



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**ARTICLE 6 OF THE SPS AGREEMENT
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY IPPC¹

Note by the Secretariat²

Addendum

Brazil, the European Union and the United States of America submitted a communication (G/SPS/W/311), circulated on 8 March 2019, requesting Members, as well as the IPPC and OIE, to review a set of questions and provide comments through the Secretariat by 10 May 2019. Subsequently, the co-sponsors of the submission invited all interested Members, as well as the IPPC and OIE, to submit replies to the questions contained in proposal G/SPS/W/311, as well as comments on the questions, by 14 June 2019.

This document provides the replies to the questions, and comments on the questions, as submitted by IPPC. The questions in the proposal, as well as the replies received, will form the basis for discussions at the informal meeting on 17 July 2019.

1 IPPC'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IN G/SPS/W/311

1.1. The secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) have reviewed the paper (G/SPS/W/311) submitted for the Fifth Review informal meeting (Review of the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement) in March 2019 by Brazil, the European Union and the United States of America and have prepared the following responses to the questions.

1.2. The IPPC secretariat would however encourage national representatives to the SPS Committee to consult with their respective National Plant Protection Organizations prior to making such requests to the SPS Committee, as it is very likely that their NPPOs would immediately be able to provide the requested information and this would streamline the work of the SPS Committee.

Extract from G/SPS/W/311

b. Questions for the IPPC and OIE Representatives

- Has the IPPC or OIE revised their regionalization and disease status standards in recent years to clarify or elaborate provisions in response to Members' trade concerns? Are there any future plans to further revise these standards in the future?
- How are standards on surveillance linked to effective implementation of these standards?
- Are there other underlying key standards that are pre-requisite and essential in order to implement successfully regionalization?

¹ The compilation of comments from Members is available in document G/SPS/W/311/Add.1 and comments from the OIE are available in document G/SPS/W/311/Add.2.

² This document has been prepared under the Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of Members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

- Are there any plans to expand standards and procedures on recognition of pest or disease-free status of member countries?
- How can IPPC and OIE contribute to transparency on the use of the international regionalization standards?
- Are there plans for developing any further materials or activities to enhance implementation of existing standards related to regionalization?

c. Questions for Members and IPPC and OIE Representatives

- Are there ways for the SPS Committee to collaborate more effectively with IPPC and OIE to strengthen implementation of international standards on regionalization and Article 6?
- How have Members without elaborate SPS programmes relied on OIE or IPPC work to facilitate safe importation of needed food products?

1.3. The IPPC secretariat over the years have developed conceptual International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) which provide the basis for carrying out phytosanitary activities such as determination of pest status, eradication, pest risk assessment and surveillance. These standards, along with the standard on phytosanitary principles, provide the basis for all phytosanitary activities.

1.4. In regards to regionalization, which is referred to in the IPPC context as Pest Free Areas (PFA), the following suite of standards have been developed to deal with the different types of PFAs:

- ISPM 4 Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas (adopted in 1995);
- ISPM 10 Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites (adopted in 1999);
- ISPM 22 Requirements for the establishment of areas of low pest prevalence (adopted in 2005); and
- ISPM 29 Recognition of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence (adopted in 2007).

1.5. In addition, there is a suite of standards that is applicable to fruit flies, which is mostly used for the management of fruit fly PFAs:

- ISPM 26 Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (Tephritidae) (adopted in 2006, revised in 2014 and 2015);
- ISPM 35 Systems approach for pest risk management of fruit flies (Tephritidae) (adopted in 2012); and
- ISPM 37 Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies (Tephritidae) (adopted in 2016).

1.6. These ISPMs³ may be found on the IPPC's website.

1.7. Guides and training materials have also been developed to support the implementation of ISPMs and to provide guidance to National Plant Protection Organizations; in particular, a new IPPC Guide for Establishing and Maintaining Pest Free Areas is being published and will be available on our website shortly.

1.8. Guides and training material⁴ may also be found on the IPPC's website.

1.9. Many contracting parties to the IPPC have used this guidance to establish and negotiate the recognition of PFAs bilaterally. Some of the IPPC contracting parties post such information on the IPP (<http://www.ippc.int>) as part of their work on pest reporting. We would like to invite SPS

³ ISPMs <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/>.

⁴ Guides and training materials: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/guides-and-training-materials/>.

Committee Members to provide examples of this work to the SPS Committee of how they have established and secured recognition from another country of their PFAs.

1.10. Work is ongoing to help NPPOs understand and implement PFAs. The Guide on Surveillance is being updated to bring it in line with the revised ISPM 6 on Surveillance, that was just adopted this year.

1.11. The IPPC Secretariat is also organizing an International Symposium for Pest Free Areas and Surveillance⁵ in Shizuoka, Japan (28 October to 1 November 2019) showing the strong links between PFA and surveillance. This Symposium is funded by the European Union, Canada and Japan. PFA and surveillance experts from around the world will gather to discuss and learn how best to establish and maintain pest free areas to allow market access of safe products. SPS Committee Members are requested to transmit information on this Symposium to interested participants and encourage their participation. Some funds are available to assist developing country representatives to participate.

1.12. The IPPC Secretariat looks forward to further collaboration with the SPS Committee to strengthen implementation of international standards on regionalization (pest free areas).

⁵ Symposium: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/symposia/symposium-on-pfas-and-surveillance/#>