



Background

Inspection forms the basis of the majority of phytosanitary verification activity prior to the issuance of MPI phytosanitary certificates.

The general principles associated with phytosanitary inspection have remained relatively consistent since the 1980's. This has ensured acceptance of these basic principles in individual export sectors is relatively well understood. Through time sampling and inspection methodologies have changed to reflect operational preferences. In addition this has led to a greater understanding of product inspection being a verification process of the effectiveness of pest risk management for those pests categorised as quarantine pests by importing countries.

Innovation in sampling and inspection has been explored and adopted in a range of circumstances but generally the core methods have remained relatively constant.

Inclusion of additional guidance highlighting flexibility in the application of the standard will benefit those organisations in adopting an inspection process that gives the best results but is both efficient and effective.

What have we changed?

While the principles behind the inspection standard requirements remain consistent opportunity for greater flexibility has been introduced in the standard by:

- Removed the requirement for MAO's to develop their inspection procedures based on HACCP. The standard identifies the 'components' generic to all inspections (i.e. identification of homogenous lots, sampling, inspection, decision making etc.).

- Provided more role specific staff competencies.
- Recognised that some MAO's perform 100% inspections (e.g. logs) and provided clarity on what they need to document and what they don't (e.g. sampling plans).
- Introduced more flexibility for low risk products by including alternative sampling options for fully processed products and inert material.
- Increased guidance on sampling plans and inspection techniques for various commodity groups to ensure it is clear how one commodity group can approach sampling and inspection differently to another.
- Tabulated the requirements for decision making by commodity group to provide clarity when applying the acceptance criteria.
- Clarified that inspectors can only identify pests they are competent to identify.
- Provided more guidance on where to find schedules of MPI approved treatments.
- Recognised that records are increasingly electronically captured and changed the expectation of how information is captured and relayed to others in the export pathway.
- Change in terminology from 'Post Inspection product security' to 'maintaining phytosanitary security'.
- Provided guidance on how to interpret and apply the MPL acceptance tables.

How will this impact you?

This new approach should result in:

- Improved understanding of sampling plans for various commodities.
- Clarification of inspection techniques for specific commodities.

Note: This communication only reflects the significant changes please refer to the applicable MPI Standard for [all changes](#)



Phytosanitary Inspection Standard

- Clearer inspection criteria that documented procedures can be based on.

Detailed description of changes to the Inspection Standard

Change	Why?	Impact on existing systems
All	Reformatted into a 'MPI standards' template.	Consistency of format will provide greater clarity for industry longer term.
All	Re-ordered the sections	Re-ordered to better suit the reader of the standard.
Part (P) Intro.	A concise overview of who this Standard applies to and why it is important to understand the requirements.	Provides a simplified introduction to the requirements contained in the standard.
P1	New section summarising the key principle for MPI inspection.	Outlines the principles and expectations of MPI as per the Framework standard and IPPC in ISPM 23 & 31 and translates these into the Inspection standard.
P2.1	Clarifies requirement for documented inspection and phyto security procedures.	Improve the clarity of what inspection procedures are required and their content.
P2.2	More specific competency criteria for the various inspection roles.	To ensure staff have the appropriate skill sets to perform their phytosanitary role on behalf of MPI.
P3.1	More guidance and clarity regards homogeneity and identifying lots for inspection.	To provide clarity on how applying homogeneity, segregation and identification systems can assist with establishing and maintaining traceability.
P3.2	Added 100% inspection option plus sampling plan guidance for various commodity groups. New section for fully processed/inert materials.	To provide some clear commonly used sampling plans for various commodities. Provides those organisations handling fully processed products/inert materials with an alternative sampling plan.
P3.3	Revamped the inspection criteria and added guidance on inspection techniques for various commodity groups.	To help ensure the inspection techniques are practical and effective for different commodity groups.
P3.4	Tabulated the decision making section and included fully processed products and inert materials.	Provide clarity for all commodities including references to MPL tables and differentiating between country specified requirements and those where default criteria are applicable.
P3.5	Expanded how organisations need to deal with managing non-conforming product. Added disposal as an option and provided additional guidance.	Added criteria around identification, traceability and security of non-conforming lots to reduce risks of loss of control of these lots. Assist MAO's with MPI approved treatments options.
P3.6	Added detail on identifying market eligibility	Provide clarity on the content of the procedures.
P3.7	Greater flexibility on the makeup of records	To recognise and take advantage of electronic means of capturing and relaying phytosanitary information better.
App 1 & 2	Readable version of MPL acceptance number tables.	Clarity of decision making for quarantine (0.5%MPL) and non-quarantine (5%MPL) pests.

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What has changed?

Phytosanitary Inspection Standard



App 3	New guidance on how to use the MPL tables.	Assist inspectors with how to interpret and apply the MPL acceptance number tables.	Minimal impact but could improve the decision making.
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