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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Tenth Session

Rome, 16-20 March 2015

Adoption of CPM Recommendations

Proposal for a CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers - Rationale for developing and adopting a CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers

Agenda item 15.2

**Prepared by a drafting group composed of experts from Argentina,
Denmark Gabon, Japan, the Netherlands and USA.¹**

1. At the occasion of the revision of the joint International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTUs), the European Union and its 28 Member States had suggested to the CPM-9 (2014) that the CPM should:

- urgently *deliver* an encouraging statement to those organizations, and
- *agree* that a Recommendation be developed for adoption in 2015 encouraging NPPOs, the IPPC Secretariat as well as CBD and OIE to support the implementation of the Code of Practice and awareness raising.

2. Accordingly, CPM-9 (2014)² agreed to deliver several statements in appreciation of the revised Code of Practice and in support of its implementation, and also agreed that a draft CPM Recommendation be prepared.

3. The draft Recommendation attached has been produced by a group of experts from Argentina, Denmark, Gabon, Japan the Netherlands and USA. Comments were submitted by the European Union and its 28 Member States and New Zealand and Canada supported the CPM recommendation as

¹ Revised by the IPPC Secretariat based on comments from New Zealand and the European Union and its 28 Member States with input from the CPM Bureau.

² cf. CPM-9 Report sect. 9.4, paragraph 54

circulated. The draft was further revised by the IPPC Secretariat based on comments from the European Union and its 28 Member States and New Zealand, with input from the CPM Bureau.

4. The objective of the CPM Recommendation is to encourage Contracting Parties, as well as CBD and OIE, to support in various ways, awareness raising and the implementation of the revised Code of Practice. Such a CPM Recommendation would be beneficial to IPPC objectives, irrespective of whether or when an ISPM on sea containers may be developed. The draft avoids mentioning current negotiations on the draft ISPM, in order to remain fully neutral to that process and avoid interference between the processes.
5. The draft CPM recommendation on Sea Containers is presented in Attachment 1
6. The CPM is invited to:
 - *encourage* the IPPC secretariat
 - *to work with* International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (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,
 - *to explore* the possibilities and the finances needed to develop a brochure and poster addressed in particular to exporters, consignors, consignees, packing and transport operators, to issues related to the risk of pest movement with sea containers,
 - *request* the IPPC Secretariat to write to the Secretariats to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) requesting they endorse the CPM 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,
 - *adopt* the CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers as presented in Attachment 1 to this paper.

Attachment 1**DRAFT CPM RECOMMENDATION ON SEA CONTAINERS****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, are noted. 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:

Urges NPPOs

- *to recognise* the risk of pests and regulated articles that can be moved with sea containers
- *to 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,
- *to support* the implementation of the relevant parts of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units³ (International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)),
- *to gather* information on pest movement via this pathway and to share such information, when and if, serious trends arise and
- where justified and practical, *take action* to mitigate risk

³ 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>