



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canada's Application of Equivalency for Plant Health

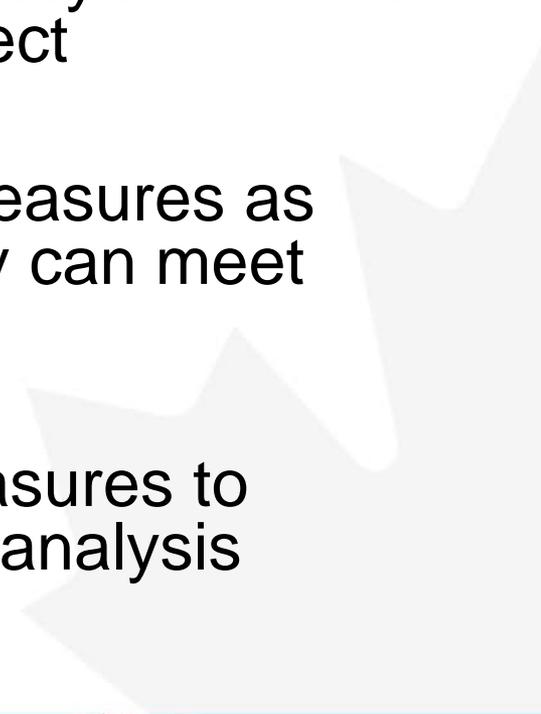
Heather Holland
National Manager

Foreign Relations and Issues Management



Canada

Overview of Canada's Approach

- Supports the principle and application of equivalence
 - Focuses on whether different phytosanitary measures can achieve the same phytosanitary effect
 - Recognizes alternative phytosanitary measures as equivalent upon demonstration that they can meet Canada's appropriate level of protection
 - Identifies appropriate phytosanitary measures to mitigate pest risks through the pest risk analysis process
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International Obligations

- World Trade Organization *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- International Standards For Phytosanitary Measures:
 - ISPM 1 – Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plants and the application of phytosanitary measures in international trade
 - ISPM 24 – Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures

Identification of Equivalent Measures

- Through the Pest Risk Management stage of the Pest Risk Analysis (ISPM 11), Canada may proactively identify equivalent phytosanitary measures for exporting countries to meet Canada's appropriate level of protection (ALOP)
- Equivalent phytosanitary measures are reflected in many of Canada's plant health import requirements
 - For example, Canada may accept products sourced from a pest free area or produced under a pest management program or treated with methyl bromide
- An exporting country may also propose alternative measures to Canada for consideration of equivalence

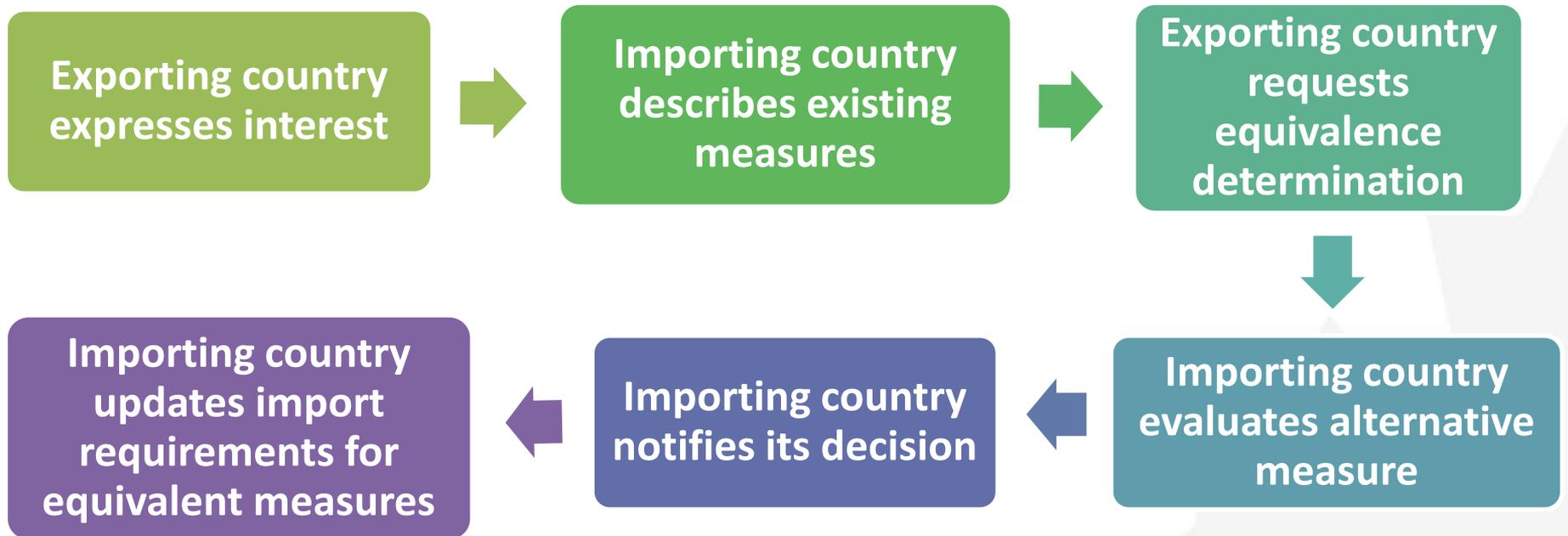
Equivalence Determination

- Assesses an exporting country's proposed alternative approach to address a specific pest risk identified in the pest risk analysis
- Equivalence may be applied at many levels
- Generally applies to phytosanitary measures for a specific pest associated with trade of a specific commodity



Equivalence Determination Process

- Canada's process is aligned with Annex 1 of ISPM 24



Step 4: Evaluation of Alternative Measure

- **Technical information evaluated to determine equivalence of phytosanitary measures:**
 - Description and effectiveness of the proposed alternative measure(s)
 - Information on how the proposed alternative measure(s) was evaluated by the exporting country
 - Comparison of proposed alternative measure(s) with the importing country's existing measures
 - Information on the technical and operational feasibility of the proposed alternative measure(s)

Systems Approach

- A systems approach (SA) is a **pest risk management** option that integrates different measures, at least two of which act independently, with cumulative effect. A SA can be an alternative to a mandatory phytosanitary treatment (e.g., fumigation with methyl bromide, or heat treatment)
- Integrated phytosanitary measures of the SA can be applied, in the country of origin, from pre-production to export
- SAs are generally developed and implemented by a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) to meet another country's phytosanitary import requirements

Systems Approaches and Equivalence

- In order for Canada to determine a SA as equivalent, the exporting NPPO must demonstrate:
 - The proposed SA meets Canada's import requirements for the specific commodity
 - The NPPO approves and oversees the SA
- Canada's evaluation of the proposed SA may result in:
 - Acceptance or rejection
 - Recommendations to the NPPO for changes
 - Acceptance contingent on an on-site review and/or trial period
 - An audit to verify the effectiveness of the SA

Conclusion

- Canada's approach to equivalence is aligned with IPPC standards
- Canada demonstrates flexibility and may proactively suggest equivalent phytosanitary measures to the exporting country

Questions?

