

Phytosanitary procedures**PM 3/61(2) Pest-free areas and pest-free production and distribution systems for quarantine pests of potato****Specific scope**

This Standard provides EPPO member countries with the basis to require potato exporting countries to establish and maintain pest-free areas, and pest-free production and distribution systems, in relation to quarantine pests of potato.

Specific approval and amendment

First approved in 2004-09.
Revision in 2019-09.

Introduction

One of the phytosanitary measures which a potato-importing EPPO country may use, according to EPPO Standard PM 8/1 *Commodity specific measures for potato*, is to require the exporting country to establish and maintain pest-free areas for the quarantine pests concerned, and also a pest-free production and distribution system. This Standard provides a general basis for the establishment of these requirements, specifically concerning potatoes for export to the importing country concerned (unless otherwise specified). These requirements may be subject, if appropriate, to transitional arrangements.

Pest-free area

A pest-free area should be established and maintained in the exporting country for the pest of concern, according to ISPM 4 *Requirements for the establishment of pest-free areas*. Because it may be necessary to establish and maintain pest-free areas for several quarantine pests of potato, the measures required may be complex. This means that it is not immediately possible for the importing country to propose pest-specific recommendations.

Phytosanitary measures for the pest-free area should include the following as appropriate:

- general surveillance or specific surveys to demonstrate that potato and other hosts are free from the pest (see ISPM 6 *Surveillance*)
- prohibition of the movement of potatoes into the pest-free area for storage, dressing or packing, except from other pest-free areas

- prohibition of the planting of potatoes in the pest-free area, originating from areas which are not pest-free areas
- prohibition of the passage of consignments in transit through the pest-free area if there is risk of the pest escaping
- establishment of a buffer zone around the pest-free area with other measures depending on the biology of the pest and the geographical area
- precautions on the movement of machinery used in potato production into the pest-free area from areas where the pest occurs
- verification that sources of water are free from contamination, if the pest can be moved in water
- restriction of the movement and use, in the pest-free area, of commodities other than potatoes that may be infested by the pest.

Pest-free production system

Production system freedom in the exporting country requires that:

- in the pest-free area, all seed potatoes entering the potato production system should derive from a pest-free area. The exceptions are microplants and as appropriate minitubers produced according to EPPO Standards PM 3/62 and PM 3/63 or ISPM 33.
- seed potatoes for export should be produced under a certification scheme that is the same as or equivalent to EPPO Standard PM 4/28 *Certification Scheme for seed potatoes*
- ware potatoes for export should be grown from seed potatoes that are produced under a certification scheme that is

the same as or equivalent to EPPO Standard PM 4/28 *Certification Scheme for seed potatoes*

- machinery and equipment used at the place of production should not present a risk of introducing the pest.

Pest-free distribution system

Distribution system freedom in the exporting country aims to prevent mixing or cross-contamination between material produced for export to the importing country, for use within the country, or for export to other countries that may not meet the pest-free area and pest-free production system requirements.

Phytosanitary measures for the distribution system should include the following as appropriate:

- potatoes meeting the pest-free area and pest-free production system requirements should be handled separately in space or in time, with appropriate precautions, from material not meeting these requirements. Separate distribution systems through designated centres covering, for example, storage, transport, grading and packing should be used. Similarly seed and ware potatoes for export should be kept separate.
- seed potatoes should be packed in new packaging. For ware potatoes, containers should be new or cleaned and disinfected as appropriate between lots from pest-free and infested areas.
- a labelling system should be used to enable identification at all times of potatoes meeting the pest-free area and pest-free production system requirements of the importing country, potatoes produced in the pest-free area for export to other markets that do not meet the same requirements, and potatoes produced outside the pest-free area.

- where consignments for export are moved out of the pest-free area for grading, storage and packing, appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that the consignments do not become contaminated with the pest(s) of concern.

Evaluation of pest-free status

The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the exporting country should, on request, give the NPPO of the importing country the opportunity to evaluate the measures taken to establish and maintain pest-free areas and pest-free production and distribution systems. If appropriate, an audit of the relevant documents and facilities should be allowed.

References

Links to the latest version of the EPPO Standards, published in the EPPO Bulletin can be found on the EPPO website <https://www.eppo.int>

EPPO Standard PM 3/62 *Production of pathogen-free microplants of potato.*

EPPO Standard PM 3/63 *Production of pathogen-free minitubers of potato.*

EPPO Standard PM 4/28 *Certification Scheme for seed potatoes.*

EPPO Standard PM 8/1 *Commodity specific measures for potato.*

ISPM 4 (1995) Requirements for the establishment of pest-free areas. *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures 4.* IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT).

ISPM 6 (2018) Surveillance. *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures 6.* IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT).

ISPM 33 (2010) Pest free potato (*Solanum* spp.) micropropagative material and minitubers for international trade. *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures 33.* IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT).