

functions that include administration, regulatory development, pest risk analysis and pest listing, compliance checks, action taken on non-compliance, emergency action, authorization of personnel, and other such functions described in the Convention. This standard describes the structure and operation of a phytosanitary import regulatory system and the rights, obligations, and responsibilities that should be considered in establishing, operating, and revising such a system. 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.

New Standard-Setting Initiatives, Including Those in Development

A number of expert working group meetings or other technical consultations will take place during 2003 and 2004 on the topics listed below. These standard-setting initiatives are not expected to be completed prior to April 2004 and, therefore, will not be ready for adoption at the 2004 ICPM session. Nonetheless, APHIS intends to participate actively and fully in each of these working groups. The U.S. position on each of the topics to be addressed by these various working groups will be developed prior to these working group meetings and will be based on APHIS' technical analysis, information from other U.S. Government agencies, and relevant scientific information from interested stakeholders.

1. Efficacy of Phytosanitary Measures

This standard will provide guidance for evaluating the efficacy of phytosanitary measures. This will be significant guidance as the IPPC begins to develop recommendations on acceptable phytosanitary measures for managing specific pests. A range of supplemental and specific standards could follow (*e.g.*, hot water treatment for fruit flies). Work on this standard will continue through 2004 with the goal of having the standard ready for ICPM approval in 2005.

2. Equivalence

This standard will provide guidance to NPPOs for evaluating and making judgments of equivalence in the phytosanitary arena. The expert working group is expected to develop a standard that describes the fundamental principles and concepts involved in making an equivalence determination;

identifies approaches that are most useful for phytosanitary purposes; and outlines the sequence of steps that would be involved in evaluating equivalence, including the information that may be required to be exchanged during this process.

3. Low pest prevalence

This standard is likely to provide guidance for establishing, maintaining, and verifying areas of low pest prevalence (*i.e.*, "An area, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries, as identified by the competent authorities, in which a specific pest occurs at low levels and which is subject to effective surveillance, control, or eradication measures * * *" (IPPC, 1997). Benefits of establishing and recognizing a low pest area may include reduced use of non-toxic control measures in the field (*e.g.*, sterile insect technique); market access for areas that were previously excluded; and less restrictive movement control. The standard is likely to describe measures for maintaining specified pest populations at low levels, monitoring the pest, quarantine operations, and emergency planning and response. It would describe the role of the NPPO to ensure compliance with this standard.

4. Revision of ISPM No. 2 (Guidelines of Pest Risk Analysis, General Standards)

This standard was adopted in 1995 and is considered a foundation standard describing the basic framework for conducting a pest risk analysis. Since then, new standards have been adopted such as specific standards on pest risk analysis for quarantine pests versus pest risk analysis requirements for regulated non-quarantine pests. As a result, ICPM members agreed on the need to review, update, and make consistent the original concept standard with these more contemporary standards.

5. Guidelines for Surveillance for Specific Pests (Citrus Canker)

This standard provides guidelines to plant health officials for obtaining information on pests of concern in specific sites in an area over a defined period of time through specific surveys. The collected information may be used to determine the presence or distribution of pests in an area, or on a host or commodity.

6. Inspection Methodology

This standard addresses pest detection aspects of post-harvest compliance procedures based on inspection when used for the importation or exportation of plants,

plant products, and other regulated articles for purposes of determining phytosanitary actions for individual consignments. Many of the same principles and procedures apply to systems that rely upon closely related activities such as testing as the means for detecting pests and determining phytosanitary measures.

7. Update ISPM No. 1 (Principles of Plant Quarantine)

This reference standard describes the general rule and specific principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade. A number of principles and terms contained in the current edition (adopted in 1993) need to be updated and aligned with the WTO SPS Agreement, 1997 revised Convention, and recently adopted IPPC standards.

For more detailed information on the above topics, which will be addressed by various working groups established by the ICPM, contact Mr. Nancy Klag (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above).

APHIS posts draft standards on the Internet (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/standards/>) as they become available and provides information on when comments on standards are due. Additional information on IPPC standards is available on the FAO's Web site at <http://www.ippc.int/IPPEn/default.htm>. For the most current information on official U.S. participation in IPPC activities, including U.S. positions on standards being considered, contact Mr. Nancy Klag (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** above). Those wishing to provide comments on any of the areas of work being undertaken by the IPPC may do so at any time by responding to this notice (see **ADDRESSES** above) or by providing comments through Mr. Klag.

NAPPO Standard-Setting Activities

NAPPO, a regional plant protection organization created in 1976 under the IPPC, coordinates the efforts among Canada, the United States, and Mexico to protect their plant resources from the entry, establishment, and spread of harmful plant pests, while facilitating intra- and inter-regional trade.

NAPPO conducts its business through panels and annual meetings held among the three member countries. The NAPPO Executive Committee charges individual panels with the responsibility for drawing up proposals for NAPPO positions, policies, and standards. These panels are made up of representatives from each member country who have scientific expertise