



Submissions for topics for Standards and Implementation

1. General information

Submission number	2023-020
Title of Proposal	Revision of ISPM 12 Phytosanitary certificates
Submitted by (Country or Organization)	IPPC Contracting Party
IPPC Official Contact Point or RPPO	New Zealand
Supported by	Australia

2. Contact information

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3. Summary of proposal

Summary of justification for the proposal	<p>A focused revision of ISPM 12 Phytosanitary Certificates, was recently undertaken in relation to re-export and the revised ISPM was adopted by the CPM in 2022. However, the revision did not address other issues with the ISPM. In its current state ISPM 12 is poorly structured making it difficult to navigate, some requirements are unclear and are open to interpretation, while others are out of date with global trends. ISPM 12 in its current form is causing confusion for NPPOs in the issuance and acceptance of phytosanitary certificates, complicating the global transition to ePhyto, and contributing to unnecessary delays restricting the efficient flow of trade. A full revision of ISPM 12 will address these issues and will assist with the further global harmonisation of phytosanitary certificates. Phytosanitary certification is the fundamental mechanism for contracting parties to provide phytosanitary assurances to their trading parties and is an</p>
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	essential step in the trade of many regulated articles under the IPPC. As such, it is essential that ISPM 12 should be clear, unambiguous, future-focused, and easy to use.
Expected outcome of standard / implementation resource	A full revision of ISPM 12 is expected to resolve issues with interpretation and harmonise phytosanitary certification for NPPOs. It is also expected to assist with supporting phytosanitary assurances and phytosanitary compliance.
Contribution to filling gaps in the Framework for Standards and Implementation	ISPM 12 is a complex standard that requires further clarification and updated information on some key topics to minimise inconsistencies in its implementation by NPPOs.

4. Type of proposed material

Proposed material	Standards
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5. Standard/ Implementation

Type of standard	Revision/Amendment of standard
Revision/Amendment of standard	ISPM
Choose an item	12

6. Literature review

Literature review	ISPM 12 was initially drafted and adopted by the CPM in 2001. There has not been a substantive review of this ISPM since this time, but there have been a series of key focus updates completed. It is timely and necessary to consider a full revision of this ISPM, which can be justified for multiple reasons. Firstly, there is an issue with the content and style of the ISPM, which incorrectly contains implementation material. More recently developed ISPMs have been structured differently with a clear separation of requirements and guidance, which assists the NPPO with
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	<p>implementation and provides for more aligned interpretation. For example, guidance, such as information contained in Appendices, could be moved to implementation materials for ease of updating as is the recent trend for ISPMs. Other aspects of ISPM 12 do not align with the current IPPC style guide and the document structure is confusing, open to interpretation, and can lead to inconsistent compliance. Secondly, the ISPM is too specific and includes requirements which are not necessarily suitable in the long-term, including considering the ongoing transition by contracting parties to ePhyto. Some requirements, including the need for a phyto to be signed and stamped, are out of date with the certification systems and processes used by NPPOs and inconsistent interpretation of the ISPM causes unnecessary confusion and delays, slowing trade. There are also other issues to consider, including but not limited to, the information requirements for the certification of seed for re-export, which is of particular concern to NPPOs and seed exporters. In addition there is a lack of flexibility to include non-phytosanitary information on certificates which could greatly enhance the exchange of information between NPPOs. A full revision of ISPM 12 is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - align ISPM 12 with the new structure of ISPMs; - promote ease of use amongst contracting parties by updating, simplifying and restructuring the ISPM in full; - clearly separate requirements from implementation and guidance information to ensure that guidance information can be easily updated to reflect global trends; - provide clear requirements for contracting parties on the re-export of product after significant time in secure storage; - provide clear requirements for contracting parties when a consignment has been partially released and replacement certification is required for the held part of the consignment; - provide clear requirements for contracting parties on the process to verify the authenticity of a suspected invalid or fraudulent phytosanitary certificate; - modernise the requirements of phytosanitary certificates to better reflect the ongoing transition to ePhyto; and - enable flexibility to include non-phytosanitary information on certificates which could greatly enhance the exchange of information between NPPO's.
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	<p>References:</p> <p>FAO. 2015. Export certification: A guide to export certification for national plant protection organizations. https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90636/</p> <p>FAO. 2022. International plant protection convention style guide. https://www.fao.org/3/cb2433en/cb2433en.pdf</p> <p>ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/622/</p> <p>ISPM 7. Phytosanitary certification system https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/613/</p> <p>ISPM 12. Phytosanitary certificates https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/609/</p> <p>ISPM 32. Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/587/</p>
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7. Criteria for justification and prioritization of proposed topics

7.1. Core criteria

Criteria	Information provided by Submitter
1. Contribution to the purpose of the IPPC as described in article I.1	The proposed revision meets the purpose of Article 1.1 by providing clear guidance to NPPOs on assurances that pests of plants and plants products have been appropriately managed.
2. Linkage to IPPC SOs and Organizational results demonstrated	This proposal links to SO(C) Facilitating safe trade, development and economic growth, key result area C3. That is, C3: NPPOs have built capacity and been supported to establish phytosanitary export assurance and phytosanitary certification systems that are robust and are trusted by trading partners. The proposed revision will assist NPPOs in delivering C3 by providing greater clarity of requirements which will lead to a reduction in non-compliance and more trust between trading partners.
3. Feasibility of implementation at the global level	The revision of ISPM 12 is expected to further enhance the capability for countries to implement this ISPM both by providing clear and consistent requirements and identifying implementation needs and materials.
4. Clear identification of the problems that need to be resolved through the development of the	While the purpose of an ISPM is to provide a harmonised approach to phytosanitary certification, the requirements set in ISPM 12 are too open and broad and leave too much for interpretation. Some key parts of ISPM 12 could be

standard or implementation resource	restructured and expanded to enhance understanding and international harmonisation.
5. Availability of, or possibility to collect, information in support of the proposed standard or implementation resource	Since ISPM 12 was first developed, NPPOs have gained experience and understanding of the issues associated with re-export certification. Also, there has been a progression to electronic certification, and expertise in this area has increased significantly in many countries.

7.2. Supporting criteria

Supporting Criteria	Information provided by Submitter
Practical	The guidance document “Export Certification – A guide to export certification for national plant protection organizations” duplicates guidance information contained in ISPM 12. The IPPC ePhyto Steering Group are experts in this area and their skills (or knowledge) could be utilised to review ISPM 12. NPPOs from developed and developing countries have expertise in managing issues experienced with interpreting the current ISPM.
Economic	The standard relates to global trade in all plants and plant products and other regulated articles under the IPPC.
Environmental	The revision of the ISPM will help protect the environment by clarifying the requirements for phytosanitary certification and enabling NPPOs to provide trusted assurances for trade in plants and plant products that may host harmful pests.
Strategic	1) The proposal is supported by Australia. With the exception of having an option to include non-phytosanitary information on phytos, the proposal is also supported by the UK and Canada. 2) The international trade of plants and plant products experiences regular trade disruptions due to confusion on requirements in ISPM 12. Trade disruptions occur because of non-compliance and a need for NPPOs to seek further information to support export assurances. 3) Countries may have difficulty with the interpretation or ability to implement the requirements in ISPM 12. 4) The ISPM has broad applicability to NPPOs as phytosanitary certification underpins phytosanitary certification systems for export of plants and plant products. 5) The revision will complement ISPM 7 Phytosanitary

	<p>Certification Systems and clarify guidance from requirements.</p> <p>7) Improvements to ISPM 12 are urgently needed to secure common and effective understanding on phytosanitary certification, and to promote harmonization across NPPOs.</p>
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8. Financial/in-kind resources

Commitment for financial/in-kind resources to support the development of the proposed standards or implementation resource	
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