

Organisation Européenne et Méditerranéenne pour la Protection des Plantes  
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

# **Normes OEPP EPPO Standards**

Use of phytosanitary certificates  
Utilisation des certificats phytosanitaires

PM 1/1 (revised/révisée)



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## Approval

EPPO Standard PM 1/1 was first approved by EPPO Council in 1991-09. A revision was approved in 2003-09. In the terms of Article II of the IPPC, it is a Regional Standard for the members of EPPO.

## Review

EPPO Standards are subject to periodic review and amendment. The next review date for this EPPO Standard is decided by the EPPO Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations.

## Amendment record

Amendments will be issued as necessary, numbered and dated.

## Distribution

EPPO Standards are distributed by the EPPO Secretariat to all EPPO Member Governments. Copies are available to any

interested person under particular conditions upon request to the EPPO Secretariat.

## Scope

This standard gives guidance to EPPO Member Governments on the definition in their phytosanitary regulation of requirements for phytosanitary certificates to accompany imported consignments of plants, plant products and other commodities.

## References

- IPPC (1997a) New revised text of the International Plant Protection Convention. IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT).
- IPPC (1997b) Export certification system. *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures* No. 7. IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT).
- IPPC (2001) Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates. *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures* No. 12. IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT).
- IPPC (2003) Glossary of phytosanitary terms. *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures* No. 5 (revised). IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT).

## Use of phytosanitary certificates

### Utilisation des certificats phytosanitaires

Member Governments are recommended:

- 1 to adopt the use of phytosanitary certificates (PC) and of phytosanitary certificates for re-export (RC) as specified in the New Revised Text of the International Plant Protection Convention<sup>1</sup>.
- 2 to include on all PCs the optional clause 'They are deemed to be practically free from other pests.'
- 3 to respect ISPMs N° 7 'Export certification system' and N° 12 'Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates' and, in particular:
  - to avoid filling into the PC (or RC) any information of a non-phytosanitary nature. Only appropriate disclaimers related to legal liability may be included. When necessary, a note may be attached associating the PC (or RC) with the identification code, symbol or number(s) of other relevant consignment documents requiring cross-referencing (the note is not considered an official part of the PC or RC);
  - to fill in the PC (or RC) heading 'place of origin' with at least the name of the country where the consignment gained its phytosanitary status, i.e. where it was exposed to possible infestation or contamination by pests. Countries may require that 'pest-free areas', 'pest-free places of production' or 'pest-free production sites' are identified in sufficient detail in this section;
  - to use scientific names without uncertified alterations or erasure.
- 4 to require that the PC (or RC) should be filled in typescript (or capital letters) in Latin script.
- 5 to require that the PC (or RC) should be made out not more than 14 days before export of the consignment.
- 6 to require imported plants to be accompanied by the PC (or RC) but with the following general exceptions: plants not for planting, i.e. cut flowers and branches, fruits and vegetables. Nevertheless, in specific cases arising from EPPO Standards PM 2 Pest-Specific Phytosanitary Requirements, EPPO may recommend that a PC (or RC) should accompany such commodities (e.g. potatoes other than seed potatoes, certain cut flowers, certain fruits).

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<sup>1</sup>This is implicit in Council's recommendation of 1998 that Member Governments should adhere to the IPPC, and accept the amendments agreed by FAO Conference in 1997-11.

- 7 to require seeds to be accompanied by the PC (or RC) only in specific cases arising from EPPO Standards PM 2 Pest-Specific Phytosanitary Requirements.
- 8 without prejudice to (6) and (7), not in general to require plant products or other commodities to be accompanied by a PC (or RC). Nevertheless, in certain cases arising from the EPPO Pest-Specific Phytosanitary Requirements, EPPO may recommend that a PC (or RC) should accompany certain plant products (wood of certain species) or other commodities (growing media).
- 9 to require any imported plants or plant products accompanied by a PC (or RC) to be free from all the quarantine pests in the list of regulated pests of that Member Government<sup>2</sup>.
- 10 to require all plants and plant products and other articles subject to phytosanitary measures for quarantine or regulated non-quarantine pests to be accompanied by a PC (or RC), whose statement that the consignment is 'considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country' certifies that those phytosanitary measures are respected<sup>3</sup>.
- 11 not in general to require that conformity with phytosanitary requirements should be attested by an additional declaration even though the PC and RC allow for such declarations, but rather to require such declarations only when necessary. As an example of a necessary additional declaration, the exporting country's choice of option should be indicated when the import regulation allows for more than one option for phytosanitary certification of a particular plant or plant product.

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<sup>2</sup>Nevertheless, it is recognized that certain plants and plant products are much more likely to be infested by specific quarantine pests than others. Accordingly, for each quarantine pest, EPPO specifies in the PSPR the main plants and plant products which should be inspected. If a visual inspection of the consignment is not considered sufficient, other requirements may alternatively or additionally be made. This includes inspections done by 'appropriate procedures' other than simple visual examination. These procedures will then be described and recommended (EPPO Standards PM 3 Phytosanitary procedures).

<sup>3</sup>In certain special cases, however, it may be accepted that another certificate could replace the PC to certify conformity with certain Pest-Specific Phytosanitary Requirements (e.g. debarking certificate).

**12** to envisage, where practicable, exempting plants from the EPPO region from the PC (or RC) requirements in the following cases: 1) small quantities carried by travellers for their personal use (which nevertheless remain subject to any prohibitions and may be subject to random import inspection), 2) plants subject to special bilateral phytosanitary arrangements for places of production situated at frontiers.

**13** not to require from the country of transit<sup>4</sup> of a consignment of plants or plant products further inspection or issue of a PC (whether original or re-export).

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<sup>4</sup>According to ISPM No. 5, a consignment is in transit if it passes through a country without being imported. The consignment may not be split up, combined with other consignments or have its packaging changed.