

APPPC RSPM

Guidance on the Operation of
Land Border Entry Points for Local Trade

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INTRODUCTION

Scope

This standard on the operation of land border entry points to reduce the risk of pest entry provides guidance on:

- general requirements of land border entry points
- specific requirements of local trade
- bilateral and regional cooperation.

It applies to movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles through land border entry points of APPPC member countries.

References

Agreement on application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, 1994. World Trade Organization, Geneva

Guidance for the establishment and application of emergency actions and emergency measures, 2007. RSPM 5, APPPC, Bangkok. RAP PUBLICATION 2007/29

Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system, 2004. ISPM No. 20. FAO, Rome.

Guidelines for inspection, 2003. ISPM No. 23, FAO, Rome

Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures, 2004. ISPM No. 24, FAO, Rome.

Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action, 2001. ISPM No. 13, FAO, Rome.

Guidelines for surveillance, 1998. ISPM No. 6, FAO, Rome

Guidelines on lists of regulated pests, 2003. ISPM No. 19, FAO, Rome

International Plant Protection Convention, 1997. FAO, Rome

Pest reporting, 2002. ISPM No. 17, FAO, Rome

Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests including analysis of environment risk and living modified organisms, 2004. ISPM No. 11, FAO, Rome

Plan of response to significant and emergent entry-exit Pest situation, 2005. AQSIQ, China

Definitions and abbreviations

Except where noted, the definitions are from ISPM No. 5, *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*.

land border entry point – Entry point on a land border between countries (cf port entry point). (New definition)

local trade (across a land border) – Cross-border trade of limited amounts of commodities sold in specified border regions by border residents of two countries on designated sites. (New definition)

port entry point – Entry point within the boundary of a country, such as an airport or sea port. (New definition)

Outline of requirements

This standard provides guidance for plant quarantine at land border entry points for local trade of goods. The use of general phytosanitary import requirements for large consignments arising from long distance trade or local trade that are moved through land border entry points is noted. The specific import risk management measures for local trade may include:

- phytosanitary measures such as listing specific products, limiting the size of consignment, stipulating specific border regions, designating sites for marketing and restricting the traders who can use the system
- entry point inspections
- pest surveillance
- emergency response capability
- public awareness programmes.

The operation of land border entry points is facilitated by bilateral or regional cooperation in information exchange, surveillance, pest control programmes, certificate verification, research programmes and capacity building.

BACKGROUND

Many member countries of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) share long land borders across which many consignments of plants, plant products and other regulated articles pass through land border entry points. Trade across land borders can differ considerably from trade across sea borders. While long-distance trade in large consignments exists and uses the established regulatory systems, a large proportion of cross border trade concerns the local trade of large numbers of small consignments which require specific border region import regulatory systems. Dealing with this trade of small amounts of plant material is the major problem of many land border entry points. The examination of each small consignment would be generally resource intensive and could interfere with local trade. Although local trade has been going on for many years and may pre-date formal controls, the risks are known and recognized. However, this trade is increasing and the associated risks need to be addressed. It is evident that various countries have different procedures and requirements.

The APPPC at its 25th session in 2007 decided that guidance on the operation of land border entry points to deal with local trade was appropriate. This standard provides guidance to harmonize the phytosanitary measures taken by APPPC member countries in land border areas to facilitate local trade.

PURPOSE

This standard offers guidance for the harmonization of procedures for land border points of entry to deal with the specific problems arising from local trade and encourage cooperation between neighbouring countries. The measures described for the operation of land border entry points should substantially decrease any risk of plant pest entry through local trade.

REQUIREMENTS

1. General phytosanitary import requirements for land border entry points

The general requirements for a land border entry point are essentially the same as those for port entry points and are described fully in ISPM No. 20: *Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system*.

For the movement of larger consignments of commodities arising from long distance trade or local trade, these general requirements are applicable.

2. Specific requirements for land border entry points for local trade

2.1 Establishment of land border entry points for local trade

The establishment of land border entry points by the NPPO should take into full consideration factors such as geographic conditions, transportation, commodity, trade volume and pest category and status. Plant quarantine services should be located near the border crossing point to facilitate the efficient operation of commodity inspection.

2.2 Risk analysis

Each member country should carry out pest risk analyses as necessary for the entry of plants, plant products and other regulated articles to determine the risk levels according to different types of commodities and to establish import risk management measures. This may be undertaken jointly or analyses shared between the countries that share the land border as a basis for developing measures for local trade.

When considering risk management measures for local trade, measures other than inspection should be considered including restrictions on the area of sale, on traders, on the size of consignments, and on the species and goods that can be traded.

2.3 Phytosanitary measures for local trade

In establishing land border entry points for local trade, the following criteria should be taken into account in preparing measures to supplement low level consignment inspections:

- **Lists of specific products**

Based on risk analysis, NPPOs should prepare lists of plants, plant products and other regulated articles that can be moved in local trade. These may be supplemented by lists of prohibited plants, plant products and other regulated articles to assist inspectors.

- **Size of consignments**

To minimize risk, the size of consignments for local trade should not exceed a certain threshold. This threshold should be determined between neighbouring

member countries through consultation. In many cases there are existing arrangements concerning the value threshold for items of local trade stipulated by Customs. This could be applied for trade in plants, plant products and other regulated articles.

- **Specified border region**

Consignments for local trade should be restricted to specified border regions and movement from these regions would be prohibited to reduce the risk of spread of pests. These regions could coincide with similar Customs regions.

- **Designated sites for marketing**

Consignments for local trade should be traded at designated sites to facilitate surveillance and risk management.

- **Restriction on traders**

Those who can undertake local trade should be restricted to residents of the specified border region. Where an identification system exists for the population of a specified border region, this may be used to identify residents of the region who may undertake local trade across land borders.

2.4 Inspection of local trade

Where inspection is carried out it should be undertaken at land border entry points. If this is difficult the NPPO should take supplementary measures after import such as surveillance at a designated site for marketing.

Inspection should be based on the identified risks. When the plant health situation is normal (i.e. there is not an outbreak situation), the NPPO should conduct inspections using profiling evaluations based on previous experience and pest risk analysis. When an outbreak or spread occurs, the NPPO of the importing country should undertake the intensive inspection of all consignments associated with the pest or prohibit specific items.

When necessary, an importing country may carry out the inspection of plants, plant products and other regulated articles in the exporting country before export if appropriate bilateral arrangements can be agreed

2.5 Pest surveillance

NPPOs should carry out general surveillance in the specified border regions and specific surveillance for nominated pests in high risk areas such as market areas near the land border entry point and areas near transport centres (Refer to ISPM No. 6: *Guidelines for surveillance*).

2.6 Emergency response

NPPOs should establish emergency response procedures. The following should be specified (Refer to RSPM No.5 of APPPC: *Guidance for the establishment and application of emergency actions and emergency measures*):

- person in charge
- facilities for controlling the pest
- relevant technical reserves
- chemicals and reagents necessary for controlling the pest
- joint action mechanism with other relevant authorities.

2.7 Public awareness

NPPOs should make publicly available promotional information on the danger of pests, plant quarantine laws and regulations, and penalties for non-compliance at land border entry points.

3. Cooperation

NPPOs of neighbouring countries may cooperate bilaterally or regionally in defining and maintaining the pest status of an area that spans land borders. Cooperation may be by means of:

- harmonisation of measures to prevent the introduction and spread of pests with areas of similar pest status that span national borders
- consistent regulation of material to facilitate local trade across land borders
- consistent emergency responses in the case of pest outbreaks.

3.1 Information exchange

NPPOs of neighbouring countries may establish an exchange mechanism to carry out exchange of information including:

- laws and regulations on plant quarantine
- organizational structure
- distribution and occurrence of pests
- pest risk analyses
- non-compliance and emergency measures
- results of surveillance activities.

3.2 Surveillance

When necessary, NPPOs of neighbouring countries may jointly carry out pest surveillance in specified border regions.

3.3 Pest control programmes

NPPOs of neighbouring countries may take joint action for pest control in border areas when quarantine pests of common concern occur.

3.4 Certificate verification

When phytosanitary certificates are used, NPPOs of neighbouring countries should provide each other with information on certificate identification, such as anti-counterfeit features of certificates, and serial numbers of certificates.

3.5 Research programmes

When necessary, NPPOs of neighbouring countries may jointly carry out research programmes on technologies of quarantine, inspection and treatment.

3.6 Capacity building

NPPOs of neighbouring countries may cooperate in capacity building including the provision of facilities, training and technical support.