

[PARAGRAPH 1] AMENDMENTS TO ISPM No. 5 (GLOSSARY OF PHYTOSANITARY TERMS)

Members are asked to consider the following proposals made by the Standards Committee following recommendations by the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) in relation to additions and revisions in ISPM No. 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*). A brief explanation is given for each proposal. For revised terms and definitions, explanations of the changes made to the last approved definition are also given. It is suggested that comments should relate to these changes.

1. NEW TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**1.1 Incidence (of a pest)****Background**

A definition for *prevalence (of a pest)* was sent for member consultation in 2004, redrafted several times by the TPG and the Standards Committee, and sent again for consultation in 2007 as part of the *Amendments to ISPM No. 5*. Many comments supported that the term to be defined should be *incidence*, rather than *prevalence*. The SC agreed to the following TPG suggestions, based on comments received:

- that the definition be withdrawn from the amendments to the glossary to be presented for adoption by CPM-3
- that a definition for *incidence* be proposed to the SC in May 2008 prior to member consultation.

Some comments proposed that the terms *incidence*, *prevalence* and *tolerance level* should be explained in a separate document (either a supplement to ISPM No. 5 or an explanatory document). The SC agreed with the TPG proposal that the need for such explanation be considered once the definitions have been adopted.

The following points may be considered when reviewing the definition below:

- The concept of *prevalence* is rarely used independently in ISPMs. It is used in the context of *area of low pest prevalence*, which is appropriately defined in the IPPC, clearly expressing that the pest occurs at low level.
- The terms *prevalence* and *incidence* are used loosely in plant protection, sometimes interchangeably. *Prevalence* (in isolation) is a term that applies more to epidemiology and is used and defined more frequently in the context of human or animal health than in plant protection.
- There is no need for a definition of *prevalence*, but there is a need to define *incidence*. Use of the term *incidence* is more appropriate for plant protection, where it has several uses, in particular in relation to sampling and inspection. It is proposed that in the context of the IPPC *prevalence* be used solely in relation to *areas of low pest prevalence*, and that *incidence* should be used in other cases. The concept of prevalence would be linked to field situations (i.e. in relation to *areas of low pest prevalence*) and *incidence* would apply to both consignments and samples.
- *Incidence* is not linked to a particular moment in time.
- Although the proportion of units affected by a pest is the most common case for expressing incidence, there might be a need in some circumstances to express the incidence by a number of units affected by a pest, e.g. 5 plants infected in a one hectare field. The wording proposed is therefore *Proportion or number*.
- *Population* is used in its statistical sense. *Other defined population* is intended to cover cases other than those mentioned in the definition (sample, consignment or field).

[2] Proposed definition

Incidence (of a pest)	Proportion or number of units in a sample, consignment , field or other defined population that is affected by a pest
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1.2 Tolerance level

Background

A definition for *tolerance level* was sent for member consultation in 2004, redrafted several times by the TPG and the Standards Committee, and sent again for consultation in 2007 as part of the *Amendments to ISPM No. 5*. It attracted comments in particular because it used the word *prevalence* (see also section 1.1).

The TPG considered the comments, and eventually the draft definition was withdrawn from the amendments to the glossary presented to the SC in November 2007. It was decided that new definitions for incidence and tolerance level would be proposed to the SC in May 2008 prior to member consultation. The SC agreed to the following TPG suggestions, based on comments received:

- that the definition be withdrawn from the amendments to the glossary to be presented for adoption by CPM-3
- that a definition for *tolerance level* be proposed to the SC in May 2008 prior to member consultation.

Some comments proposed that the terms *incidence*, *prevalence* and *tolerance level* should be explained in a separate document (either a supplement to ISPM No. 5 or an explanatory document). The SC agreed with the TPG proposal that the need for such explanation be considered once the definitions have been adopted.

The following points may be considered when reviewing the definition below:

- The term *tolerance* is used in various contexts, and the definition below, specific to IPPC use, applies to pests. The term *tolerance level* was proposed. The definition applies to pests and this is reflected in the term, which is qualified with (*of a pest*).
- In relation to pests, the term has a very wide application and the definition should be kept broad so as not to restrict its meaning and use.
- In order to keep the definition broad and not limit usage of the term, the definition uses *pest* (and not *regulated pest*) and *action* (and not *phytosanitary action*, which would limit it to regulated pests).
- The definition creates a link with *incidence* (see section 1.1).
- The proposed definition is applicable to both field situations and consignments.

[3] Proposed definition

tolerance level (of a pest)	Incidence of a pest that is a threshold for action to control that pest or to prevent its spread or introduction
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1.3 Phytosanitary security (of a consignment)

Background

The term and definition were sent for member consultation in 2006 as part of the amendments to the glossary. CPM-2 decided that “The new proposed term and definition for *phytosanitary security (of a consignment)* was referred back to the SC for further work, in particular consideration of transit and the relationship to regulated pests.” (Also to be considered were comments submitted during CPM-2 by several countries.)

The following points may be considered when reviewing the definition below:

- The proposed definition now includes a link to regulated pests, since it corresponds to the purpose of phytosanitary security.
- Some comments suggested that it should refer to maintenance “through the application of appropriate measures”. The TPG noted that the use of the term *integrity* in the definition established a link with phytosanitary measures, but there was no harm in repeating this.
- There is no need to mention transit specifically; the definition applies to all situations, including transit, shipping etc., and there is no need to enumerate them.

[4] Proposed definition

phytosanitary security (of a consignment)	Maintenance of the integrity of a consignment and prevention of its infestation and contamination by regulated pests , through the application of appropriate phytosanitary measures
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Note: the use of *security* in ISPM No. 10 in relation to consignments corresponds to a different meaning, and this could be corrected when ISPM No. 10 is reviewed.

1.4 Corrective action plan (in an area)

Background

After member consultation in 2006, the SC asked the TPG to consider the need for a definition of corrective action plan. The TPG thought a definition would be useful.

The following points may be considered when reviewing the definition below:

- The need for a definition arises from the confusion between *emergency action plan* and *corrective action plan*. Both terms are used in existing ISPMs. The former generally refers to findings of pests in consignments; the latter about maintaining the pest status in an area.
- The definition applies to areas and this is reflected in the term, which is qualified with (*in an area*).
- Corrective actions plans are linked to “an area officially delimited for phytosanitary purposes” (wording used in the definition of *buffer zone*, where the phrase covers pest free areas, areas of low pest prevalence, pest free places of production, pest free production sites), and this wording was introduced in the definition.
- Application of corrective action plans refers to detection of a pest or exceeding a specified pest level.
- A corrective action plan needs to be agreed with the importing country; it responds to an event that may be expected, and it therefore has to be documented.

[5] Proposed definition

corrective action plan (in an area)	Documented plan of phytosanitary actions to be implemented if a pest is detected or a specified pest level is exceeded in an area officially delimited for phytosanitary purposes
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Notes:

- The use of “corrective actions” in ISPM No. 7 is confusing because it relates to phytosanitary actions and not to a corrective action plan. This should be corrected when ISPM No. 7 is reviewed.
- The use of “emergency action plan” in section 2.1 of ISPM No. 22 should be replaced with “corrective action plan”. This should be corrected when ISPM No. 22 is reviewed.

2. REVISED TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 Compliance procedure (for a consignment)

Background

A revised definition for *compliance procedure (for a consignment)* was sent for member consultation in 2006 as part of the amendments to the glossary. The SC sent back the definition to the TPG, asking the TPG to consider whether the definition should be related to a consignment or should be broader, and provided alternative rewordings.

The following points may be considered when reviewing the definition below:

- There are two meanings of compliance. A very general meaning linked to compliance with a treaty, and a more restricted meaning related to compliance with phytosanitary import requirements. In ISPMs, the term is used in this context and therefore always in relation to consignments.
- A broader definition proposed by the SC In May 2007 referred to compliance for consignments moving within a country. In the framework of the IPPC, compliance is with import requirements, and there is no need to address compliance with national requirements, which is not an IPPC issue.
- The definition uses the wording “with phytosanitary import requirements or phytosanitary measures related to transit”, recognizing the fact that compliance procedure also applies to consignments in transit. Either one or the other apply and there is no need to use additional wording such as “if appropriate”.

[6] Proposed definition

compliance procedure (for a consignment)	Official procedure used to verify that a consignment complies with phytosanitary import requirements or phytosanitary measures related to transit
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2.2 Intended use

Background

In discussing the member comments received in 2007 on the draft ISPM on classification of commodities, in relation to consistency of use of terminology, the TPG identified a change needed in the adopted definition for intended use. The intended use, when considered during a commodity-based PRA, does not necessarily refer to regulated articles (because the PRA sets out to determine if the commodity should be regulated), and the definition was amended to read “or other articles”.

[7] Proposed definition

Intended use	Declared purpose for which plants, plant products or other articles are imported, produced or used
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2.3 Reference specimen

Background

ICPM-7 adopted the definition for *reference specimen(s)* as part of the revised ISPM No. 3 (2005), and decided that the glossary group should review the new and revised definitions in the standard, taking into account comments submitted at ICPM. A modified definition was submitted for consultation in 2006 but, on the basis of comments received, the TPG felt that there was no need for a specific definition for reference specimens in relation to biological control agents, and recommended deletion of the term and definition from the glossary (the alternative being to widen the definition to cover other uses, such as diagnostics). Deletion was proposed to CPM-2, which requested the SC to consider the expansion of the definition to cover all types of reference specimens.

The following points may be considered when reviewing the definition below:

- There are different types of specimen: “type specimen”, “reference specimen” or “evidence specimen”.
- The definition should not apply to “type specimen”, i.e. a unique specimen intended for taxonomic studies, which have no specific IPPC meaning.
- In the framework of the IPPC and in ISPMs, specimens are either *reference specimens*, kept to compare with future new samples, or *evidence specimens* kept for evidence purposes or trace-back in case of dispute. The definition covers only a reference specimen, i.e. a specimen used operationally by an NPPO for the purpose of identification, verification or comparison of future findings.
- The definition covers adequately the use of the term in ISPM No. 3 (in relation to identification of future individuals).
- The collection where a reference specimen is kept must be accessible to the people that need to access it. The previous definition contained “publicly available”; this would not be the case for all collections of reference specimens, and the phrase was deleted. On the other hand, the definition should be kept open, and should not mention that access could be restricted to the NPPO only.

[8] Proposed definition

reference specimen	Specimen (which may be a culture) from a population of a specific organism conserved in an accessible collection, for the purpose of identification, verification or comparison.
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