



REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SUB-GROUP TO THE CPM FOCUS GROUP ON SEA CONTAINERS

(Prepared by James Hookham)

Introduction

[1] The Sub-group on Communications of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus on Sea Containers (FGSC) agreed the following five outputs, at its meeting in Rome on 11 December 2024:

(1) **Compile an inventory of existing IPPC and Industry guidance on managing pest risks in the sea container pathway**

A draft document has been compiled for consideration as an International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) publication suitable for distribution to national plant protection organization (NPPOs), and for use as a reference document to support awareness-raising activities. (See Annex 1)

(2) **Compile a “Stakeholder Engagement Plan”**

A template for use as a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been prepared and circulated to the sub-Group. However, so that it may be completed satisfactorily, the sub-group has also discussed broader aspects of the scope and timing of the overall Communications Plan for the Focus Group, and these matters await clarification, possibly by the Focus Group itself.

(3) **Publish a syndicated interview with Greg Wolff (former CPM Focus Group Chair)**

An interview with Greg was published in several leading trade journals ahead of his valedictory meeting as Chair of the CPM in March 2025. The interview can be found on the IPP.¹

(4) **CPM SCFG Webinar for NPPOs**

This was intended as a means of briefing NPPOs on the content and significance of the CPM Recommendation 06: *Minimizing the pest risk associated with the sea-container pathway*. However, these plans were paused upon the decision to proceed with the Symposium being held in Copenhagen on 7 & 8 October, to which NPPOs will be invited and be briefed on the CPM Recommendation.

(5) **Extract of the phytosanitary provisions of the CTU Code**

Revised provisions on container cleanliness and pest contamination avoidance were compiled by the Focus Group in 2024 and submitted for inclusion in the revised edition of the Code of Practice for the Packing of Cargo Transport Units (the CTU Code). It is intended to consolidate the provisions that were submitted as a stand-alone document containing the finalised text appearing in the revised CTU Code. This could be considered for use by NPPOs and for use as a reference document to support awareness-raising activities. A draft document has been compiled but awaits the emergence of the official amended texts of the CTU Code against which its completeness and accuracy can be checked. This is expected before the end of 2025.

¹ Is container shipping costing the Earth?: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/is-container-shipping-costing-the-earth/>

Annex 1: Output #1: Inventory of Existing Documents

Introduction

- [2] This document catalogues publications and other communications by IPPC that pertain to the management of pest risks in the sea container pathway. Further sections catalogue relevant publications of other international agencies and of Industry.
- [3] The purpose of this document is to provide a single reference source of applicable and relevant documents for National and Regional Plant Protection Organisations to support their management of pest risks in the sea container pathway.

A. IPPC Documents

- [4] All IPPC documents are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian languages.
- IPPC Secretariat (2024)
Minimizing the Pest Risk Associated with the Sea Container Pathway
CPM Recommendation No 6.
8pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84233/>
 - IPPC Secretariat (2020)
Sea Container Supply Chain and Cleanliness: an IPPC best practice guide on measures to minimize pest contamination
vi + 6pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7963en>
 - IPPC Secretariat (2020)
Sea Container Surveys – Guidelines for National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs)
17pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca7740en/CA7740EN.pdf>
 - IPPC Secretariat (2022)
Reduction of the incidence of contaminating unregulated articles to protect plant resources and facilitate safe trade
CPM Recommendation No 10.
6pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91173/>
 - IPPC Secretariat (2017)
ISPM 41: International movement of used vehicles, machinery and equipment
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No 41
11pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84343/>

- IPPC Secretariat (2025)
ISPM 5: Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No 5.
36pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/622/>
- IPPC Secretariat (2021)
ISPM 13: Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action.
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No 13.
9pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/608/>
- IPPC Secretariat (2023)
ISPM 20: Guidelines for a phytosanitary import regulatory system.
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No 20.
28pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/602/>
- IPPC Secretariat (2022)
ISPM 45: Requirements for national plant protection organizations if authorizing entities to perform phytosanitary actions.
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No 45.
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89734/>
- IPPC Secretariat (2020)
Reducing the spread of invasive pests by sea containers
2pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/cc629c98-b6ac-4e31-ba4a-2e0f77b9bd88>
- IPPC Secretariat (2018)
IPPC Guidance on Sea Container Cleanliness
2pp
UN FAO, Rome
Downloadable at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/9db6c685-4678-45ea-b610-6b4c8fe2895c>
- IPPC Secretariat
Look out for contaminating pests and contaminants in sea containers and their cargoes
Downloadable at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/contaminating-pests-poster.pdf>

B. Regional and National Plant Protection Organisations resources

[5] The North American Sea Containers Initiative (NASCI), a joint activity of the NPPOs of Canada, the US and Mexico, has developed the following resources for its participants.

- NASCI Website
Accessible at: <https://nappo.org/english/north-american-sea-container-initiative>
- NAPPO
Preventing the Spread of invasive Pests video
Viewable at: <https://nappo.org/english/north-american-sea-container-initiative/preventing-spread-invasive-pests>

C. Other international organizations documents

- IMO/ILO/UNECE (2014)
Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)
Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian languages
Downloadable at:
<https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Safety/Documents/1497.pdf>
- IMO (2016)
Informative Material Related to the CTU Code
Available in English ISBN: 978-92-801-1630-4
Downloadable at:
<https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/OurWork/Safety/Documents/1498.pdf>

D. Industry documents/resources

- Cargo Integrity Group (2020)
The CTU Code – a Quick Guide
Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian languages
19pp Downloadable at: <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/publications/ctu-code-a-quick-guide/>
- WSC/BIC/COA/ICHCA/IICL (2024)
Prevention of Pest Contamination of Containers: Joint Industry Guidelines for the Cleaning of Containers
Available in English and Chinese languages
14pp
Downloadable at: <https://www.worldshipping.org/pests>
- TT CLUB
Invasive pests - lighting risks video
Viewable at: <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-lighting-risks/>
- TT CLUB
Invasive pests - unit cleanliness pre-packing video
Viewable at: <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-unit-cleanliness-pre-packing/>

- TT CLUB
Invasive pests - transit conditions video
Viewable at: <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-transit-conditions/>

- TT CLUB
Invasive pests - unit and cargo cleanliness video
Viewable at: <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-unit-and-cargo-cleanliness/>

- TT CLUB
TT Club puts risk from invasive pests into sharp focus article
Viewable at: <https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/news/press-releases/2022/tt-club-puts-risk-from-invasive-pests-into-sharp-focus/>