INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (ISPM) FOR METHYL BROMIDE AND ITS ALTERNATIVES

J. Larry Zettler
Center for Plant Health Science and Technology
USDA, APHIS, PPQ
Raleigh, NC 27606

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC is an international treaty of member nations that became an official organ of the FAO in 1952. Its purpose is to secure action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. The IPPC is governed by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) which adopts International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). To date, the ICPM has adopted 24 ISPMs that deal with a wide range of phytosanitary issues. A summary of ISPMs is shown in Table 1. ISPM 15 is of particular interest to MBAO because it provides guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade by the use of methyl bromide or a heat treatment alternative.

Need for an ISPM on Methyl Bromide Alternatives

There are a number of phytosanitary treatments used in international trade and many involve fumigation with methyl bromide. However, with the Montreal Protocol's reductions in methyl bromide production in place and methyl bromide's decreasing availability, and with the volume of research activity devoted to developing alternatives, there is a need to develop guidelines for phytosanitary uses of methyl bromide as a quarantine treatment to ensure both its appropriate use and the implementation of alternative treatments.

To assist in the development of alternatives world-wide, the ICPM has responded to requests of its members to address this issue by commissioning a Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT). The purpose of the TP is to provide guidelines for collecting, reviewing and recommending phytosanitary treatments to be used internationally. The first step is to catalogue all the currently available treatments in a Treatment Schedule Manual. This manual would provide the base-line to determine gaps to guide further research. The second step would be to develop the protocols for research information that must be submitted for evaluation and inclusion of new treatments in the manual. The third step would be to determine where there are only MB treatments available or no treatments available so that research can be focused in these areas.

ISPM Strategy
Some of the issues that must be addressed in developing an ISPM on methyl bromide and alternatives resulting from developmental programs and research initiatives include the following:

- identifying the main pests and commodities for which phytosanitary treatments are carried out with methyl bromide
- identifying specific uses of methyl bromide for which alternatives are not currently available and for which access to methyl bromide must be protected
- noting problems or concerns anticipated in the implementation of alternatives in practice
- prioritizing alternatives that are applied to groups of commodities and pests that comprise the main phytosanitary uses of methyl bromide
- promoting the use of alternative phytosanitary procedures (e.g., systems approaches, pest free areas) and recovery and recycling technology as a means of reducing reliance on, and emissions of, methyl bromide
- liaise with Ozone Secretariat, Montreal Protocol, MBTOC, TEAP, etc., and research institutions

APHIS' Role
APHIS plays an active role on the TP and on discussions on methyl bromide alternatives. As signatory to many international agreements, APHIS is obligated to fulfill its commitments and provide transparency in policy changes affecting international trade that depend on the use of phytosanitary treatments.

References
https://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.jsp

Table 1. International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) adopted by member nations of the IPPC

Number	Publication Title
1	Principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade
2	Guidelines for pest risk analysis
3	Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial
4	Requirements for the establishment of Pest Free Areas
5	Glossary of phytosanitary terms: terms, definitions and supplements
6	Guidelines for surveillance
7	Export certification system
8	Determination of pest status in an area
9	Guidelines for pest eradication programs
10	Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites
11	Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests including analysis of environmental risks and living modified organisms
12	Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates
13	Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action
14	The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management
15	Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade
16	Regulated non-quarantine pests: concept and application
17	Pest reporting
18	Guidelines for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure
19	Guidelines on lists of regulated pests
20	Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system
21	Pest risk analysis for regulated non quarantine pests
22	Requirements for the establishment of areas of low pest
23	Guidelines for inspection
24	Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures