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[1]DRAFT ANNEX TO ISPM 20: Use of specific import authorizations (2008-006)

[2]Status box

[3]	This is not an official part of the standard and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after adoption.	
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	[12]	2016-11 Standards Committee (SC) approved Specification 64 (<i>Use of specific import authorizations</i>) via e-decision (2016_eSC_May_05).
	[13]	2021-02 Expert working group met virtually and drafted the annex.
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[15]Steward history	[16]	2019-05 SC Ezequiel FERRO (AR, Lead Steward)
	[17]	2016-05 SC Moses Adegboyega ADEWUMI (NG, Assistant Steward)
[18]Notes	[19]	2021-03 Edited
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[22]This annex was adopted by the XXX Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in XXX 20XX.

[23]This annex is a prescriptive part of the standard.

[24]ANNEX 2: Use of specific import authorizations

[25]Specific import authorizations (SIAs) as referred to in this standard (section 4.2.2) provide official consent for the import of specific regulated articles and specify phytosanitary import requirements for those articles. Specific import authorizations may be used when official consent for import is necessary, or when phytosanitary import requirements have not been established, or when import would otherwise be prohibited. Specific import authorizations do not replace the obligation of the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the importing country to communicate the phytosanitary import requirements to the NPPO of the exporting country.

[26]This annex describes situations where the use of SIAs may be required by an NPPO, the information that should be included on SIAs, and the respective responsibilities of the various parties involved. Specific import authorizations are generally applied on a case-by-case basis and tailored to each specific import situation. They may be issued for individual consignments or a series of consignments.

[27]Although it is noted that some countries include non-phytosanitary requirements in their SIAs, this annex addresses only import requirements that lie within the scope of the IPPC. This annex does not cover transit authorization.

[28]1. The types of specific import authorizations

[29]Specific import authorizations may be provided in the form of import permits, licences or other types of written authorization as determined by the NPPO, and may be in either paper or electronic format.

[30]2. The elements of specific import authorizations

[31]2.1 Addressee or consignee

[32]When SIAs are used, they should be issued by the NPPOs of importing countries to importers.

[33]2.2 Minimum information requirements

[34]The following information should be included in SIAs:

- [35]importer's information;
- [36]date of issuance;
- [37]description of commodity or commodities covered by the SIA;
- [38]country of origin and country of export;
- [39]intended use of the commodity or commodities;
- [40]phytosanitary import requirements;
- [41]period of validity.

[42]2.3 Additional information that may be included

[43]In addition, the following information may also be included in SIAs:

- [44]identifier or authorization number;
- [45]quantity of the commodity or commodities (number or weight);
- [46]whether the authorization is for a single or multiple consignments;
- [47]means of conveyance;
- [48]point of entry;
- [49]authorizing officer;
- [50]exporter's information.

[51]2.4 Language

[52]The NPPOs of importing countries may choose the language or languages in which their SIAs are issued but are encouraged to also use one of the languages of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

[53]3. Possible uses of specific import authorizations

[54]The following examples of purposes, articles and situations related to import indicate where use of SIAs may be appropriate:

- [55]research and scientific purposes;
- [56]exhibition purposes;
- [57]educational purposes;
- [58]religious or cultural purposes (e.g. religious festivals, ancestral customs);
- [59]articles for which the NPPO of the importing country requires the ability to trace and manage over a period of time after entry (e.g. articles subject to post-entry quarantine or processing);
- [60]emergency situations;
- [61]biological control agents and other beneficial organisms;
- [62]situations where general import authorizations have not been developed;
- [63]situations where it is not possible to develop general phytosanitary import requirements that can manage the relevant pest risk.

[64]The list above is not intended to be exhaustive and countries are not required to use SIAs for the examples provided.

[65]4. Responsibilities

[66]4.1 The NPPO of the importing country

[67]When using SIAs, the NPPO of the importing country should comply with the principles described in the IPPC and ISPM 1 (*Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade*), such as those relating to minimal impact, transparency, non-discrimination, technical justification, cooperation and use of languages.

[68]The responsibilities of the NPPO of the importing country should include elements such as:

- [69]publishing information on the regulated articles and intended uses for which an SIA is required;
- [70]having a process in place for assessing and setting up SIAs (identifying the information that will be needed, etc.);
- [71]publishing the process by which an importer can apply for an SIA and the application form that the importer needs to complete;
- [72]communicating requirements to the importer;
- [73]considering requests or applications for SIAs, providing responses and, if the requirements for the SIA are met, issuing an SIA without undue delay;
- [74]defining the language used in SIAs;
- [75]publishing the official format of SIAs;
- [76]clearly specifying phytosanitary import requirements in SIAs;
- [77]providing the NPPOs of exporting countries, on request, with information to verify the authenticity of SIAs and provide clarification as needed;
- [78]monitoring trade under SIAs and considering transferring SIAs to general import authorisations where appropriate.

[79]4.2 Importers

[80]The responsibilities of importers, as determined by the NPPO of the importing country, may include:

- [81]applying for an SIA before import in situations where an SIA is required;
- [82]complying with the requirements of the SIA;
- [83]providing the SIA to the exporter;
- [84]if required, notifying the NPPO of the importing country of the timing of the import or other information;
- [85]when necessary, providing a translation of the SIA in a language that the NPPO of the exporting country can understand.

[86]4.3 Exporters

[87]The responsibilities of exporters, as determined by the NPPO of the importing country, may include:

- [88]obtaining an SIA from the importer before export if an SIA is required;
- [89]submitting a legible SIA and communicating the phytosanitary import requirements to the NPPO of the exporting country;
- [90]applying for a phytosanitary certificate from the NPPO of the exporting country;
- [91]when necessary, providing a translation of the SIA in a language that the NPPO of the exporting country can understand.

[92]4.4 NPPOs of exporting countries

[93]The responsibilities of the NPPOs of exporting countries may include:

- [94]obtaining the phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country for the SIA;

- [95]when a request for export phytosanitary certification is accompanied by an SIA with phytosanitary import requirements, certifying the compliance of plants, plant products or other regulated articles with these phytosanitary import requirements.

[96]5. General import authorizations

[97]Guidance on general import authorizations is provided in section 4.2.2 of this standard. The following examples describe circumstances under which SIAs may be transferred to general import authorizations:

- [98]when SIAs become routine;
- [99]when an SIA has been issued as a result of an emergency situation but appropriate phytosanitary measures have been established;
- [100]when monitoring of trade confirms the effectiveness of phytosanitary import requirements set in an SIA.

[101]Potential implementation issues

[102]This section is not part of the standard. The Standards Committee in May 2016 requested the Secretariat to gather information on any potential implementation issues related to this draft. Please provide details and proposals on how to address these potential implementation issues.