

Recent developments in international regulatory guidelines

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Relevant international documents for the regulation of invertebrate biological control agents (IBCAs) in Europe

- 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio Convention)

Convention on biological diversity 1992

Objectives:

- conservation, sustainable use and fair sharing of benefits arising out of biological diversity and genetic resources

Key words:

- protect biological diversity within and outside protected areas
- regulate and manage risks associated with the use of organisms
- Prevent use and control alien species which threaten native species and ecosystems

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- 1999 EPPO Guideline for First Import of exotic biological control agents for research under contained conditions

EPPO Guideline for First Import of exotic biological control agents for research under contained conditions 1999

Objective:

- national authority should institute an official notification procedure which should be followed by importing organization

Key words:

- organizations (public and private) should evaluate the safety of the intended import and prepare a dossier
- national authority provides appropriate guidance, e.g. containment facilities, and decides whether import can be made safely

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- 1999 EPPO Guideline for First Import of exotic biological control agents for research under contained conditions
- 2001 EPPO Guideline for Import and Release of exotic biological control agents

EPPO Guideline for Import and Release of exotic biological control agents 2001

Objective:

- national authorities should institute an official procedure, and organizations should prepare and submit a dossier accordingly

Key words:

- organizations prepare dossiers for release with minimal information and make environmental risk assessment
- national authority evaluates dossier, proposes precautions/restrictions and supervises release

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- 1999 EPPO Guideline for First Import of exotic biological control agents for research under contained conditions
- 2001 EPPO Guideline for Import and Release of exotic biological control agents
- 2002 List of biological control agents widely used in the EPPO region

List of biological control agents widely used in the EPPO region 2002

Objective:

- to specify indigenous, introduced and established IBCAs which have been widely used in several EPPO countries

Key words:

- other EPPO countries may dispense or simplify the notification procedure for such IBCAs
- list includes IBCAs for classical biocontrol and IBCAs commercially available used at least 5 years in 5 EPPO countries

Relevant international documents and activities for the regulation of IBCAs in Europe (continued)

- 2003 OECD Guidance for information requirements for regulation of IBCAs

OECD Guidance for information requirements for regulation of IBCAs 2003

Objective:

- to provide general guidance for information requirement to applicants and regulatory authorities

Key words:

- to ensure appropriate consideration on environmental risks, to support biocontrol, to harmonise information requirements and to ensure efficacy of IBCAs
- information for new exotic IBCAs: a) identification and characterisation, b) safety for human health, c) environmental risks, d) efficacy
- reduced information for native and established IBCAs

Relevant international documents and activities for the regulation of IBCAs in Europe (continued)

- 2003 OECD Guidance for information requirements for regulation of IBCAs
- 2005 IPPC/FAO Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms

IPPC/FAO Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms 2005

Objective:

- to facilitate safe export, shipment, import and release of BCA and other beneficial organisms for all private and public bodies involved

Key words:

- to encourage responsible trade practices, responsibilities of NPPO and contracting parties
- to assist countries to design regulations and to provide risk assessment and management
- to design appropriate documentary requirements

Relevant international documents and activities for the regulation of IBCAs in Europe (continued)

- 2003 OECD Guidance for information requirements for regulation of IBCAs
- 2005 IPPC/FAO Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and other beneficial organisms
- 2005 IOBC/WPRS Commission on harmonization of regulation of IBCAs. Guidelines on information requirements for import and release of IBCAs

Guidelines on information requirements for import and release of IBCAs in European countries 2005 (IOBC/WPRS Commission)

Objective:

- to provide in one guideline specific advice to applicants and national authorities on information required for harmonised risk assessment of IBCAs

Key words:

- four sections: 1) import of non-native IBCAs, 2) release of non-native IBCAs (a: not previously, b: previously released in other European countries), 3) release of native IBCAs, 4) widely used non-native and native IBCAs

Conclusions

- governments have signed international agreements on biodiversity protection which have to be respected by national authorities
- international organizations have established documents for regulation of IBCAs with differing details in guidance
- these documents assign responsibilities for the use of IBCAs to national authorities, public and private organizations and are intended to respect the interests of all stakeholders in an appropriate manner