

SPS Committee Thematic Session on Equivalence (Part 1)

30 October 2018

Equivalence in the Plant Health Context

IPPC Secretariat



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



International Plant
Protection Convention

International Plant Protection Convention

In Preamble to the IPPC,

Phytosanitary measures:

“should not be applied in such a way as to constitute either a means of arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or a disguised restriction, particularly on international trade”



Phytosanitary Principles

ISPM 01 Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sovereignty2. Necessity3. Managed risk4. Minimal impact5. Transparency6. Harmonization | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Non-discrimination8. Technical justification9. Cooperation10. Equivalence of phytosanitary measures11. Modification |
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Phytosanitary Principles

10. Equivalence of phytosanitary measures

Importing contracting parties should recognize alternative phytosanitary measures proposed by exporting contracting parties as equivalent when those measures are demonstrated to achieve the **appropriate level of protection** determined by the importing contracting party.
(ISPM 01)



ISPM 05 Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms

Equivalence (of phytosanitary measures)

The situation where, for a specified pest risk, different phytosanitary measures achieve a contracting party's **appropriate level of protection**



ISPM 24 Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures

- Provides guidance for the process for determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures
- The process of recognizing equivalence is the objective examination of alternative phytosanitary measures proposed to determine if they achieve the **appropriate level of protection** of an importing country as indicated by existing measures of that country.

ISPM 24 (cont.)

- Generally a bilateral process between importing and exporting contracting parties, however, multilateral arrangements also exist (e.g. ISPM 15)
- Requires non-discrimination between trading partners or domestic and international measures



ISPM 15 Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade

- Phytosanitary measures that reduce the risk of introduction and spread of quarantine pests associated with the movement in international trade of wood packaging material
- Alternative treatments approved in the standard are indeed equivalent

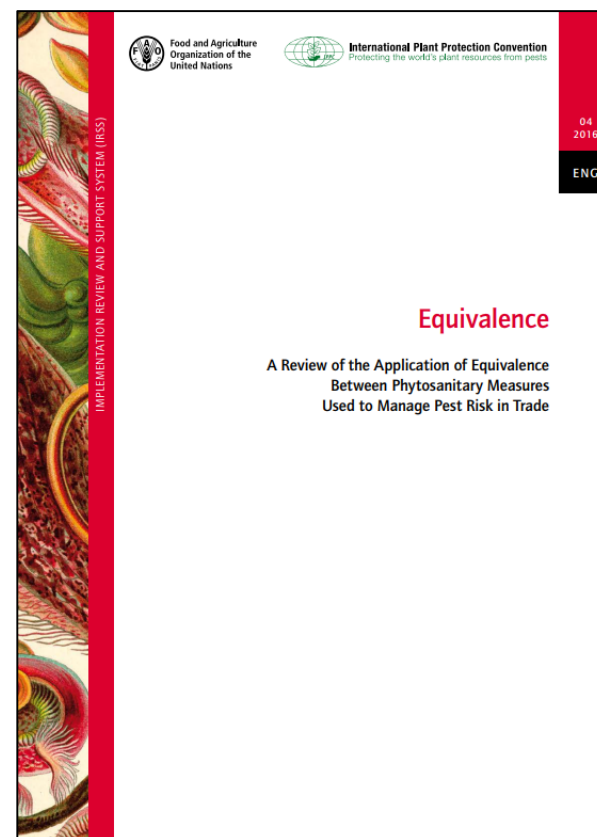
ISPM 15 (Cont)

- Approved phytosanitary treatments
 - Heat treatment using a conventional steam or dry kiln heat chamber (HT)
 - Heat treatment using dielectric heating (DH)
 - Methyl bromide treatment (MB)
 - Sulphuryl fluoride treatment (SF)
- All treatments are considered to equivalent and to be significantly effective against most pests of living trees associated with wood packaging material

Review of Application of Equivalence

IRSS study (published in 2016)¹

- Some of the issues requiring more clarification for the application of ISPM 24 were identified, for example:
 - more guidance on how to negotiate equivalence
 - less complicated and time-consuming methods for agreeing to equivalence
 - increased capacity to carry out the systems approach



1 Link to the IRSS study : <https://www.ippc.int/en/irss/activities/5/>

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