



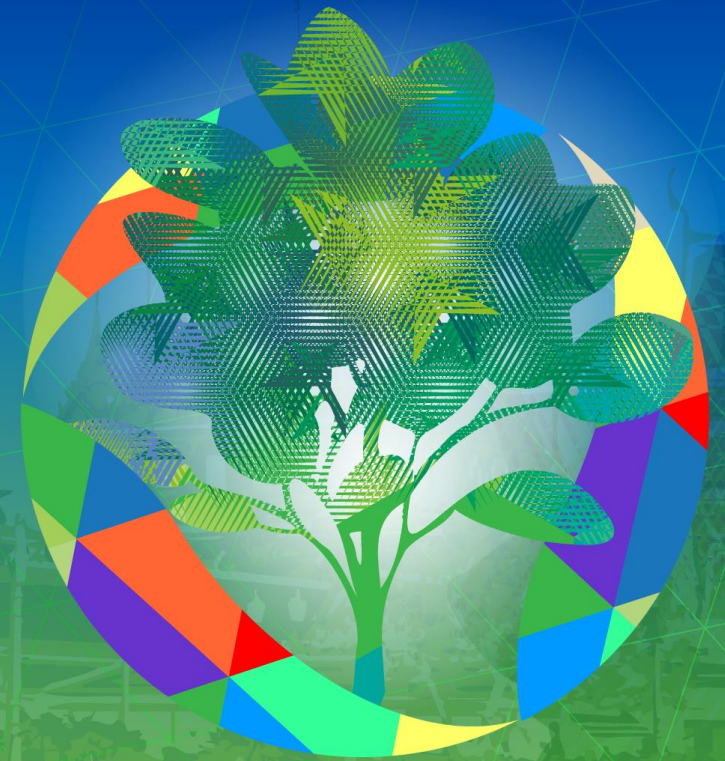
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# 37<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultations among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO)

23–26 September 2025, Bangkok, Thailand



## Update: CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers and Industry-led Activities



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## Topics to be covered

- Key functions of the Focus Group
- International Symposium on Optimizing Container Design
- Regulatory and non-regulatory measures
- CTU Code revision (Industry lead)
- Custodial responsibility concept (Industry lead)
- Continued collection of data on container cleanliness
- Communications and awareness raising







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## Key functions

CPM-18 (2024) approved the extension of the mandate until 2027 and the ToR.

Key functions, include, but are not limited to:

- Based on available information, assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06)
- Review all new, emerging and evolving technologies and opportunities.
- Continue to analyze potential regulatory and non-regulatory options in order to identify and describe a recommended option or options
- Provide recommendation to CPM whether the development of an ISPM or other long-term guidance is a preferred option for the IPPC
- Consider the practicalities and possible negative impacts of the identified options

**Refer to the ToR for a full list of functions**





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## International Symposium on Optimizing Container Design

- 11 November 2024 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- Focus on practical sea container design modifications
- Over 70 participants from various industry organizations, including container manufacturers, container operators and plant health stakeholders
- Breakout groups formed to work on ideas, with a Working Group established to further progress identified initiatives following the Symposium



Standard



Modified



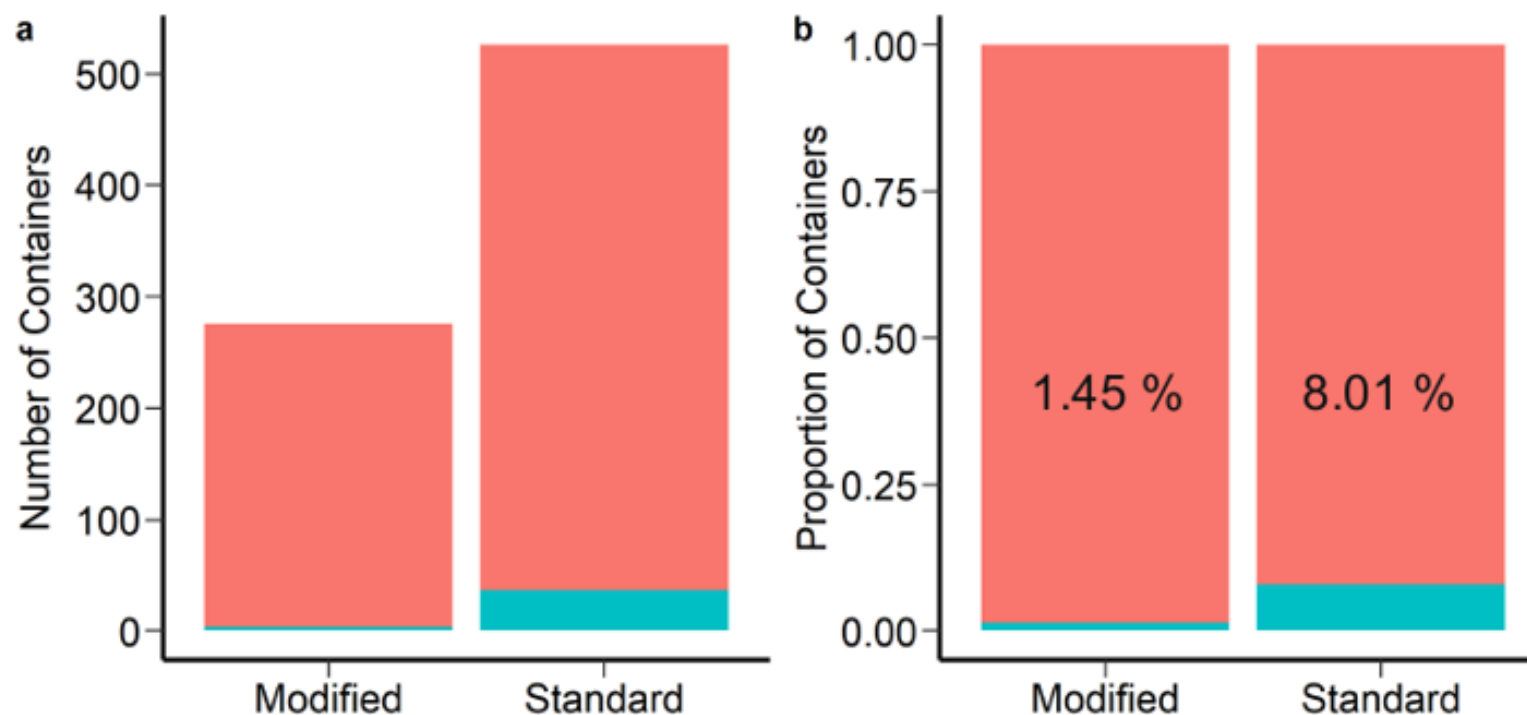
Standard



Modified



## Contamination rates are five times higher in standard containers than in modified containers (steel floors and corrugated base)



Source: Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry





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## Assessment of regulatory and non-regulatory options

- TOR Task to analyze potential regulatory and non-regulatory options
- A subgroup of the Focus Group has worked on an assessment template
- This template assists Focus Group members in assessing potential solutions based on several criteria
- Outcomes of this tool will allow the Focus Group to further elaborate practical, feasible, economical, concrete measures that could be adopted globally





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## IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) – Focus Group inputs

- Non-mandatory code of practice for the handling, packing and transport of cargo transport units (CTUs), including freight (sea) containers, in sea and land transport. Some countries have transposed it into national legislation.
- Current version published in 2014. A revised version was finalized by the UNECE in February 2025 and is now with the ILO and IMO for their consideration.
- Revisions include a new, dedicated chapter on pest contamination and the importance of implementing measures by parties in the containerized supply chains, building on CPM Recommendation 06.







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## Custodial Responsibility – the concept

- As a result of the work of the Focus Group, the “Custodial Responsibility” approach has been developed.
- The approach describes a series of non-regulatory commitments by each commercial party that takes custody of the container at some point in its journey.
- CPM Recommendation 06 encourages relevant parties to execute their custodial responsibilities.
- This concept is further communicated to industry through the 2024 version of the Joint Industry Guidelines for the Cleaning of Containers.

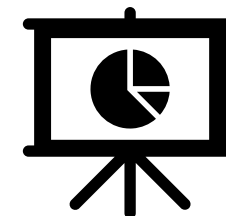
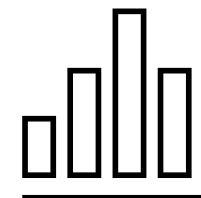






## Collection of data on container cleanliness

- The Focus Group continues to collect and assess available data relating to sea container pest interceptions.
- Continuing need to obtain data in a consistent, measurable format from NPPOs to assist assessment of the impact of CPM Recommendation 06 and support other activities of the Focus Group.
- Preferred data includes how many containers inspected, survey/data timeframes and interception rates (internal/external/cargo specific).
- Container Inspection Recoding template in the [IPPC guidelines for sea-container surveys](#) (IPPC Secretariat, 2020b).





## CPM Recommendation 06 encourages NPPOs, and parties involved in international trade to:

- Communicate information about the risk of pest movement via the sea-container pathway
- Promote practices that prevent or reduce the risk of pest contamination of sea containers and their cargoes
- Promote and support the application of appropriate procedures for cleaning the interior and exterior of sea containers
- Visually examine, when accessible and safe to do so and in accordance with their custodial responsibilities, all interior and exterior surfaces of sea containers
- Provide guidance on appropriate risk-management actions and disposal of pest contamination
- Continue working with relevant parties to gather information on pest presence and the risk of pest movement via the sea-container pathway and to provide this information to the IPPC Secretariat.
- The CPM furthermore encourages contracting parties to establish appropriate regulatory tools to enable NPPOs to manage the pest risk associated with the sea-container pathway







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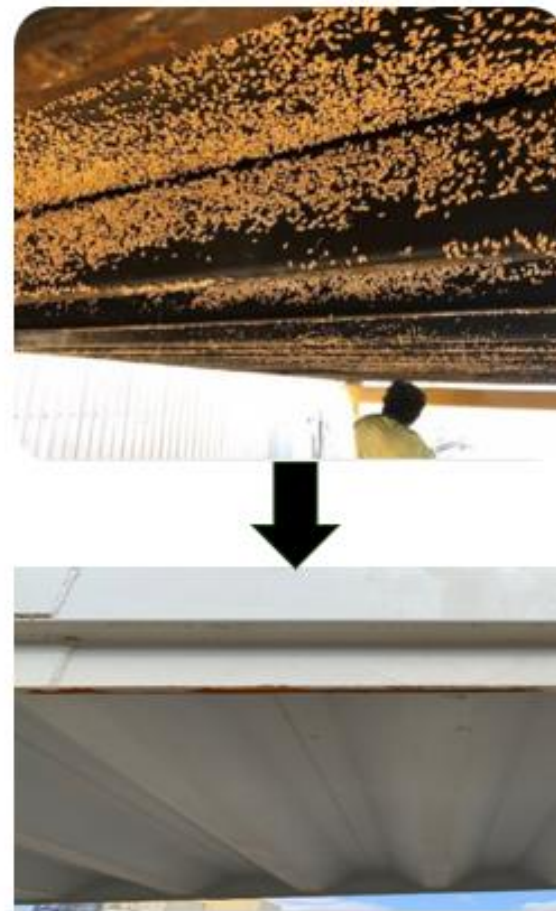


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## CPM Recommendation 06 continued...

Additionally, CPM Recommendation 06:

- Encourages the production and widespread use of sea containers that are less likely to harbor pests (particularly containers that have floors without gaps), while also enhancing detectability and ease of removal of pest contamination.
- Seeks input from IPPC contracting parties and other relevant parties on effective measures to reduce the risk of pest contamination of sea containers and their cargoes, and related information.
- In addition, information on emerging technologies that may contribute to a reduction in pest risk are also of value for the IPPC Secretariat's considerations.





## Awareness and uptake of CPM Recommendation 06

1. Are you familiar with CPM Recommendation 06?
2. Has your RPPO undertaken any actions with respect to the Recommendation?
3. Has your RPPO received any feedback or communication from parties involved in the pathway relating to the Recommendation?
4. Are there any comments or suggestions relating to the information provided in the Recommendation?
5. Is there any available interception data which would be shared with the Focus Group?







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## CPM-20 side session and possible 2026 Workshop

- The Focus Group is preparing for a proposed side session during CPM-20 with a more elaborate update on the various developments.
- Possible International Workshop in 2026:
  - Building on the success of previous International workshops
  - Determine impact and uptake of CPM Recommendation 06
  - Important for determining next steps and final Focus Group recommendation to CPM21 in 2027
  - A steppingstone towards 2026: October Container cleanliness symposium in Copenhagen, organized by Danish NPPO in cooperation with BIC, Danish Shipping and WSC and with the support of the IPPC Secretariat. Industry and regulators will be invited to attend. Topics in Recommendation 06 to be covered.





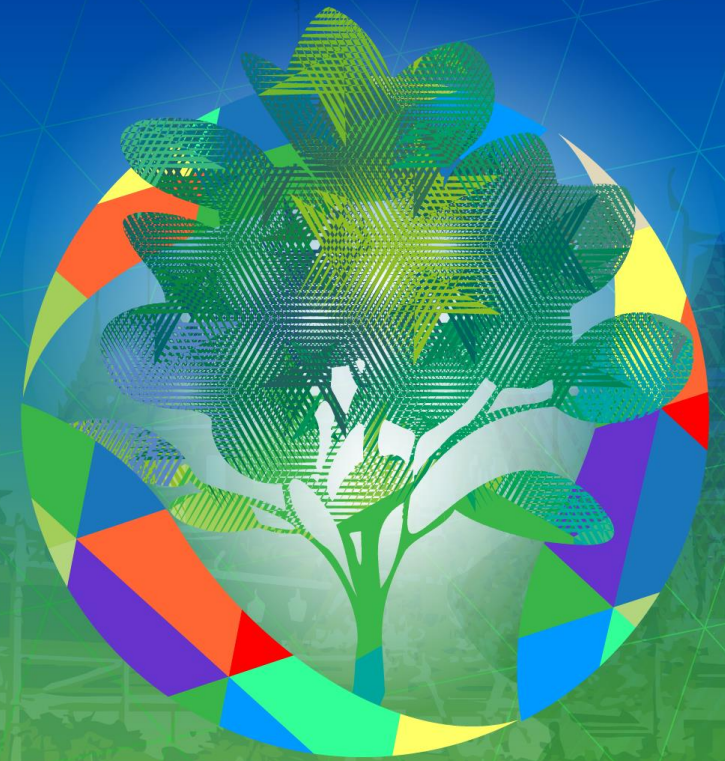
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# Thank you