

Step 3

Specifications for the standards identified as priorities by the ICPM are drafted by the Secretariat. The draft specifications are submitted to the Standards Committee for approval/amendment and are subsequently made available to members and RPPOs for comment (60 days). Comments are submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Taking into account the comments, the Standards Committee finalizes the specifications.

Step 4

The standard is drafted or revised in accordance with the specifications by a working group designated by the Standards Committee. The resulting draft standard is submitted to the Standards Committee for review.

Step 5

Draft standards approved by the Standards Committee are distributed to members by the Secretariat and RPPOs for consultation (120 days). Comments are submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Where appropriate, the Standards Committee may establish open-ended discussion groups as forums for further comment. The Secretariat summarizes the comments and submits them to the Standards Committee.

Step 6

Taking into account the comments, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Standards Committee, revises the draft standard. The Standards Committee submits the final version to the ICPM for adoption.

Step 7

The ISPM is established through formal adoption by the ICPM according to Rule X of the Rules of Procedure of the ICPM.

Step 8

Review of the ISPM is completed by the specified date or such other date as may be agreed upon by the ICPM.

Each member country is represented on the ICPM by a single delegate. Although experts and advisers may accompany the delegate to meetings of the ICPM, only the delegate (or an authorized alternate) may represent each member country in considering a standard up for approval. Parties involved in a vote by the ICPM are to make every effort to reach agreement on all matters by consensus. Only after all efforts to reach a consensus have been exhausted may a decision on a standard be passed by a vote of two-thirds of delegates present and voting.

Technical experts from the United States have participated directly in working groups and indirectly as reviewers of all IPPC draft standards. In addition, documents and positions developed by APHIS and NAPPO have been sources of significant input for many of the standards adopted to date. This notice describes each of the IPPC standards currently under consideration or up for adoption. The full text of each standard will be available on the APHIS Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/>. Interested individuals may review the standards posted on this Web site and submit comments via the Web site.

The next ICPM meeting is scheduled for March 29–April 2, 2004, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The Deputy Administrator for APHIS' PPQ programs is the U.S. delegate to the ICPM. The Deputy Administrator intends to participate in the proceedings and will discuss or comment on APHIS' position on any standard up for adoption. The provisional agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Provisional Agenda for the Fifth Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report by the chairperson.
4. Report by the Secretariat.
5. Adoption of international standards (see section below entitled "IPPC Standards Up for Adoption in 2004" for details).
6. Items arising from the Fourth Session of the ICPM (see section below entitled "New Standard Setting Initiatives" for details).
7. Work program for harmonization.
8. Status of the 1997 revised IPPC.
9. Other business.
10. Date and venue of the next meeting.
11. Adoption of the report.

IPPC Standards Up for Adoption in 2004

It is expected that the following standards will be sufficiently developed to be considered by the ICPM for adoption at its April 2004 meeting. The United States, represented by APHIS' Deputy Administrator for PPQ, will participate in the consideration of these standards. The U.S. position on each of these issues will be developed prior to the ICPM session and will be based on APHIS' analysis, information from other U.S. Government agencies, and relevant scientific information from interested stakeholders. The standards that are most likely to be considered for adoption include:

1. Pest Risk Analysis for Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests

Certain pests that are not quarantine pests may be subject to phytosanitary regulations and procedures because their presence above a specific level results in economically unacceptable impacts associated with the intended use of the plants. Such pests are referred to as regulated non-quarantine pests (RNQP). Under the IPPC, phytosanitary regulations and procedures covering RNQP should be technically justified. The classification of a pest as an RNQP and any restrictions placed on the importation of the plant species with which it is associated must be justified by pest risk analysis. This standard will provide guidance for (1) Conducting an appropriate pest risk assessment necessary to demonstrate that a particular plant for planting is a pathway that may result in an economically unacceptable impact and (2) subsequent risk management decisions. This draft standard was posted on APHIS' Web site on June 20, 2003, with comments due by September 15, 2003. Subsequently, this draft will be prepared for ICPM approval at its 6th session in April 2004. The United States (*i.e.*, USDA/APHIS) intends to support adoption of this draft standard.

2. Pest Risk Analysis for Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)

At the third session of the ICPM in April 2001, members agreed that phytosanitary risks that may be associated with an LMO, or any organism with novel traits, fall within the scope of the IPPC and should be considered using pest risk analysis to facilitate decisions regarding pest risk management. Accordingly, members subsequently agreed on the need to develop an IPPC standard that provides guidance to National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on the assessment of LMOs regarding pest risk. This draft standard, which provides guidance on the conduct of pest risk analysis for LMOs was posted on APHIS' Web site on June 20, 2003, with comments due by September 15, 2003. Subsequently, this draft will be prepared for ICPM approval at its 6th session in April 2004. The United States (*i.e.*, USDA/APHIS) intends to support adoption of this draft standard.

3. Guidelines for an Import Regulatory System

The primary objective of an import regulatory system is to prevent the entry of regulated pests with imported commodities. In operating an import regulatory system, the NPPO has