

## **IRRADIATION AS A COMPONENT OF A PROPOSED IPPC PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENT MANUAL**

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Irradiation is an effective treatment option for the disinfestation of numerous quarantine pests of fresh fruits and vegetables. It has been shown to be quick, cost-competitive with other phytosanitary treatments, and have minimal adverse impacts on commodity quality at the doses necessary to provide quarantine security. The efficacy of irradiation is typically measured by incomplete pest development or sterilization of any adults, although higher doses do cause outright pest mortality.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international treaty of member nations whose purpose is to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. The IPPC is governed by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) which is currently in the process of reviewing a draft International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for phytosanitary treatments. This standard, which will eventually provide a list of treatments that are internationally recognized and accepted for use on regulated pests, is expected to be adopted by the ICPM in 2007. The United States has submitted proposals on seventeen irradiation treatments, including two generic treatments for fruit flies and all insects other than lepidopteran pupae and adults, for inclusion in the annex to this standard. Acceptance of these treatments would facilitate world-wide trade, and provide additional treatment options for currently transported commodities.