

Introduction to PM 7 Standards on Diagnostics

The following new and revised Standards are included in this issue: PM 7/114 (2), PM 7/1 (2), PM 7/ 32 (2), PM 7/23 (3) , PM 7/110 (2) , PM 7/93 (2) and PM 7/131 (2).

1 | APPROVAL

EPPO Standards are approved by the EPPO Council. However, a fast-track procedure described in EPPO (2019) exists for pest-specific Diagnostic Standards. The date of approval appears in each individual Standard. In the terms of Article II of the IPPC, EPPO Standards are Regional Standards for the members of EPPO.

2 | REVIEW

EPPO Diagnostic Standards are subject to periodic review in the relevant Diagnostic Panels.

3 | RECORD OF REVISIONS

Revisions will be issued as necessary, numbered and dated.

4 | SCOPE

EPPO Diagnostic Protocols are intended to be used by NPPOs in their capacity as bodies responsible for the application of phytosanitary measures to detect and identify regulated pests. In 1998, EPPO started a new programme to prepare Diagnostic Protocols for the regulated pests of the EPPO region (including the EU). The work is conducted by the EPPO Panel on Diagnostics and Quality Assurance and other specialist Diagnostic Panels. The objective of the programme is to develop an internationally agreed diagnostic protocol for most of the EPPO list of pests recommended for regulation (EPPO, 2022). The protocols are based on the many years of experience of EPPO experts. The first drafts are usually prepared by a drafting team composed of experts. They are written according to a 'common format and content of a diagnostic protocol' agreed by the Panel on Diagnostics and Quality Assurance, modified as necessary to fit individual pests.

The EPPO Standard PM 7/76 describes the purpose and use of EPPO Diagnostic Standards and includes general provisions that apply to all diagnostic protocols.

5 | DEFINITIONS

Definitions of the general terms used in EPPO Diagnostic Standards are described in EPPO Standard PM 7/76 (5) *Use of EPPO Diagnostic Protocols*, *EPPO Bulletin* 48, 373–377 (plus addenda).

6 | OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

EPPO Standards of series PM 7 include general Standards on diagnostics and Diagnostic Protocols for individual pests. The Diagnostic Protocols provide all of the information necessary for a named pest to be detected and positively identified. Each Protocol begins with some short general information on the pest (its appearance, relationship with other organisms, host range, effects on host, geographical distribution and identity) and then gives details on detection and identification (including comparison with similar species, requirements for a positive diagnosis). Tests are described in the Appendices and validation data is also provided. Lists of institutes or individuals where further information on that organism can be obtained and references (on the diagnosis, detection/ extraction method and test methods) are provided as well.

7 | EXISTING EPPO STANDARDS IN THIS SERIES

Over 150 EPPO Standards on Diagnostic Protocols, including 15 general Standards, have now been approved and published (including the new and revised Standards published here). Each Standard is numbered in the style PM 7/4 (1), meaning an EPPO Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (PM), in series no. 7 (Diagnostic Protocols), in this case Standard no. 4, first version.

The full list of Diagnostic Standards (Series PM7) is available at https://www.eppo.int/RESOURCES/eppo_standards/pm7_diagnostics, with direct links to the Standards in the EPPO Bulletin. The Standards are also available in the EPPO Global Database (<https://gd.eppo.int/standards/PM7/>).

The Standards published in the present issue of the EPPO Bulletin are listed below:

PM 7/114 (2) *Bactrocera zonata*, PM 7/1 (2) *Bretziella fagacearum* (formerly *Ceratocystis fagacearum*), PM 7/ 32 (2) Plum pox virus, PM 7/23 (3) *Xanthomonas phaseoli* pv. *dieffenbachiae*, PM 7/110 (2) *Xanthomonas* spp. (*Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* pv. *euvesicatoria*, *Xanthomonas hortorum* pv. *gardneri*, *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* pv. *perforans*, *Xanthomonas vesicatoria*)

causing bacterial spot of tomato and sweet pepper, PM 7/93 (2) *Melampsora medusae* and PM 7/131 (2) Guidelines on the main tasks of Reference Laboratories for official plant pest diagnostics.

REFERENCES

- EPPO (2023) EPPO Standards PM 1/2 (32) EPPO A1 and A2 lists of quarantine pests. https://www.eppo.int/media/uploaded_images/RESOURCES/eppo_standards/pm1/pm1-002-32-en_A1A2_2023.pdf [last accessed 1 November 2023].
- EPPO (2019) Procedure for preparation and approval of EPPO Standards. *EPPO Bulletin* 49, 159–163.
- IPPC (2015) Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms. ISPM no. 5. IPPC Secretariat, FAO, Rome (IT). Available at https://www.eppo.int/media/uploaded_images/RESOURCES/eppo_standards/pm1/pm1-002-29-en.pdf [last accessed 01 November 2019].