



IGTC Policy
on Phytosanitary Impacts on the Grain Trade
July 2022

Setting the Scene:

The IGTC's overarching objective is to achieve a market and regulatory environment supportive of trade that minimises disruptions in the international trade of grain, oilseeds, pulses, and derived products (grain). IGTC aims to:

- Support accomplishments toward world food security and economic well-being goals as defined by the United Nations.
- Inform and promote the common/shared interests of international actors that include farmers, producers, exporters, importers, governments, and consumers.
- Foster a safe, predictable, sustainable, affordable, nutritious, and secure food supply across the world, that meets all regulatory requirements.
- Share critical research and expertise on the global supply chain.
- Serve the diverse needs arising from international provision of food, feed, transport and processing for grain.

The International trade of food feeds one in every six people around the globe. Climate change will render international trade even more central to food security, reinforcing the vital role trade plays in the movement from food surplus to food-deficit nations in the wake of natural calamities. Therefore, with the increase in global trade necessary to feed an ever-growing population, the importance of bodies focused on science and pest risk-based approaches, for example the work of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreement under WHO, also increases. Enabling this to work more effectively will have a direct impact on trade facilitation and will assist to reduce the incidence of contaminating pests on and in grain and grain related pathways in order to protect plant health, biodiversity and food security and to facilitate safe trade. This ultimately promotes trust among governments, importers, exporters and consumers of grain products.

IGTC Principles Related to Phytosanitary Measures:

1. Consumers and local grain production industries are the main beneficiaries of improvements in phytosanitary measures, in the implementation of trade-enabling solutions and the adoption of science-based risk assessments as the basis for regulation.
2. Phytosanitary measures should be used to enhance a countries biosecurity, based on rules for the phytosanitary measures that are set internationally.
3. Phytosanitary measures adopted in importing countries need to be transparent and follow international protocols for legal certainty. Clear, predictable, and harmonised policies, regulations, standards and procedures should be established to facilitate trade and assist trade compliance.
4. Regulatory transparency of decisions and sharing of information based on accepted international protocols is fundamental to ensuring regulatory compliance within transboundary movements. Transparency will also assist to identify and mitigate against any risks and prevent trade disruption of non-compliance. We encourage countries to share information on existing phytosanitary measures for grain used for food, feed and processing.
5. Any biosecurity restrictions should be based on internationally accepted phytosanitary standards such as ISPMs as required under the SPS Agreement, which provides procedures to governments to be used when developing pest restrictions and pest lists.
6. Quarantine pests should be defined as per internationally agreed definitions, relate specifically to quarantine actionable pests and measures for pests should be based on those agreed pest risk analysis principles. Those specific pest lists should be made available.

7. Quality parameters have no place for reference in phytosanitary measures.
8. The grain trade has adequate measures to assist to control the spread of pests internationally.
9. Regulatory coherence which provides trade-enabling solutions across exporting and importing countries is key to supporting the trade of grain used for food, feed and processing and needs to result in manageable pest lists.
10. Unjustified limits on contaminants, listed as quarantine pests, create significant uncertainty for the global grain trade. Both governments and the private sector have a role in developing and implementing trade-enabling solutions.
11. Sampling and testing methods for quarantine pests as they apply to grain for food, feed and processing must be practical, coherent and provide for least trade distortive measures at both loading and discharge destination.
12. Phytosanitary measures applied to grain used for food, feed and processing should reflect the management systems that may be used to prevent and minimize the risk of pest entry and pests escaping official control mechanisms.
13. Information on existing and proposed phytosanitary rules for grain used for food, feed and processing including the reasons for changes must be available to all stakeholders and notified through the WTO SPS system, giving stakeholders adequate time to review and comment.
14. Without a means of settling disputes, the rules-based system would be less effective because the rules could not be enforced. The WTO (binding) and IPPC (non-binding) agreed dispute settling mechanisms underscore the rule of law, and as they make the trading system more secure and predictable. These dispute mechanisms are fully supported by the grain trade for all relevant disputes related to phytosanitary measures.

IGTC Policy on Trade Enabling Solutions for Phytosanitary Related Matters

Measures that facilitate trade will have a significant impact in the fight against current challenges with climate, food security or geopolitical tensions and help ensure the flow of food, protect the food security of the most vulnerable, provide predictability for importers and exporters, thereby preventing disruption to supply. In particular:

1. Pest risk analyses do not always consider the pest risk associated with the processes of moving grain in trade, or pathways outside of commercial trade. IGTC encourages all parties to more effectively manage contaminating pests to enhance food security and protect the world's biodiversity.
2. Appropriate phytosanitary pest lists encourage management of pests that affect grain throughout the crop growth and storage phase. IGTC supports management of pests in exporting countries in order to minimize the movement of quarantine pests in international trade of grain.
3. Aligned and robust international phytosanitary standards based on sound science and risk assessments facilitate trade and improve food security, minimising the risk of the movement of quarantine pests during grain trade. Regulations should not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between countries where identical or similar conditions prevail, as this may lead to trade disruption.
4. IGTC supports the promotion of WTO Member countries' use of existing international standards, guidelines and recommendations where they exist to reduce the occurrence of phytosanitary related matters becoming barriers to trade without increasing the risk to the movement of pests during grain trade. Of specific interest is the use of the recently adopted ISPM Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures (2019-008) for developing standards as they relate to grain.
5. To manage grain movements internationally, IGTC encourages Member governments to adopt international standards as developed under IPPC and to use the SPS processes in developing all phytosanitary measures that apply to imports and exports of grain. IGTC encourages national and regional co-ordination efforts where warranted, that also are consistent with international standards.

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IGTC

International Grain Trade Coalition

Glossary

Codex	Codex Alimentarius Commission
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement
WHO	World Health Organization

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