



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Application of SPS/IPPC principles and standards in trade Training Session: NAPPO Annual Meeting, Merida, Mexico October 16, 2017

Rajesh Ramarathnam
Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Canada

Outline

- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS)
- SPS – Rights and obligations
- SPS and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- IPPC Principles
- Application of principles: Trade examples

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- World Trade Organization (WTO): regulatory framework that governs international trade.
- Established in 1995; as of July 2016, 164 members and 21 observers.
- International organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations:
 - to negotiate trade agreements; to facilitate trade between countries; and, to reduce impediments to trade.
- In addition, WTO's objectives include:
 - handling trade disputes;
 - monitoring national trade policies;
 - providing technical assistance and training for developing countries; and,
 - cooperating with other international organizations.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS)

- SPS Agreement: One of the 4 main elements of Agreement of Agriculture under the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.
- An agreement on how governments can apply food safety, animal health and plant health measures without unnecessary obstacles to trade.
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures apply to trade in, or movement of, animal-based and plant-based goods within or between countries.
- However, the SPS Agreement applies to all SPS measures that may directly or indirectly affect international trade.
- Encourages countries to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations when developing their sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

SPS – Rights and Obligations

- Appropriate level of protection: right to determine the level of SPS protection they deem appropriate.
- Measure must be based on scientific principles and avoid discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.
- Measure must not restrict trade more than is necessary to achieve ALOP and take into account technical and economic feasibility.
- Based on an international standard, guideline or recommendation where these exist, unless there is a scientific justification to achieve ALOP.
- When standard, guideline or recommendation not available, measure must be based on a risk assessment, which must take into account available scientific evidence and relevant economic factors.
- Member shall accept the measures of other countries as equivalent, if the measure achieves ALOP.
- Measures must be adapted to the SPS characteristics of the area from which the product originated and to which the product is destined.
- Recognize the concepts of pest/ disease-free areas and areas of low pest/ disease prevalence.

SPS and IPPC

- WTO recognizes the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) as the relevant international standard-setting body (ISSB) for plant health.
- IPPC - legally binding international cooperative agreement that aims to protect the world's plant resources from the introduction and spread of pests.
- SPS Agreement also states that plant health measures shall be science-based and not used for trade protection.
- Requires that phytosanitary measures be based on an assessment of the risk to plant health and be technically justified.
- Encourages members to harmonize phytosanitary measures based on the IPPC's international standards.
- International standards set out the basic internationally agreed elements for the harmonization of phytosanitary measures.
- Contracting parties cooperate and provide input into the development of ISPMs, which are adopted by the CPM

IPPC Principles - Basic

- ISPM 1: Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade
- Sovereignty
- Necessity
- Managed risk
- Minimal impact
- Transparency
- Harmonization
- Non-discrimination
- Technical justification
- Cooperation
- Equivalence of phytosanitary measures
- Modification

IPPC Principles - Operational

- Operational IPPC principles related to the establishment, implementation and monitoring of phytosanitary measures, and to the administration of official phytosanitary systems.
 - Pest risk analysis
 - Pest listing
 - Recognition of pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence
 - Official control for regulated pests
 - Systems approach
 - Surveillance
 - Pest reporting
 - Phytosanitary certification
 - Phytosanitary integrity and security of consignments
 - Prompt action
 - Emergency measures
 - Provision of an NPPO
 - Dispute settlement
 - Avoidance of undue delays
 - Notification of non-compliance
 - Information exchange
 - Technical assistance

Application of principles: Trade examples

US Wheat to China:

- Basic principles: Managed risk; minimal impact; technical justification; modification.
- Operational principle: Pest risk analysis
- Issue: 34-year embargo on US wheat to China
- Pest of concern: Dwarf bunt (*Tilletia controversa*)
- Approach: Multi-country expert group (United States, Sweden, Canada, Germany, and Mexico) to conduct:
 - a quantitative pest risk assessment and modelling to evaluate the potential risk of introduction of dwarf bunt to new areas by the import of U.S. wheat for commercial milling and the likelihood of an adverse impact on China's wheat production.
- Outcome:
 - China: tolerance of 30,000 teliospores/50g of composite sample; end use of the wheat; coastal location of the mills and low risk of spillage and introduction to production fields
 - Brazil, Peru and Mexico: Not to regulate dwarf bunt due to the lack of environmental conditions favourable for the development of the disease.

Application of principles: Trade examples

Canadian wheat to Colombia:

- Basic principles: Managed risk; minimal impact; technical justification; non-discrimination; modification.
- Operational principle: Pest risk analysis
- Issue: Colombia implemented requirements for dwarf bunt free area certification.
 - Western Canadian wheat production areas free of dwarf bunt, but limited distribution and under official control in eastern Canada.
 - New requirement prevents exports of eastern Canadian wheat.
- Approach: Demonstrated that the Andean highland megaenvironment of Colombia, similar to Peru, lacks favourable environmental conditions for dwarf bunt; predominantly spring wheat production; and, discriminatory requirements (Canadian wheat versus US and Argentinian wheat).
- Outcome: Colombia removed dwarf bunt requirements for Canadian wheat.

Application of principles: Trade examples

Import of apples and pears from China, Japan and Korea

- Basic principles: Managed risk; minimal impact; non-discrimination; equivalence of phytosanitary measures.
- Operational principles: Systems approach.
- Issue: To prevent the risk to Canada from pests that can be carried with fresh temperate fruits.
- Approach: Systems approach. Elements to include:
 - Traceability maintained, from the orchard/field to the shipping carton.
 - Pest monitored and managed; record maintained on treatment performance and efficacy.
 - Staff trained regarding pest of concern to Canada.
 - Inspection of the harvested product conducted upon arrival at the packing house, during the processing of the fruit, and prior to shipping (during certification inspection).
 - Pest preventative measures in the packing house, no mixing of the produce destined to Canada with produce destined to domestic or other foreign markets.
- Outcome: Facilitated trade of apples and pears from China, Japan and Korea.

Application of principles: Trade examples

Export of Hardwood Species to the European Union

- Basic principles: Managed risk; minimal impact; equivalence of phytosanitary measures.
- Operational principles: Systems approach.
- Pest of concern: *Agrilus spp*
- Outcome:
 - Canada granted a derogation for the export of ash wood originating or processed in Canada.
 - EU derogation includes heat treatment/kiln drying (HT/KD) for the production of a compliant product under a **system approach**.

Canadian Heat Treated Wood Products Certification Program

- Basic principle: Harmonization
- Operational principle: ISPM 15
- Outcome: Facilities registered under the program produce and/or handle wood heat treated to a minimum temperature of 56°C throughout the profile of the wood.

Thank you!

Questions/comments

