

United States Country Comments

Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests: Concept and Applications

10/29/01

General: The United States generally accepts this standard, however, for the sake of clarity please consider the comments below.

Comment - Change “RNQP” to “RNQPs” where the plural is intended.

Comment – Change “programme” to “program” throughout.

Comment – Change the phrase, “presence in plants for planting” to “presence with plants for planting” throughout the document. The pests may not be in the plants in every case.

Specific Comments:

SCOPE

Comment – Change to read, “This standard describes the concept of regulated non-quarantine pests and identifies their characteristics. It describes the application of the concept in practice and the relevant elements for regulatory systems.” We believe this is more descriptive.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Comment - Add the term “Phytosanitary measure” to the list.

OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

Comment – In the second paragraph, last sentence, change to read, “All pests that are not regulated fall outside the scope of the New Revised Text of the IPPC.” This removes the term “non-regulated”, which is another term that would have to be defined.

Comment – To make the third paragraph read better, change to read, “The concept of RNQP follows the principles of technical justification, managed risk, minimal impact, equivalence, non-discrimination and transparency. In addition, each element of the definition of RNQP needs to be considered when defining the requirements for the application of phytosanitary measures for RNQPs. In selecting phytosanitary measures, factors such as host-pest interactions, non-phytosanitary certification programs which contain elements suitable for phytosanitary certification, tolerances and non-compliance actions should be considered.” Note that “technical justification” was added as a

principle at the March 20-21, 2001, meeting of the ICPM WG on the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Comment – Under 1. Purpose, change the end of the first sentence to read, “...economically unacceptable impacts associated with the intended use of the plants.” This better explains the issue.

Comment - Also, change the last sentence to read, “Where official control is applied to specified plants for planting to protect them from pests affecting those plants produced within their county, then phytosanitary measures can be required to be applied to the same extent for pests on imported plants.”

Comment – In 2., italicize all text that is quoted from the text of the IPPC.

Comment – Add, the term “Annex” above the last paragraph starting with, “Text of the Model Phytosanitary Certificate:”. This is where that information is located.

Comment – In 3., change title to read, “Criteria That Define RNQPs”

Comment – In 3.1, in the second paragraph, first sentence, change the word “pot” to “potted”. In the second sentence delete, “It should be recognized that”. It is not necessary. Also delete that wording in 3.2, last paragraph.

Comment – In 3.3. change to read, ““Those plants” in the definition of a RNAP refers to the specific plants in the imported consignment that are regulated for non-quarantine pests.”

Comment – In 3.4, first paragraph, delete “and that these are”. It is not adding anything to the sentence. In the second paragraph, second sentence, change to read, “Because RNQPs are already present in the importing country,”. In the third paragraph, delete the second sentence and use the heading “Examples of direct losses are:”, to make it consistent with the heading “Examples of indirect losses are:”. In the sentence beginning with “Calculations of unacceptable economic impact...”, change “plant pests” to “these pests”.

Comment – Section 4 needs a complete rewrite as it is very confusing.

4. Relevant Principles

The application of the concept of RNQP follows the Specific Principles of technical justification, managed risk and non-discrimination, and the General Principles of minimal impact, equivalence, and transparency as specified in ISPM 1, Principles of Plant Quarantine as Related to International Trade.

4.1 Technical Justification

Phytosanitary measures covering RNQP should be technically justified so that requirements are science based, as required by the IPPC. The classification of a pest as a RNQP and any restrictions placed on the import of the plant species with which it is associated should be justified by pest risk analysis (PRA). A PRA has three components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

4.1.1 Risk Assessment

Pest risk assessment for a RNQP is not the same as a pest risk assessment performed for a potential quarantine pest because it is not necessary to evaluate the probability of establishment, nor the long-term economic impact of a RNQP. It is, however, to demonstrate that: 1) the plants for planting are a pathway for the pest, and 2) the plants for planting are the source of infestation that result in economically unacceptable impacts.

4.1.2 Risk Management

Risk management for a RNQP requires a decision regarding whether the economic impact determined through risk assessment represents an “unacceptable level of risk”. This decision should be guided by the need for consistency with regulations covering other pest/plant species combinations with similar risks. The concept of Risk Management, versus prohibition, should be applied when formulating phytosanitary measures.

4.2 Non-discrimination

This principle states that phytosanitary measures shall be applied without discrimination between countries of the same phytosanitary status, and measures shall be applied without discrimination between domestic and imported consignments. A pest can only be a RNQP if there is official control of the pest within the territory of the contracting party requiring that no plants for planting with the same intended use, irrespective of their origin, be sold or planted if containing the pest or containing the pest above a specified tolerance.

4.3 Minimum Impact

This principle requires that phytosanitary measures be consistent with the pest risk involved and represent the least restrictive measures available.

4.4 Equivalence

This principle requires recognition of equivalent phytosanitary measures that have the same effect. Therefore, official control programs do not have to be exactly the same, as long as they have the desired level of pest control.

4.5 Transparency

This principle requires publication and dissemination of phytosanitary requirements. National regulations and requirements for RNQPs, including details of official control programs should be published and transmitted to any contracting party that

may be directly affected. The technical justification for categorizing a pest as a RNQP and the justification for the strength of the measures applied for the RNQP should be made available by the importing contracting party upon request of another contracting party.

Comment – In 5.1.3, drop the word “primary”. It is the main difference.

Comment – In 5.1.4, change the second sentence to read, “RNQPs, which are in many cases present in the area concerned, are subject to official control in the form of phytosanitary measure on the plants for planting in that area.” For RNQPs the plants themselves must be emphasized and not the area.

Comment – In 5.2, Change the second sentence to read, “These are commonly known as ‘quality pests’, but this term has a variety of interpretations. To qualify as a RNQP, a pest must meet the conditions of this standard as well as those for official control.”

Comment – In 6.2, In the second sentence, end after “...considered to be official control.” In the third sentence delete “at the national level” since this is not consistent with the conditions of official control. In the fourth sentence delete “However”. In the fifth sentence delete “In particular”.

Comment – In 6.3, delete the last sentence with the phrase, “this tolerance may be zero.” Zero is impossible to meet based on normal sampling and testing. Better wording might be, “Tolerances can be stated based on specified sampling and testing procedures.”