



SPECIFICATION 51

Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in international trade

(2010)

Title

Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in international trade (2008-001).

Reason for the standard

Sea containers (i.e. 20- and 40-foot intermodal freight or shipping containers) are a significant pathway for the potential entry of pests, as they are now the most common means of transfer of internationally traded goods and moving personal effects. Insects, snails, other invertebrates and vertebrates may contaminate containers during storage or packing, attracted by odour, light, temperature or humidity conditions. Micro-organisms, seeds and other plant parts and plant debris may be present in contaminating soil, birds' excrement etc. on or inside containers. Some of these organisms may be pests. A country may already regulate some of the pests as quarantine pests, while others may not yet have been evaluated in a PRA but may be potential quarantine pests.

Shipping containers move between many countries, and therefore a standard is needed to provide guidelines to countries for managing such phytosanitary risks. Several countries have already developed and implemented phytosanitary standards related to this issue, so there is a need to harmonize phytosanitary measures related to shipping containers.

Scope and purpose

The standard will provide guidance to national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) as to:

- identifying particular pest risks associated with shipping containers as pathways in sea and overland transport between countries
- identifying appropriate phytosanitary measures to mitigate such risks, in particular prior to export, including procedures for packing and cleaning of the interior and exterior of shipping containers, as well as inspection and measures related to the area surrounding packing, storage and loading locations
- identifying verification procedures.

The purpose of this standard is to minimize the risk of quarantine pests moved as contaminants with shipping containers, irrespective of the cargo carried. The standard should provide guidance as to how

appropriate pest risk management can be achieved with minimum impediment to efficient movement and management of shipping containers.

Note that the IPPC standard setting work programme includes a separate topic on “Minimizing pest movement by air containers and aircrafts” (specifications pending).

Tasks

The expert working group should:

- (1) Identify the extent and importance of international pest dispersal caused by shipping containers and provide examples
- (2) Identify the ways that contamination leading to pest risk can occur and note the critical points, including issues regarding types of shipping containers, origin and seasonality
- (3) Review existing international conventions, international and national standards and industry practices that may be relevant in helping to reduce pest risks from shipping container movement in international trade and delimit the scope of this standard accordingly
- (4) Identify and describe possible phytosanitary measures and best management practices to reduce pest risks, including:
 - . procedures for packing and subsequent storage, loading and transport of shipping containers to minimize contamination
 - . procedures and practical methods for decontaminating and treating shipping containers (outside and inside) prior to export or at import, including treatment options (including treatments for permanent container flooring made of plant material) and the safe disposal of contaminants
 - . measures carried out in the area surrounding locations where packing, storage and loading of shipping containers takes place to minimize pest occurrence and the probability of contamination
 - . inspection prior to export or at import
 - . appropriate reporting, safeguarding actions and phytosanitary measures to be taken in case of non-compliance
- (5) Review existing verification systems (or if necessary, describe possible new feasible systems) to record and certify the origin, cleanliness, cleaning or treatments of containers in respect of compliance with this standard or parts thereof, including consideration of:
 - . a checking system leading to the use of compliance documents or verifying labels
 - . a system for the authorization/accreditation of container companies, export, shipping or treatment companies
- (6) Describe the distribution of responsibilities among NPPOs and stakeholders
- (7) Consider options for a broader interim consultation on elements of the draft with stakeholders and provide a recommendation on this to the SC
- (8) Consider whether and how the resulting guidelines for shipping containers could support the development of guidelines for minimizing pest movements by conveyances.
- (9) Consider whether the standard could affect in a specific way (positively or negatively) the protection of biodiversity and the environment. If this is the case, the impact should be identified, addressed and clarified in the draft standard.
- (10) Consider implementation of the standard by contracting parties and identify potential operational and technical implementation issues. Provide information and possible recommendations on these issues to the SC.

Provision of resources

Funding for the meeting may be provided from sources other than the regular programme of the IPPC (FAO). As recommended by ICPM-2 (1999), whenever possible, those participating in standard setting activities voluntarily fund their travel and subsistence to attend meetings. Participants may request financial assistance, with the understanding that resources are limited and the priority for financial assistance is given to developing country participants.

Collaborator

To be determined.

Steward

Please refer to the list of topics for IPPC standards posted on the IPP (see <https://www.ippc.int/index.php?id=207776>).

Expertise

Five to seven phytosanitary experts with one or more of the following areas of expertise:

- export or import systems dealing with shipping containers
- developing certification/auditing/accrediting/authorizing systems
- treatment of shipping containers
- finding, identifying and controlling relevant pests in shipping containers (e.g. as container inspectors/surveyors).

In addition to those experts, the Container Owners Association and the secretariats of the CBD and the IMO, respectively, are invited to nominate an expert to attend the relevant parts of the expert drafting group meeting(s).

Participants

To be determined.

References

The IPPC, relevant ISPMs and other national, regional and international standards and agreements as may be applicable to the tasks, and discussion papers submitted in relation to this work.

A site acting as a source of relevant papers to be set up on the IPP is being discussed with the Secretariat.

Discussion papers

Participants and interested parties are encouraged to submit discussion papers to the IPPC Secretariat (ippc@fao.org) for consideration by the expert drafting group.

Publication history

This is not an official part of the specification

2007-11 SC introduced topic *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in international trade*

2008-04 CPM-3 added topic (2008-001)

2009-11 SC revised draft text and approved for MC

2010-02 MC

2010-04 SC revised and approved specification

2011-11 SC added new tasks regarding implementation issues

2011-11 reformatted

2011-12 applied consistency changes in line with the decision made by SC May 2009

2012-11 SC replaced task regarding implementation issues

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