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Update on the Topic: *Minimizing Pest Movement by Sea Containers (2008-001)*: processing of the draft standard through the IPPC standard setting process

Agenda item 9.4.3

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. CPM-8 (2013)¹ decided to continue processing a draft International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for the topic *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001)* through the IPPC standard setting process and to discuss how to proceed, on the basis of comments received through consultation, at a later stage. CPM-8 (2013) also requested the Standards Committee (SC) to develop a preliminary draft standard to be sent for member consultation and used by national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) for discussion, emphasizing the importance of gathering national stakeholders' comments. NPPOs and regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) agreed to liaise and engage relevant stakeholders at the national level, including national representatives to relevant international organizations (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO), International Maritime Organizations (IMO), World Custom Organization (WCO), and others as well as industry.
2. The aim of this paper is to update CPM-9 (2014) on what stage has been reached in the processing of the draft standard through the IPPC standard setting process (Note: document CPM 2014/11 provides an update on the survey activities related to sea containers undertaken since CPM-8 (2013)).

¹ CPM-8 (2013) report, section 8.1.4, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/cpm>

II. Update on the processing of the draft standard through the IPPC standard setting process

3. As requested by CPM-8 (2013), the SC revised the draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001) during its May 2013 meeting² and approved a preliminary draft standard to be sent for member consultation (with the understanding that there will be a further member consultation). The SC decided that the members should be asked for general conceptual comments only. Member consultation on the preliminary draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001) in 2013 was an exception to the normal procedure and the first time such an approach had been taken. The SC agreed to this type of consultation because the draft ISPM involved new concepts and some aspects relating to possible implementation of the standard needed further input based on the results of the consultation.

4. The preliminary draft ISPM was made available for member consultation through the Online Comment System from 1 July to 1 December 2013. The steward for the topic *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001) and the IPPC Secretariat continued to liaise and engage with relevant international organizations (CBD, OIE, WHO, IMO, WCO as well as industry organizations) in 2013, especially to try to gather their comments during the member consultation. The Secretariat compiled the comments received³ and sent them to the steward. A total of 132 comments were submitted from 45 contracting parties, 1 NPPO of a non-contracting party, 4 RPPOs, the WCO, the World Shipping Council (WSC), the Container Owners' Association (COA), and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).

5. The SC discussed the topic briefly in its November 2013 meeting⁴ following receipt of a letter which included comments from industry bodies. While it is important to address concerns of industry, the SC noted that the consultation period would finish on 1 December 2013, after the SC meeting, and that all comments, including those of industry bodies, would be discussed at its May 2014 meeting.

6. The SC has therefore not yet discussed the comments from member consultation, but the CPM may wish to be aware of some issues that have been raised:

- Concerns about the scope of the standard
- Concern that requirements proposed regarding the exterior cleanliness might impede movements of sea containers
- Whether shipping companies should bear the main responsibility for managing sea containers cleanliness systems (including both exterior and interior of sea containers)
- Whether a recording system for verification of cleanliness should be established
- Some countries have proposed that a CPM recommendation should be developed
- Whether sea containers cleanliness should be checked, and, if necessary, containers should be cleaned, in depots rather than at import or export. This was proposed as a compromise measure in the draft, as it would be less disruptive to the current system (safety checks and interior cleaning are already done in depots) and to the movement of sea containers.
- Whether the measures proposed for the cleaning of sea containers may be too costly for industry
- The need for effective communication with other stakeholders and parties to reduce contamination of sea containers at unpacking and packing
- Clarification of responsibility for non-compliance.

² May 2013 SC report, section 5.2, available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee>

³ Compiled member comments available at: <https://www.ippc.int/publications/2013-compiled-comments-draft-ism-minimizing-pest-movement-sea-containers-2008-001>

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

7. The SC was requested by CPM-8 (2013) to develop a description of options for possible systems for sea containers examination including audit and verification mechanisms for NPPOs to discuss with stakeholders at the national level. The SC felt this might require a further expert working group meeting and decided this would be considered once the member comments had been discussed.

8. For more information on the development of this draft standard, the IPPC Secretariat has set up a web page on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP)⁵ to provide background information and related links.

9. It should be recalled that the IPPC Expert Working Group on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001) provided input into the development of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units, which is being updated jointly by the IMO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The draft Code is now pending formal approval by these three organizations and, once implemented, should lead to increased phytosanitary examination and cleaning of containers at depots. The latest version of the draft Code (January 2014) is available on the Sea containers IPP page.

10. The SC will discuss member comments in detail in May 2014 and report back to CPM-10 (2015) with recommendations on how to proceed with the draft. In the interim, the CPM may wish to provide further guidance for the SC to use when they review member comments.

III. Recommendations

11. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Provide* feedback on the outcomes of liaison activities with relevant stakeholders (including national representatives to relevant international organizations as well as industry), which were undertaken by NPPOs and RPPOs during the 2013 member consultation on the draft preliminary ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001).
- 2) *Request* the SC to continue discussions towards the development of a draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001).
- 3) *Request* the SC to continue discussions towards the development of a description of options for possible systems for sea container examination including audit and verification mechanisms for NPPOs to discuss with relevant stakeholders at the national level.
- 4) *Request* the Steward and the Secretariat to continue to liaise and engage with relevant international organizations.

⁵ <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/expert-working-groups/sea-containers>