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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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Special topics session on sea containers

Agenda item 14

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

English only

1. The IPPC Secretariat has submitted a document to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for presentation to the 96th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (11-20 May 2016) under agenda item 24 “Any other business” (see Attachment 1: document MSC 96/24/2). This document provides an update on activities related to minimizing pest movement by sea containers, which have been undertaken under the framework of the IPPC. It intends to raise more awareness about this issue among IMO members and to help strengthen further collaborations between IMO and the IPPC with the ultimate objective of minimizing pest movement by sea containers. To help achieve this purpose, it would be useful if IPPC contracting parties could liaise with their national counterparts in the IMO. The list of IMO national contact points is available at: <http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Circulars/Pages/CP.aspx>

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The CTU Code and minimizing pest movement by sea containers

Submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides an update on activities related to minimizing pest movement by sea containers, which have been undertaken under the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	1.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	1.1.2
<i>Output:</i>	1.1.2.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 18
<i>Related document:</i>	MSC.1/Circ.1497

Background information on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

1 The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international treaty signed by 182 contracting parties. The mission of the IPPC is to secure cooperation among nations in protecting global plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests of plants, in order to preserve food security and biodiversity, and to facilitate trade. The work of the IPPC is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (hereafter referred to as "the Commission"), which meets once a year at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. FAO provides the Secretariat for the IPPC. More information on the IPPC can be found on its website (www.ippc.int).

2 According to the IPPC, Contracting Parties are obligated to establish national plant protection organizations¹, which, once established, play a central role in protecting the world's plant resources from pests and are key to the functioning and effectiveness of the IPPC. National plant protection organizations establish and implement the phytosanitary regulations issued by their governments and issue phytosanitary certificates (when these are required by the importing country based on their pest risk analysis) to confirm that the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country are met.

¹ Contact details for all national plant protection organizations are available at:
<https://www.ippc.int/en/countries>

3 One of the core areas of work delivered under the auspices of the IPPC Secretariat is the setting of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), which are adopted by the Commission to help nations harmonize their phytosanitary measures. The IPPC is recognized by the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the global standard setting organization for plant health.

Acknowledgement of the work done on the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)

4 Because sea containers may carry contamination (both interior and exterior), in particular in the form of insects, insect eggs, snails, slugs, other invertebrates and vertebrates, soil, seeds, and other biosecurity risk items, they are considered a significant pathway for the potential entry of pests of plants.

5 At its ninth session in April 2014², the Commission noted the work to revise the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units undertaken by IMO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Commission also recognized and appreciated the IMO/ILO/UNECE joint initiative of developing the guidelines into a code of practice and welcomed the approval of the *IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)* (MSC.1/Circ.1497). With the support of the IPPC Expert Working Group (EWG) on sea containers, several elements of phytosanitary relevance (e.g. information on pests and other contamination which may be associated with cargo transport units, as well as very useful practical guidelines for cleanliness, cleaning, packing and handling) have been incorporated into the CTU Code.

6 The Commission emphasized that the implementation of the CTU Code by all operators responsible for, and involved in, the packing and handling of sea containers is crucial for preventing the spread of pests and invasive alien species.

7 Finally, the Commission encouraged Contracting Parties to the IPPC and the IPPC Secretariat to liaise with national and international counterparts, respectively, to express their appreciation for the work done by IMO/ILO/UNECE and seek further collaboration.

Development and adoption by the Commission of a Recommendation on Sea Containers

8 At its tenth session (16 to 20 March 2015), the Commission adopted *Recommendation CPM-10/2015/01 on Sea Containers*³ (also set out in the annex). By the Recommendation, the Commission encourages national plant protection organizations to:

- .1 recognize the risk of pests and regulated articles that can be moved with sea containers;
- .2 communicate to those involved in packing of sea containers or in the movement of sea containers in and out of their country information about the risk of pest movement with sea containers;

² Refer to the report of the ninth session of the Commission (April 2014), section 9.4.3: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2513>

³ The recommendation CPM-10/2015/01 on Sea Containers is available in English at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/80914> and other language versions (French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic) are available in the report of the tenth session of the Commission (March 2015), Appendix 8: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81242>

- .3 support the implementation of the relevant parts of the IMO/ILO/UNECE CTU Code;
- .4 gather information on pest movement via the sea containers themselves, rather than with the cargo moved within sea containers and to share such information, when and if serious trends arise; and
- .5 analyse the possible pest risk and, where justified and practical, take proportionate action to mitigate risk.

9 Moreover, the Commission encouraged the IPPC Secretariat to work with IMO, ILO and UNECE to raise awareness amongst their members of the risks arising from the international movement of sea containers and the benefit of ensuring that sea containers are clean.

10 The IPPC Secretariat was also encouraged to explore the possibilities and the finances needed to develop a brochure and a poster addressed, in particular, to exporters, consignors, consignees, packing and transport operators, on issues related to the risk of pest movement with sea containers.

11 Finally, the Commission requested the IPPC Secretariat to write to the Secretariats to the Convention on Biodiversity and the World Animal Health Organization requesting they endorse the *Recommendation on Sea Containers* with the aim of minimizing the movement of pests with sea containers and to consider developing, in parallel, their own recommendations regarding organisms of their concern with similar involvement of their members and industry. Letters have been sent, pending formal responses.

Development of an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on sea container cleanliness

12 The Commission decides what topics should be developed for standards and, in 2008, added the topic "Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001)" to the "List of topics for IPPC standards". The Standards Committee of the Commission oversees the IPPC standard setting process. Once the Standards Committee develops and approves a specification for a topic (see Specification 51⁴), they then select experts from around the world to participate in a meeting convened by the IPPC Secretariat to develop a draft standard.

13 As a result of two meetings of experts (November 2011, Rome⁵, and May 2012, Malaysia)⁶, a draft standard on Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001) was developed. The Standards Committee, at its meeting in May 2013, decided to submit a preliminary version⁷ of the draft standard to the IPPC members for consultation, from 1 July 2013 to 1 December 2013, to gather general conceptual comments. In November 2014, the Standards Committee agreed to the terms of reference⁸ for the next Expert Working Group (EWG)⁹ meeting on the topic and tasked them to analyse the conceptual

⁴ Specification 51 available on IPPC website: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/approved-specifications-draft-ispms-under-development>

⁵ Report of the sea containers Steering Committee available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2441>

⁶ May 2012 Expert Working Group meeting report available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/1167>

⁷ Preliminary draft ISPM available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/draft-ispm-minimizing-pest-movement-sea-containers>

⁸ The terms of reference are available in Appendix 16 of the November 2014 Standards Committee meeting report at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>⁸.

⁹ The membership list of the Expert Working Group on sea containers is available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/1176>.

member comments, which were collected during the 2013 member consultation¹⁰. It was proposed that the EWG would produce a revised draft standard or recommend to the Standards Committee another way to proceed.

14 At its tenth session (16 to 20 March 2015), the Commission decided that there would be a special topics session held at its eleventh session in 2016 to hear Contracting Parties' views on sea containers and that work on the topic "Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001)" would be delayed pending the outcome of the special topics session. The special topic session is planned for Thursday, 7 April 2016 afternoon with presentations on the following:

- .1 risks associated with the movement of sea containers – pathway risk analysis;
- .2 logistics of movement of sea containers; and
- .3 experiences from national plant protection organizations on checking or inspection of sea containers (i.e. practical aspects).

15 Following the outcome of the special topics session, the EWG, with the addition of other experts, would be invited to meet to revise the draft standard on sea containers. The meeting is tentatively planned for 11 to 15 July 2016, in Long Beach, Los Angeles, California, USA. For more information on this topic, the Sea Containers page on the IPPC website can be consulted: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/expert-working-groups/sea-containers>

16 With a view to ensuring that input from the different parties involved in international shipping is taken into account, and given that IMO, as the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping, is considered to have essential expertise for the development of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on sea container cleanliness, the IPPC seeks to cooperate with IMO on matters related to sea containers.

17 In this regard, the IPPC Secretary invited the Secretary-General of IMO to designate a member of the IMO Secretariat to possibly take part in the EWG on sea containers. In response, the IMO Secretariat confirmed their intention to follow developments on the issue and provide input, as appropriate, and designated a contact point for that purpose, who has also been invited to the special topics session of the Commission on 7 April 2016.

Action requested of the Committee

18 The Committee is invited to consider the information provided and take action, as appropriate.

¹⁰ Compiled member comments from the 2013 member consultation are available at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2013-compiled-comments-draft-ispm-minimizing-pest-movement-sea-containers-2008-001/>



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES RECOMMENDATION ON SEA CONTAINERS CPM-10/2015/1

Background

Surveys carried out in some countries have indicated that sea containers (also known as Cargo Transport Units (CTUs)) to a varying degree may carry contamination, in particular in the form of interior and exterior presence of seeds, snails, slugs, soil, spiders and other biosecurity risk items that may pose a pest risk.

The packing of sea containers with cargo is the most likely stage in the sea container supply chain at which contamination can occur. Operators' procedures for cleanliness and cleaning of sea containers, for handling of containers and cargo, need therefore to take into account the risk of contamination at the packing stage.

To that end, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), with the support from the IPPC Expert Working Group on Sea Containers, have revised their joint Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units to incorporate several elements of phytosanitary importance such as the references to sea container cleaning in chapter 8, annex 5 and, in particular, annex 6, Minimizing the risk of recontamination. This was recognized and appreciated by CPM-9 (2014).

The present recommendation proposes actions to be taken by NPPOs, the IPPC Secretariat and other international organizations.

Recommendation

Sea containers moved internationally should be as clean as possible, in order to minimize the movement of pests.

Thus the CPM *encourages* NPPOs to:

- *recognize* the risk of pests and regulated articles that can be moved with sea containers
- *communicate* to those involved in packing of sea containers or in the movement of sea containers in and out of their country information about the risk of pest movement with sea containers
- *support* the implementation of the relevant parts of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units¹ (International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE))
- *gather* information on pest movement via the sea containers themselves, rather than with the cargo moved within sea containers and to share such information, when and if, serious trends arise, and
- *analyse* the possible pest risk and, where justified and practical, *take proportionate action* to mitigate risk.

¹ Link to the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (ILO/IMO/UNECE):
<https://www.ippc.int/publications/code-practice-packing-cargo-transport-units-ctu-code-imoilounece>

