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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Ninth Session

Rome, 31 March - 4 April 2014

Update on the Topic: *Minimizing Pest Movement by Sea Containers*
(2008-001): Proposed Survey

Agenda item 9.4.3

Prepared by the Steward on the topic *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers*, a small group of SC members and the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. A paper¹ was presented to CPM-8 (2013)² on the development of the draft International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001) and to identify possible areas of concern. An evening session was held during CPM-8 (2013) to discuss these issues. CPM-8 (2013) decided to continue processing the draft ISPM through the IPPC standard setting process and discuss how to proceed at a later stage. The CPM asked the Standards Committee (SC), with input from the Secretariat, to develop guidance for a survey to be carried out by volunteer national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to gather information on the rate of pest interceptions on sea containers. CPM-8 (2013) also requested the SC to develop a preliminary draft standard to be sent for member consultation and used by NPPOs for discussion, emphasizing the importance of gathering national stakeholder's comments.

2. The aim of this paper is to update CPM-9 (2014) on the survey activities related to sea containers undertaken since CPM-8 (2013).

¹ CPM 2013/28 available at: <https://www.ippc.int/cpm>

² CPM-8 (2013) report, section 8.1.4, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/cpm>

II. Update on Developments with the Pest Interception Survey of Sea Containers

3. The SC noted during their May 2013 meeting³ that because this survey would obtain information on pests associated with sea containers, it could be used to establish a baseline for measuring the impact of the ISPM several years after adoption.

4. During the SC May 2013 meeting a small group was convened (the SC survey group). It proposed that the survey should be kept as simple as possible and that volunteering NPPOs could be asked to complete the survey for as many sea containers as possible and for the six sides of the interior and exterior of containers. The SC asked the SC survey group to consider if the number of sea containers to be inspected should be specified when designing the survey.

5. Issues discussed and consequently agreed upon included:

- Surveys to be done on empty sea containers or after cargo has been removed.
- Inspections to be performed on all six sides of the interior and exterior of the containers. Contamination findings to be reported as: areas examined; type and location of findings; and contaminating organisms found (not limited to quarantine pests).

6. However, further discussions identified a major challenge: the survey would have to be statistically sound in order to provide data that could stand scientific scrutiny and which NPPOs could use as a basis of comparison with similar survey data in the future. To deal with this concern, two statistical experts from New Zealand and the USA were asked to work with the SC survey group. The experts have advised that to yield acceptable results that could be repeated in the future, the surveys would need to be done with the proper methodology and that this could be expensive and time consuming. Therefore, it has been proposed that the statisticians analyze data from previous surveys from several countries (China, USA, Australia and New Zealand) and further consider if a new survey is needed. At their November 2013 meeting⁴, the SC agreed that the statisticians' opinions should be carefully considered by the SC survey group before making a recommendation to CPM on whether a survey should be done. The SC agreed an update on activities related to sea containers would be presented to CPM-9 (2014), to be prepared by the SC survey group with the assistance of the Secretariat.

III. Recommendations

7. CPM is invited to:

- *note* the progress on the development of a Sea Container survey.
- *note*, pending a statistical study, that the SC may recommend existing data be used and a Sea Container survey not be required.

³ May 2013 SC report, section 3.1, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>

⁴ November 2013 SC report, section 4.1, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>