

# Introduction to PM 7 Standards on Diagnostics

## 1 | APPROVAL

EPPO Standards are approved by the EPPO Council. However, a fast-track procedure described in EPPO (2019) exists for pest-specific Diagnostic Standards. The date of approval appears in each individual Standard. In the terms of Article II of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC, 2024), EPPO Standards are Regional Standards for the members of EPPO.

## 2 | REVIEW

EPPO Diagnostic Standards are subject to periodic review in the relevant Diagnostic Panels.

## 3 | RECORD OF REVISIONS

Revisions will be issued as necessary, numbered and dated.

## 4 | SCOPE

The EPPO Diagnostic programme started in 1998 and aims to prepare internationally agreed Diagnostic Standards for the detection and identification of most of the pests on the EPPO list of pests recommended for regulation (EPPO, 2025). The work is conducted by the EPPO Panel on Diagnostics and Quality Assurance and five other specialist Diagnostic Panels focusing on different disciplines (bacteriology, entomology, mycology, nematology, and virology and phytoplasmaology). The Standards are prepared based on the many years of experience of EPPO experts. The first drafts are usually prepared by a drafting team composed of experts. They are written according to common instructions (covering the format and content of the Standards) agreed by the Panel on Diagnostics and Quality Assurance.

The EPPO Standard PM 7/76 describes the purpose and use of EPPO Diagnostic Standards and includes general provisions that apply to all Diagnostic Standards. EPPO Diagnostic Standards are intended to

be used by NPPOs in their capacity as bodies responsible for the application of phytosanitary measures to detect and identify regulated pests.

## 5 | DEFINITIONS

Definitions of the general terms used in EPPO Diagnostic Standards are described in EPPO Standard PM 7/76 (6) *Use of EPPO Diagnostic Standards*.

## 6 | OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

EPPO Standards of series PM 7 include horizontal Standards (e.g. related to quality assurance issues or on how to perform specific methods) and pest-specific diagnostic Standards (Diagnostic protocols) related to specific pests which provide the information necessary to detect and identify these pests. Each pest-specific diagnostic Standard provides some general information on the pest(s) (e.g. geographical origin and distribution, relationship with other organisms, host range, effects on host and identity) and then gives details on detection and identification (including comparison with similar species, requirements for a positive diagnosis). Tests are described in the Appendices and validation data is also provided. Lists of institutes or individuals where further information on the pest(s) covered in the Standard can be obtained and references are provided as well.

## 7 | EXISTING EPPO STANDARDS IN THIS SERIES

Over 160 EPPO Standards on Diagnostic Standards, including 10 general Standards, have now been approved and published. Each Standard is numbered in the style PM 7/4 (1), meaning an EPPO Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (PM), in series no. 7 (Diagnostic Standards), in this case Standard no. 4, first version.

The full list of Diagnostic Standards (Series PM7) is available at [https://www.eppo.int/RESOURCES/eppo\\_standards/pm7\\_diagnostics](https://www.eppo.int/RESOURCES/eppo_standards/pm7_diagnostics), with direct links to the Standards in the *EPPO Bulletin*. The Standards are also

available in the EPPO Global Database (<https://gd.eppo.int/standards/PM7/>).

The new and revised Standards published in the present issue of the *EPPO Bulletin* are listed below:

PM 7/161 (1) *Xanthomonas phaseoli* pv. *phaseoli* and *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *fuscans*, PM 7/113 (2) *Potexvirus pepini* (pepino mosaic virus), PM 7/162 (1) *Emaravirus rosae* (rose rosette virus), PM 7/163 (1) *Tobamovirus maculatusellati* (tomato mottle mosaic virus).

## REFERENCES

- EPPO (2025) EPPO Standards PM 1/2 (34) EPPO A1 and A2 lists of quarantine pests. [https://www.eppo.int/media/uploaded\\_images/RESOURCES/eppo\\_standards/pm1/pm1-002-34-en\\_A1A2\\_2025.pdf](https://www.eppo.int/media/uploaded_images/RESOURCES/eppo_standards/pm1/pm1-002-34-en_A1A2_2025.pdf) [last accessed 1 November 2025].
- EPPO (2019) Procedure for preparation and approval of EPPO Standards. *EPPO Bulletin* 49, 159–163.
- IPPC (2024) *International Plant Protection Convention* (1997). *Second edition*. Rome, FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/74275fa0-6e22-4fce-9681-884b88725d04> [last accessed 8 July 2026].