

The International Plant Protection Convention

IPPC Regional Workshop 2016

Import Verification

Outline

- Group exercise 1 - Import regulation in the context of IPPC
- Import regulation system – ISPM 20
- IRSS study – implementation of ISPM 20
- Import Verification - a guide to import verification for national plant protection organizations
- Group exercise 2 – Organizational gaps
- Conclusions



Group exercise 1 - Import regulation in the context of IPPC

- Breakout into groups of 3 to 5.
- Identify responsibilities of contracting parties and NPPO's on import regulation in the IPPC text.
- Discuss whether import regulation system of your countries meet provisions of the Convention.
- In plenary:
 - Group 1 reports
 - Subsequent groups report only those findings that have not yet been listed.

PAUSE FOR EXERCISE!



Import regulation

Objective - IPPC Article VII (1):

with the aim of preventing the introduction and/or spread of regulated pests into their territories, contracting parties shall have sovereign authority to regulate, in accordance with applicable international agreements, the entry of plants and plant products and other regulated articles.

Import regulation

Responsibilities of an NPPO - IPPC Article IV (2):

- surveillance
- inspection of consignments
- the disinfestation or disinfection of consignments
- pest risk analyses
- training and development of staff

Import regulation

Sovereign rights of a contracting party (CP) - IPPC Article VII (1):

- prescribe and adopt phytosanitary measures.
- refuse entry or detain, or require treatment, destruction or removal from the territory of the contracting party of regulated articles.
- prohibit or restrict the movement of regulated pests.
- prohibit or restrict the movement of biological control agents.

Import regulation

Obligations of a CP - IPPC Article VII (2):

- apply technically justified measures.
- publish and transmit phytosanitary requirements, restrictions and prohibitions to any contracting party.
- make available to any contracting party the rationale for phytosanitary requirements, restrictions and prohibitions.
- select such specified points of entry as not to unnecessarily impede international trade.



Import regulation

Obligations of a CP - IPPC Article VII (2):

- ensure that any phytosanitary procedure take place as promptly as possible with due regard to the perishability of consignments.
- inform the exporting or re-exporting contracting party concerned of significant instances of non-compliance with phytosanitary certification.
- institute only phytosanitary measures that are technically justified



Import regulation

Obligations of a CP - IPPC Article VII (2):

- as conditions change, and as new facts become available, ensure that phytosanitary measures are promptly modified or removed if found to be unnecessary.
- establish and update lists of regulated pests, using scientific names.
- conduct surveillance for pests and develop and maintain adequate information on pest status in order to support categorization of pests, and for the development of appropriate phytosanitary measures.

Import regulatory system

ISPM 20 - Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system:

The objective of a phytosanitary import regulatory system is to prevent or control the entry of regulated pests with imported commodities and other regulated articles.

Import regulatory system

Structure - ISPM 20:

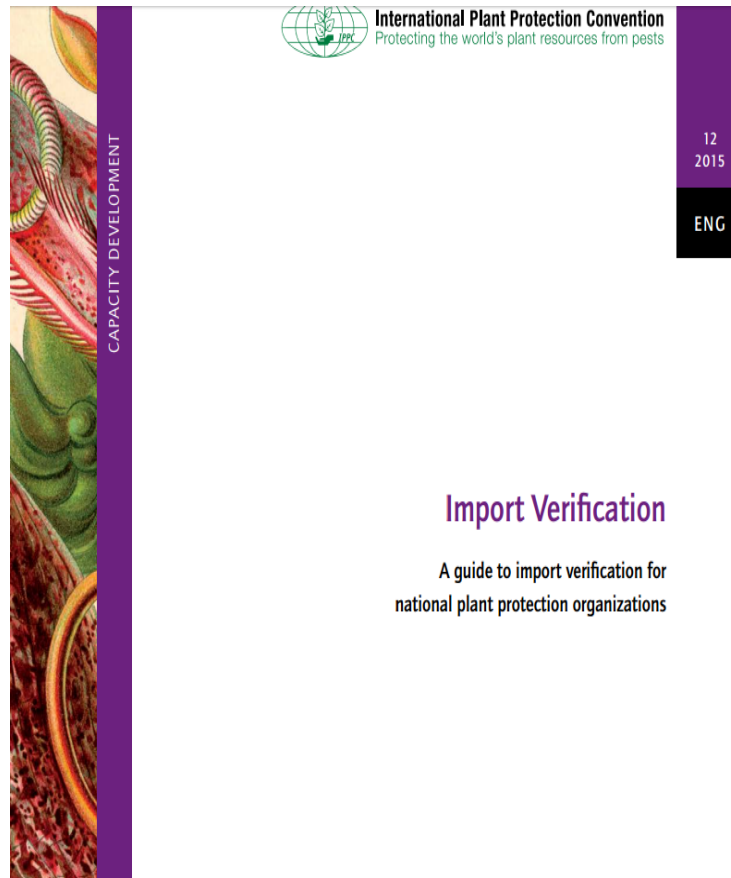
- a regulatory framework of phytosanitary legislation, regulations and procedures.
- an NPPO that is responsible for operation of the system.



IRSS study - General IPPC Survey 2012-2013

Implementation and priority ranking of ISPM 20:

- degree of implementation – fourth position among ISPMs with a high degree of implementation (80.9%)
- key factors contributing to the implementation:
 - ISPM is highly or moderately relevant (71.7%)
 - There are sufficient qualified personnel to support implementation (56.6%)



<http://www.phytosanitary.info/information/import-verification-manual>

Import Verification

A guide to import verification for national plant protection organizations:

- addresses import verification as an aspect of the broader subject of import regulation.
- describes a systematic approach to the verification of imported regulated articles.
- identifies the key areas that must be taken into consideration when determining compliance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.



Import verification

Steps to establish import requirements:

- conduct pest risk analysis (PRA).
- determine pests to be regulated.
- set import requirements
- specify the appropriate point of entry for consignments for the purpose of document verification and the required degree/level of inspection that may be necessary.



Import verification

Communication and transparency:

- to promote compliance with import requirements, trading partners must be aware of these requirements.
- the NPPO or contracting party should therefore make relevant information available to its trading partners as set out Article VII.2(b) of the IPPC.

Import verification

Regulated articles:

- imported commodities that may be regulated include articles that may be infested or contaminated with regulated pests.
- regulated pests are either quarantine pests or regulated non quarantine pests (RNQPs).
- commodities for consumption or processing cannot be regulated for RNQPs.
- RNQPs can only be regulated with respect to plants for planting.



Import verification

Organizational requirements:

Inspectors of the NPPO and authorized public officers should be provided with:

- phytosanitary importation regulations and requirements
- guidance documents, clearance procedures and work instructions, covering relevant aspects of the operation of import verification
- inspection, sampling, testing, surveillance and consignment verification procedures
- communication and access to information



Import verification

Organizational requirements:

For effective import verification, an NPPO may:

- establish a network for communication and information sharing to aid decision-making at points of entry and at headquarters.
- provide information by using databases and datasheets on pests to be regulated.
- employ or authorize personnel who have the appropriate qualifications and skills.



Import verification

Organizational requirements:

For effective import verification, an NPPO may:

- ensure that adequate and sustained training is provided to all personal
- ensure adequate facilities, equipment, tools and procedures are in place for import verification, inspection, sampling, testing and surveillance
- establish necessary collaboration with agencies at points of entry for effective import regulation (e.g. customs in the regulation of wood packaging materials associated with commodities other than those of phytosanitary concern)

Import verification

Organizational requirements:

Inspectors should be authorized to:

- enter premises, conveyances and other places where imported plants, plant products or other regulated articles may be present for the purpose of verification
- inspect or test imported plants, plant products and other regulated articles
- take samples from imported plants, plant products or other regulated articles

Import verification

Organizational requirements:

Inspectors should be authorized to:

- detain imported consignments or other regulated articles when non-compliant to import conditions.
- treat or require treatment of regulated articles (including conveyances).
- refuse entry of consignments and order their reshipment or destruction.



Group exercise 2 – organizational gaps

Breakout into groups of 3 to 4.

Discuss in your group what you consider the most important organizational gaps (3-5) for import verification countries may have.

For each element identified, list at least 2 ideas how the situation can be improved.

In plenary:

Group 1 reports

Subsequent groups report only elements and reasons that have not yet been identified.



PAUSE FOR EXERCISE!



Import verification

Principles of import regulation:

- import requirements for regulated articles should be consistent with the model phytosanitary certificates set out in the Annex to the IPPC.
- any requirements for additional declarations shall be limited to those technically justified (Article V.3).
- phytosanitary measures for regulated pests should be:
 - no more stringent than measures applied to the same pests, if present within the territory of the importing contracting party
 - limited to what is necessary to protect plant health or safeguard the intended use and can be technically justified by the contracting party concerned (Article VI).

Import verification

Principles of import regulation:

- not require phytosanitary measures for nonregulated pests (Article VI).
- recognize effective alternative phytosanitary measures proposed by exporting contracting parties when those measures are equivalent (ISPM 1, section 1.10; ISPM 24).
- integrated measures for pest risk management, applied in a defined manner, may provide an alternative to single measures (ISPM 1, section 2.5; ISPM 14).

Import verification

Phytosanitary measures for imported consignments may be:

- applied in the exporting country.
- required during shipment.
- applied on arrival at point of entry.
- required after entry.
- other measures.



Import verification

Compliance and audit procedures:

- a history of compliance by exporting countries may result in confining import verification to compliance checks.
- NPPO of importing country may need to conduct an audit of the exporting country's production and certification procedures.

Import verification

Outdated National legislation and import verification can lead to:

- mandatory fumigation e.g. grain.
- use of optional clause by importing country.
- requests for an additional phytosanitary treatment for commodities taken and certified from PFAs, PFPSs and PFPPs.
- action against non-regulated pests at point of entry.

Group exercise – non-compliance and emergency actions

- Breakout into groups of 3 to 5.
- Discuss what are the most frequent cases of non-compliance in your countries and related emergency actions if relevant.
- During the discussions refer to the import manual section on Non-compliance and Emergency actions.
- In plenary groups report only their findings.