



Commission on Phytosanitary Measures | 20th Session

9–13 March 2026
Rome, Italy

CPM
20

Sea Container Side Session- March 12, 2026

Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Measures: Building a Framework

Sea Container Focus Group sub-working group on Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Measures

Tasks

Sea Container Focus Group tasked to

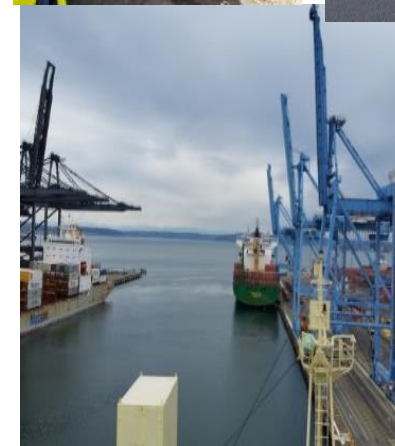
- Continue analysis of potential regulatory and non-regulatory measures
- Consider costs, benefits for pest risk management, practicalities and possible impacts of the identified measures on container logistics, supply chains and NPPOs
- Identify and describe recommended measure(s)
- Provide recommendations to CPM on preferred measures and their actions and draft specifications for such actions as necessary
 - Including determining additional guidance and whether development of an ISPM is feasible and desirable and what it could look like

Measures Considered in Analysis

Non-Regulatory	Regulatory
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness raising, education and outreach (NPPOs and industry)• Industry-led programs (e.g. custodial responsibility program)• Technology in ports and containers• Improved container design (floors, undersides, materials, paints, coatings etc.)• CTU code with phytosanitary cleanliness components• Trade facilitation practices (SAFE Framework) that could have cleanliness component	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory inspection and certification approaches<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Phytosanitary certification of containers○ Official declaration of cleanliness of containers○ Declaration of cleanliness of containers by operators• Mandatory standard (e.g. ISPM)• Third Party Authorization or Recognition (shippers and freight forwarders)

Essential Criteria

- Effective in minimizing introduction and spread of plant pests globally
- Feasible
- Cost-effective
- Minimal impact on container logistics and supply chain
- Able to be adopted and implemented globally



Evaluation Tool

Criterion
Operational, economic and trade implications for operators/industry
Ease of implementation into current industry operations
Cost implication for industry
Industry acceptance (openness to engaging regulators and within industry)
Trade implications
Impact on contracting parties
Cost implication on contracting parties
Trade implications
Ease of implementation into existing regulatory and operational framework of contracting parties

Criterion
Implementation Readiness
Maturity of the solution (proven vs. conceptual)
Duration until full implementation
Effectiveness and Assurance
Effectiveness in reducing phytosanitary risks to lowest feasible level
Type of contamination targeted (external, internal,cargo)
Standalone vs. complementary
Ease of measuring compliance
Possibility to increase compliance by incentives
Scalability and Global Availability
Scalability
Global availability (adoptable)

Mandatory inspection and certification approaches: Phytosanitary certification of containers; Official declaration of cleanliness of containers

Benefits

- Could be very effective

Not being pursued at this time because

- High volume of containers (export and import)
- Low feasibility; Highly complex;
- Not cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Not available globally (e.g. legislative authority; resources)
- Negative impact on supply chain logistics anticipated



Mandatory inspection and certification approaches: Declaration of cleanliness of containers by operators

Benefits

- Could be very effective for imported containers

Not being pursued at this time because

- Low feasibility; Highly complex (e.g. differing declaration requests among NPPOs and Operator capacity)
- Not cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Not available globally (e.g. legislative authorities)
- Negative impact on supply chain logistics anticipated



Mandatory Standard: ISPM

To be considered

- Could be effective for risk mitigation
- May provide greatest assurance for some contracting parties
- Content still to be determined
- Feasibility, cost-effectiveness, impact on supply chain and global availability will depend on that content



Third Party Authorization/Recognition

- Focused on shippers and freight forwarders

Pursue further because

- Effective at minimizing risk
- Feasible as described
- Cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Has both regulatory and non-regulatory application
- Could be available globally



Trade Facilitation Practices (SAFE Framework)

Benefits

- Enabler for effective risk mitigation
- Feasible as described
- Cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Available globally



Not being pursued at this time due to current challenges in integrating into the World Customs Organization's cycle for trade/supply chain security proposals in a timely manner

Port and Container Technologies

Benefits

- Enabler for effective risk mitigation
- May have cost effectiveness for industry and NPPOs
- Use of emerging and advancing technology (e.g. AI, eDNA, cameras)

Not being pursued at this time because

- Conceptual; Few real-world applications to date
- Not likely to be available globally



Awareness raising, education and outreach

Pursue further because

- Is part of CPM Recommendation R-06
- Already being implemented to a degree
- Effective at minimizing risk
- Feasible as described
- Cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Foundational measure
- Could be stand-alone as minimal viable measure
- Available globally



Industry-led measure: Custodial Responsibility

Pursue further because

- Is part of CPM Recommendation R-06
- Effective at minimizing risk
- Feasible as described
- Cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Considers all parts of supply chain
- Available globally



CTU Code (IMO-ILO-UNECE Code of Practice on the Packing of Cargo Transport Units)

Pursue further because

- It is mentioned in CPM Recommendation R-06
- Already well under way; Enabler to effectively minimize risk
 - Being revised for the first time since 2014
 - Will include new and updated content on container cleanliness and minimization of pest contamination (prepared by SCFG)
 - Currently undergoing approval; revised edition expected in 2027
- Considers all parts of supply chain; Relied on by shippers, packers/loaders, carriers, depots and terminals
- Feasible as described
- Cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Available globally



Container Design

Pursue further because

- Is part of CPM Recommendation R-06
- Testing underway in real-world situations
- Effective at minimizing risk
- Feasible as described
- Cost-effective for industry and NPPOs
- Available globally as containers are a global commodity



Framework Elements to Date

**Longer -
term**

Container Design

**ISPM -
under
consideration**

**Medium
- term**

Custodial Responsibility

**Third Party
Authorization/
Recognition**

**Shorter
- term**

**Awareness raising,
education and outreach**

CTU Code

Next Steps

- Further elaborate existing framework measures
 - Determine concrete implementation aspects and timeframes
 - Develop framework approach
- Any additional measures to be considered in framework must be fully developed and provided to the IPPC Secretariat by April 15, 2026
- Provide final recommendation to CPM in 2027





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CPM 20

Thank you

IPPC Secretariat

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