for plant quarantine. It is envisaged that implementation of these principles by the relevant phytosanitary authorities will result in the reduction or elimination of the use of unjustifiable phytosanitary measures as barriers to trade.

Furthermore, in addition to general principles there are others specific to particular areas of quarantine activity. The general principles indicate the process of development of phytosanitary measures as applicable to international commerce. These general principles should be read as a single entity and not interpreted individually. The specific principles either directly support the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) or are related to particular procedures within the plant quarantine system. This relationship is indicated in the tabulation.

It is expected that the principles will be subject to continuing review and should reflect changing quarantine concepts and technologies.

## **PRINCIPLES OF PLANT QUARANTINE AS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

### ***GENERAL PRINCIPLES***

#### **1. Sovereignty**

With the aim of preventing the introduction of quarantine pests into their territories, it is recognized that countries may exercise the sovereign right to utilize phytosanitary measures to regulate the entry of plants and plant products and other materials capable of harbouring plant pests.

#### **2. Necessity**

Countries shall institute restrictive measures only where such measures are made necessary by phytosanitary considerations, to prevent the introduction of quarantine pests.

#### **3. Minimal impact**

Phytosanitary measures shall be consistent with the pest risk involved, and shall represent the least restrictive measures available which result in the minimum impediment to the international movement of people, commodities and conveyances.

#### **4. Modification**

As conditions change, and as new facts become available, phytosanitary measures shall be modified promptly, either by inclusion of prohibitions, restrictions or requirements necessary for their success, or by removal of those found to be unnecessary.

#### **5. Transparency**

Countries shall publish and disseminate phytosanitary prohibitions, restrictions and requirements and, on request, make available the rationale for such measures.

#### **6. Harmonization**

Phytosanitary measures shall be based, whenever possible, on international standards, guidelines and recommendations, developed within the framework of the IPPC.

#### **7. Equivalence**

Countries shall recognize as being equivalent those phytosanitary measures that are not identical but which have the same effect.

#### **8. Dispute settlement**

It is preferable that any dispute between two countries regarding phytosanitary measures be resolved at a technical bilateral level. If such a solution cannot be achieved within a reasonable period of time, further action may be undertaken by means of a multilateral settlement system.

## ***SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES***

### **9. Cooperation**

Countries shall cooperate to prevent the spread and introduction of quarantine pests, and to promote measures for their official control.

### **10. Technical authority**

Countries shall provide an official Plant Protection Organization.

### **11. Risk analysis**

To determine which pests are quarantine pests and the strength of the measures to be taken against them, countries shall use pest risk analysis methods based on biological and economic evidence and, wherever possible, follow procedures developed within the framework of the IPPC.

### **12. Managed risk**

Because some risk of the introduction of a quarantine pest always exists, countries shall agree to a policy of risk management when formulating phytosanitary measures.

### **13. Pest free areas**

Countries shall recognize the status of areas in which a specific pest does not occur. On request, the countries in whose territories the pest free areas lie shall demonstrate this status based, where available, on procedures developed within the framework of the IPPC.

### **14. Emergency action**

Countries may, in the face of a new and/or unexpected phytosanitary situation, take immediate emergency measures on the basis of a preliminary pest risk analysis. Such emergency measures shall be temporary in their application, and their validity will be subjected to a detailed pest risk analysis as soon as possible.

### **15. Notification of non-compliance**

Importing countries shall promptly inform exporting countries of any non-compliance with phytosanitary prohibitions, restrictions or requirements.

### **16. Non-discrimination**

Phytosanitary measures shall be applied without discrimination between countries of the same phytosanitary status, if such countries can demonstrate that they apply identical or equivalent phytosanitary measures in pest management. In the case of a quarantine pest within a country, measures shall be applied without discrimination between domestic and imported consignments.

*For further information on international standards, guidelines and recommendations concerning phytosanitary measures, and the complete list of current publications, please contact the:*

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