

MONITORING THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION

Further information from the IPPC on "Official Control"¹

The following information was received from the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) with respect to issues raised in the context of the procedure to monitor the use of international standards, guidelines and recommendations

The 2nd meeting of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) discussed this subject and endorsed a work programme that included the drafting of a standard on "Official Control".

Re Item 12 of the report 2nd meeting of the ICPM:

"The ICPM noted with concern the lack of consensus on the term "Official Control". It noted that different interpretations of the term have effects on international trade. The ICPM agreed that an open-ended working group would be held in conjunction with the next session of the Glossary Group. In particular, the open-ended working group would:

- define the term "Official Control";
- review the concept of official and develop guidelines, if necessary, for consistency of its application.

The ICPM agreed that a definition or standard resulting from considerations of the open-ended working group would be subject to the standard setting procedure, including the consultation process."

The United States has agreed to commit resources to this endeavour (Item 9 of the report).

¹ See G/SPS/GEN/137