

## Phytosanitary procedures

# PM 3/62 (3) Production of pathogen-free microplants of potato

### Specific scope

This Standard describes systems for the production of pathogen-free microplants of potato as a basis for their international movement.

### Specific approval and amendment

First approved in 2004-09.

Revisions approved in 2005-09 and in 2019-09.

### Introduction

According to EPPO Standard PM 8/1 Commodity-specific phytosanitary measures for potato, pathogen-free microplants of potato produced according to the present Standard may be moved into or between countries for use as nuclear stock or propagation stock I, without the need for post-entry quarantine or additional testing (which may be a requirement of the certification scheme in some countries). This possibility is subject, if appropriate, to transitional arrangements.

### Specific definitions

*Microplants of potato*: plants *in vitro* (including micro-tubers) of tuber-forming *Solanum* spp.

### Requirements

The microplants should meet the definition of seed potatoes in EPPO Standard PM 8/1 Commodity-specific phytosanitary measures for potato. They should be derived from nuclear stock tested at least according to EPPO Standard PM 3/21 Post-entry quarantine for potato and EPPO Standard PM 4/28 Certification scheme for seed potatoes (or procedures which can be shown to be equivalent) and found free from the pathogens specified in those standards. ISPM 33 Pest free potato (*Solanum* spp.) micropropagative material for international trade should also be referred to.

The microplants should be produced in an official facility or a facility authorized by the NPPO. The facility should be operated under standard operating procedures with appropriate quality checks. Facilities should be audited by the NPPO (or certifying authority) at least once every 12 months. This should include a review of documentation and operating procedures.

The microplants should be maintained and propagated under aseptic conditions in a facility dedicated to micro-propagation. Only tested potato microplants should enter the facility. Other plant species should not normally be grown in the facility but can exceptionally be accepted if it is shown that the plants concerned are not infected by any pathogen able to infect potato. Candidate material (i.e. material that has not been tested) should be held and tested in a facility separate from the one holding the tested microplants.

Operational procedures should be implemented to prevent cross-contamination between the facility that maintains or propagates tested plants and work areas that may pose a phytosanitary risk, and within facilities. The facilities and equipment should be fit for the purpose and be well maintained. The staff employed at the facility should have appropriate education, training and experience in microbiological, diagnostic, administrative and management techniques for the production of pathogen-free microplants.

The following documents and records should be maintained: production procedures, measures to prevent cross contamination, staff training records, records of all tests done on the microplant material, the results and lineage in a manner ensuring traceability, microplant distribution records. Records and results should be kept for at least 10 years.

### Evaluation of microplant production systems

This Standard may be used in the evaluation of microplant production systems in exporting countries. The NPPO of the exporting country should give the NPPO of the importing country the opportunity to evaluate its microplant production system, including, on request, an audit of relevant documents and of the facility.

## 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 3/21 Post-entry quarantine for potato.

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

EPPO Standard PM 4/28 Certification scheme for seed potatoes.

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).