



IGTC

International Grain Trade Coalition

Briefing: IGC Markets Conditions Committee Current Developments in Policy and Trade Practice

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1. IPPC's ISPM on the movement of grain

Since its establishment in 2001, the IGTC has been working to address the broad challenges related to the implementation of phytosanitary measures, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the long-term contribution of the grain trade to global food security.

A key focus of the IGTC's work in September 2016 is the drafting of a new International Standard for Phytosanitary Measure (ISPM) on the movement of grain, which falls under the authority of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The first IPPC Expert Working Group (EWG) to draft the standard will take place in Melbourne from September 19-24. The ISPM is expected to address:

- Actions prior to export
- Actions at export and import
- Science and risk analysis
- Audit provisions
- Transparency provisions
- Effective enforcement
- Pest risk assessment
- Industry practices that contribute to the management of risks

IGTC "asks" of International Grains Council member governments

The IGTC policy document ([here](#)), agreed in August 2016 outlines the grain trade's priorities for the ISPM. The document calls for measures that fully reflect the commercial and economic requirements of the world's food, feed and processing industries; harmonized utilization of all relevant ISPMs by national and regional plant protection organizations; and the diverse capacity of responsible authorities and commercial systems.

In addition, the IGTC is highlighting the importance of "Specification 60" ([here](#)), agreed by IPPC member governments in 2014, as the main basis for the drafting of the ISPM. Specification 60 recommends excluding from the ISPM's scope wider considerations related to living modified organisms (LMOs), food safety, climate change, and quality. It also recognizes grain as a low risk pathway.



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Important information to support the IGTC's work on the ISPM was gathered in January 2016, with the launch of a global phytosanitary survey to leverage industry experience to obtain a unique, up-to-date picture of pest risks and the measures taken to address them. The replies received from the breadth of IGTC members and Corporate Stakeholders saw the following common priorities emerge:

- Testing & sampling based on international standards
- Import checks without undue delay
- Minimization of importing parties' ability to use protectionist measures to restrict trade
- Banning of arbitrary measures, going beyond int. standard requirements
- Accountability for all actors in value chain on including unnecessary import conditions

2. Cartagena Biosafety Protocol

The Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CBP) is a founding issue of focus for the IGTC and strongly implicates the grain trade, covering the international movement of products that may contain LMOs derived from modern biotechnology. In August 2016, the 170 Parties to the Protocol cover more than 85% of the world's grain trade movements. As regards the International Grains Council, 21/27 of its member countries have ratified the CBP. Important grain trading 'Non-Parties', such as Canada, Australia, Argentina and the USA, may also comply with CBP provisions when exporting to countries that have ratified.

The next milestone will be the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the concurrent Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, taking place in Cancún, Mexico from 4-17 December 2016. The IGTC sees an urgent need to ensure that any potential decisions resulting from these meetings do not undermine the world-wide commerce of grains, or the ability of the grain trade to help underpin the successful implementation of the Protocol.

In particular, the IGTC recalls that:

- The role of international trade in agri-bulks is expanding, increasingly complex and in need of a sound, responsible, and predictable commercial and official regulatory environment;
- Tighter and more demanding measures for risk management or extended liability could potentially undermine food security and result in higher prices through its supply disruption and/or unjustified significant costs growth;
- Risks are carefully assessed and measured by trade operators and related actors. If risks cannot not be measured and managed, there will be no trade.
- Overall, the Protocol should protect the world's biodiversity while maintaining the benefits of the current low cost and increasingly efficient global handling and transportation system.

More information can be found on the IGTC's website www.igtglobal.org, or via the Secretariat: secretariat@igtglobal.org