



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

R-06  
2017

ENG

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES RECOMMENDATION

# Recommendation on: Sea containers

ADOPTED 2015 | PUBLISHED 2017



**International Plant Protection Convention**  
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

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### **Publication history**

*This is not an official part of the CPM Recommendation.*

2015-03 presented at CPM-10.

2015-03 CPM-10 adopted the CPM recommendation on *Sea containers (R-06)*.

2016-12 CPM Bureau reviewed and agreed with IPPC Secretariat proposed ink amendments.

2017-04 CPM-12 agreed with the reformatting and incorporating of ink amendments.

Publication history last modified: 2017-04

## 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 International Plant Protection Convention (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 the Ninth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-9, 2014) (hereafter the "Commission").

## ADDRESSED TO

National plant protection organizations (NPPOs) and international organizations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Thus, the Commission *encourages* NPPOs to:

- (a) *recognize* the risk of pests and regulated articles that can be moved with sea containers.
- (b) *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.
- (c) support the implementation of the relevant parts of the code of practice for packing of cargo transport units<sup>1</sup> (IMO, ILO and UNECE).
- (d) *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.
- (e) *analyse* the possible pest risk and, where justified and practical, take proportionate action to mitigate risk.

## RECOMMENDATION(S) SUPERSEDED BY THE ABOVE

None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

## IPPC

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. International travel and trade are greater than ever before. As people and commodities move around the world, organisms that present risks to plants travel with them.

### Organization

- ◆ There are over 180 contracting parties to the IPPC.
- ◆ Each contracting party has a national plant protection organization (NPPO) and an Official IPPC contact point.
- ◆ Nine regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) work to facilitate the implementation of the IPPC in countries.
- ◆ IPPC liaises with relevant international organizations to help build regional and national capacities.
- ◆ The Secretariat is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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