Background information for the IPP:

Development of the draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001)

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and updated on 5 May 2017)*

The following outline is a brief summary of the events in the development of the draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers.* In April 2016, CPM-11 (2016) agreed that the status of the topic on Minimizing Pest Movement by Sea Containers (2008-001) should be changed to pending. Thus, events are listed below in chronological order up to April 2016.

Several background documents on sea containers (documents on the biosecurity risk and its management, examples of management programs, pest risk assessment of insects in sea cargo containers, etc...) that were provided by some NPPOs are also available through [this link](https://www.ippc.int/en/sea-container-files/).

According to CPM-11 (2016) decision, a "set of complimentary actions" is being developed and more information about those actions related to the capacity development / implementation area are available on the IPP at [this link](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/sea-containers/).

## 2016-04 CPM-11 decisions (special topics session)

A special topics session (agenda item 14) was held on the issue of sea containers during CPM-11 (2016). Presentations given by NPPOs, relevant international organizations and stakeholders outlined the complex logistics of the movement of sea containers and the potential risks of the spread of pests. All presentations and discussion papers presented to the CPM are available at [this link](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/scientific-sessions-during-commission-phytosanitary-measures/2016-special-topic-session-sea-containers/).

CPM-11 (2016) decisions are listed below (please refer to [CPM-11 (2016) report](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/82487/) for more information):

The CPM:

1. Recognized the risk of pests and regulated articles, other than cargo, that can be moved with sea containers.
2. Agreed that the harmonization of requirements through the development of a draft ISPM on minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001) is considered as complex to achieve.
3. Recognized that the implementation of the IMO/ILO/UNECE CTU Code, and of the Recommendation CPM 10/2015\_01 on Sea Containers would help address the risks of sea containers being contaminated.
4. Agreed that the status of the topic on Minimizing Pest Movement by Sea Containers (2008-001) should be changed to pending and reconsidered by the CPM, in maximum five years, to allow for the implementation of the CTU Code and Recommendation CPM 10/2015\_01 and an analysis of their impact on reducing pest movement by sea containers.
5. Agreed that some coordinated actions should be considered for assessing and addressing the pest risks associated with sea containers.
6. Encouraged NPPOs to gather information on the movement of pests via the sea containers to help clarify the risk.
7. Requested the Bureau (at its June 2016 meeting) to consider the development of a "set of complimentary actions" which, combined, may offer some value in assessing and managing the pests threats associated with sea containers and to propose such a possible program of complimentary actions to CPM-12 (2017).
8. Encouraged interested parties and CPs to submit discussion papers by 15 May 2016 to the IPPC Secretariat for the CPM Bureau to consider.

## 2015-11 Selection of EWG members on Sea containers

The Standards Committee (SC) selected new Expert Working Group (EWG) members on Sea containers. The updated membership list which includes experts who had been previously selected by the SC is available at [this link](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/84265/). EWG members and invited experts should be available to attend:

* the special topics session on sea containers to be held during the 11th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) , tentatively planned for Thursday 7 April 2016,
* the EWG meeting in 2016 , which is tentatively scheduled for 11-15 July 2016 in Long Beach, Los Angeles, California, USA (to be confirmed at CPM-11 (2016)).

2015-04 CPM-10 decisions: special topics session to be held at CPM-11 (2016) and adoption of CPM recommendations on sea containers

During its tenth session (16-20 March 2015), [the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-10 (2015))](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/81242/)[[1]](#footnote-1) decided that there would be a special topics session held at CPM-11 (2016) to hear Contracting Parties’ views on sea containers and that work on the topic *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001) would be delayed pending the outcome of the special topics session. It was also proposed that the Secretariat should continue with the call for experts for the Expert Working Group (EWG) on Sea Containers. These experts should be invited to attend the special topic session at CPM-11 (2016) to hear CPM members’ views. Pending the outcome of the special topics session, an EWG on Sea Containers could take place in 2016, hosted by the United States.

Besides, the CPM:

* encouraged 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,
* requested 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.
* adopted the CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers available [through this link](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-recommendations-1/cpm-recommendations/).

2014-12: IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)

As mentioned below in the section regarding the 2012 May Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting, industry guidance in the form of a Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units has been updated jointly by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Sea Containers EWG provided input into this guidance so it could include phytosanitary requirements for cleaning sea containers.

The CTU Code was endorsed by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and the ILO Governing Body in 2014. It is available [through this link](http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingctus/intro.html) and also posted below.

The specific parts of interest are chapter 3, chapter 4 (section 4.2.10), chapter 8 (sections 8.2.4.4, 8.3.2.4 and 8.3.2.5) and Annex 13.

2014-11: SC agreed TORs for a new EWG

The Standards Committee (SC) agreed in their [November 2014 meeting](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/2684/) to the Terms of Reference (TORs) for a third Expert working group (EWG) for drafting the ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001). The first task of the EWG will be to analyze the conceptual member comments which were collected during the 2013 member consultation on the preliminary draft standard on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001). Then, the EWG should produce a revised draft standard or recommend to the SC how to proceed. The original members of the sea containers EWG and additional experts will be invited to this new EWG meeting.The TORs are available in Appendix 16 of the November 2014 SC meeting report[[2]](#footnote-2).

By way of e-decision, the SC agreed later to issue a new call for EWG members on sea containers (to be issued by the IPPC Secretariat after the 2015 May SC meeting).

2014-05: SC discussion

The SC discussed the issue in their May 2014 meeting[[3]](#footnote-3). They requested the steward for the draft ISPM to draft TORs for a new EWG on sea containers. This EWG would review member comments from the 2013 member consultation, and provide the SC with possible options on how to move forward.

2014-04 CPM-9 (2014) decisions on the topic *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001)

An update was presented[[4]](#footnote-4) (agenda item 9.4.3) explaining the progress made so far on the topic of *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001). The Secretariat also informed the CPM that dialogue with the World Customs Organization (WCO) had progressed. WCO had considered positively the IPPC request to add data fields on sea container cleanliness in the WCO data model and indicated that this would be possible once business requirements on sea container cleanliness are clear and stable.

The CPM:

1. noted that the SC will discuss the comments from member consultation and how to proceed with the development of the ISPM on Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001), including the possible need for further survey work;
2. recognised and appreciated the joint initiative by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) of revising the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTUs Code). With the support from the IPPC Expert Working Group on Sea Containers, those organizations have incorporated into the revised Code several elements of phytosanitary relevance, e.g. information on pests and other contamination which may be associated with CTUs, as well as very useful practical guidelines for cleanliness, cleaning, packing and handling;
3. welcomed the recent adoption of the code by UNECE and looked forward to the adoption also by IMO and ILO of the revised Code later this year;
4. emphasised that the careful implementation of the revised code by all operators responsible for and involved in the packing and handling of sea containers is crucial for preventing the spread of pests and invasive alien species;
5. encouraged contracting parties and the IPPC Secretariat to liaise with national and international counterparts respectively to express their appreciation for the work done by IMO/ILO/UNECE and seek further collaboration; and
6. requested the Secretariat in association with the EU, USA, Japan, Argentina and Gabon to prepare a draft recommendation for possible adoption at CPM-10.
7. requested the Secretary to send the statements in the above 2,3 4 above to the heads of IMO, ILO and UNECE
8. requested the Secretariat to highlight those same statements on the IPP.
9. requested the Secretariat to provide a link on the IPP to the code of practice as adopted by UNECE.

2014-02 - Draft industry guidance - IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)

As mentioned below in the section regarding the 2012 May Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting, industry guidance in the form of a Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units has been updated jointly by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Sea Containers EWG provided input into this guidance so it could include phytosanitary requirements for cleaning sea containers.

The [January 2014 version of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTUs)](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2014/itc/id_07_CTU_Code_January_2014.pdf) has been [endorsed by the Inland Transport Committee (25 to 27 February 2014) of the UNECE](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35067). It will be presented later for endorsement by IMO and ILO. The specific parts of interest are chapter 3, chapter 4 (section 4.2.10), chapter 8 (sections 8.2.4.4, 8.3.2.4 and 8.3.2.5) and Annex 13.

2013-12 Compiled comments on the 2013 member consultation

The IPPC Secretariat compiled the comments received during the 2013 member consultation on the preliminary draft standard on sea containers and sent them to the steward. The compiled comments are available on the IPP by clicking [this link](https://www.ippc.int/publications/2013-compiled-comments-draft-ispm-minimizing-pest-movement-sea-containers-2008-001). They will be considered in detail by the Standards Committee (SC) in their 2014 May meeting.

2013-11 SC discussion and decisions

(See [2013 November meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20131213/report_sc_2013_nov_xxiii_2013-12-05_201312061338-1.26_mb_2013121309%3A29--1.26%20MB.pdf): section 4.1)

An update was given by the subgroup of the SC who had been charged, in the 2013 May SC meeting, with developing a survey for NPPOs on the rate of pest interceptions on sea containers and an accompanying letter. This SC subgroup had completed their tasks but had also requested the support of two statisticians from the USA and New Zealand. The statisticians had noted difficulties with conducting such surveys. In order to yield acceptable results that could be repeated in the future, the surveys would need to be done with the proper methodology and this could be expensive and time consuming. The SC survey group had suggested that statisticians analyse data from previous surveys from several countries (China, USA, Australia and New Zealand) and further consider if a new survey would be needed. 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 [preliminary draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001)](https://www.ippc.int/publications/draft-ispm-minimizing-pest-movement-sea-containers) had been sent for member consultation through the OCS (1 July – 1 December 2013). The SC noted that **all comments on the preliminary draft ISPM will be considered during the May 2014 SC meeting** (as opposed to the regular process where the SC-7 reviews member comments).

The SC agreed to present an update on activities related to sea containers to CPM-9 (2014), to be prepared by the SC subgroup.

2013-05 SC discussion and decisions:

(See [2013 May SC meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20130618/report_sc_2013_may_xxii_2013-06-17_2013061810%3A14--1.81%20MB.pdf): sections 3.1 and 5.2)

During its May 2013 meeting, the SC reviewed and revised the draft ISPM. Among the changes made, the scope was modified to cover all sea containers, empty or full, regardless of associated cargo. As requested by CPM-8 (2013), **the SC approved for member consultation the revised preliminary draft on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001)**, with the understanding that there will be a further member consultation. The SC decided that this preliminary draft would be open only for general conceptual comments on sections of text. The length of the 2013 member consultation for draft ISPMs is 150 days (1 July 2013 to 1 December 2013) and IPPC members will be invited on 1st July to review this draft ISPM and submit their comments through their IPPC contact point using the [IPPC Online Comment System (OCS)](https://www.ippc.int/en/online-comment-system/). Comments on the draft would then be reviewed by the SC (and not by the SC-7 as normally).

Regarding the development of a description of options for possible systems for sea containers examination including audit and verification mechanisms, as requested by CPM-8 (2013), the SC decided to wait for the outcome of the member consultation in order to gather more information before developing a description of these options and considering them further.

In addition to the revision of the draft ISPM, the May 2013 SC developed guidance for **a survey to be carried out by volunteer NPPOs to gather information on the rate of pest interceptions on sea containers**, as agreed by CPM-8 (2013). The SC requested a small group of SC members to refine the survey design, assist the Secretariat in setting up a data collection mechanism, and develop survey instructions to accompany the survey request. The small group is currently working to refine the survey. When finalized, National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) will be asked to get involved in this and collect data on the scale of the problem.

2013-04 CPM-8 (2013) decisions:

The Sea containers issue was discussed during [CPM-8 (2013)](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140225/final_report_en_2013-10-21_201310211605-914.54_kb_201402250915--914.54%20KB.pdf) (section 8.1.4 of the meeting report) and the CPM agreed to the following decisions:

1. Decided to follow a stepwise approach and to continue processing the draft ISPM through the IPPC standard setting process and discuss how to proceed at a later stage.
2. Requested the SC, with input from the Secretariat, to develop guidance for a survey to be carried out by volunteer NPPOs to gather information on the rate of pest interceptions on sea containers;
3. Encouraged NPPOs to voluntarily take part in the survey and gather information on pest interceptions on sea containers, over a limited time, and submit this information to the Secretariat for analysis and reporting;
4. Welcomed and thanked the ILO, IMO and UNECE for the development of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units and encouraged industry to implement these guidelines as soon as possible;
5. Thanked the Steward, the Steering Committee, the EWG, the SC and the Secretariat for all their efforts in addressing this complex issue and the results achieved so far;
6. 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 stakeholders comments;
7. Requested the SC to develop a description of options for possible systems for sea containers examination including audit and verification mechanisms for NPPOs to discuss with relevant stakeholders at the national level.
8. Requested NPPOs and RPPOs to liaise and engage relevant stakeholders at the national level, including national representatives to relevant international organizations (CBD, IMO, OIE, WCO, WHO, etc.) as well as industry; and
9. Requested the Steward and the Secretariat to continue to liaise and engage with relevant international organizations, and gather information

2012-12:

NPPOs were requested to review the information provided and submit their views to SC members no later than 15 January 2013. The SC members will then provide an analysis of these views to the Secretariat for preparation of a CPM discussion paper on the subject.

2012-11 Standards Committee (SC) meeting:

(See [2012 November SC meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140422/1355842430_report_sc_2012_nov_all2012-12-14_201404221605--1.25%20MB.pdf), paragraph 132 to 153)

The SC reviewed the draft ISPM on *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers* (2008-001) and made proposals for further adjustments to the standard, which will be transmitted to the small group working on the draft. Main issues discussed were:

* It was clarified that the draft covers containers that are transported on a ship at some stage during transport, even if they may have been loaded on other conveyances such as trains for part of their journey. Containers moved between countries, for example on a train, would not be covered by this standard.
* Title. As the draft ISPM no longer covers conveyances, the title had been shortened to Minimizing pest movement by sea containers
* Scope. It should specify that the primary focus of the ISPM is the cleaning of containers against pests, but that countries may have additional measures for other organisms/invasive alien species.
* Background. The draft used many different terms such as regulated living organisms, living pests, quarantine pests, invasive alien species. The primary focus of the draft should be quarantine pests, but it should be mentioned that the systems described in the draft ISPM also address other types of organisms. Invasive alien species should be mentioned specifically in the background. Clarification on other organisms should also be made in the background to establish a link to the work of other organizations (e.g. invasive alien species / CBD)
* The draft uses contamination and there could be an explanation in the background of why it is a pest risk.
* Insert in the background that there are different types of containers. This would facilitate the link between the different types of containers to the requirements that were being developed for them.
* Paragraph 81. Delete the sentence mentioning phytosanitary certificates (PCs), as requirements for PCs for containers should generally be discouraged.
* Paragraph 82. Regarding record keeping for audits, the text should specify who should do that, and a duration should be specified.

An email working group was established to work with the steward. The steward noted that he would also consult expert working group members. The draft ISPM would be posted for the SC (and therefore will also be available for NPPOs and RPPOs) by 1 March 2013. SC members were invited to send comments on the draft to the Secretariat by 30 November 2012.

**The issue of international accreditation of shipping lines** was discussed during the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting (see report below) and the SPG had recommended that the FAO Legal Office be consulted. The Legal Officer presented preliminary views on this topic, which would require further elaboration. No indications were found so far in the Conventions in the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), that international accreditation could be performed by IMO.

It may also not be possible for the IPPC Secretariat, or a third body on its behalf, to undertake accreditation functions. The IPPC is established under article XIV of the FAO Constitution, and there were no indications in the FAO constitution nor in the IPPC that such a function could be performed. Such a system may also compromise the neutrality of the IPPC Secretariat. The accreditation function would also imply some auditing, which would presumably be beyond the resources of the IPPC Secretariat. Finally, when a national authority carries out certification, this is based on national processes and legislation, which also states remedies for failure. If the IPPC was running such a process, the responsibility of failure would rest with FAO and financial liability would have to be borne by the organisation. This could potentially have huge financial and image impacts for the organisation, both directly and indirectly.

The SC agreed that, in addition to pursuing the options above, the following options for international accreditation could also be investigated:

* International accreditation agencies.
* RPPOs. The Legal Officer noted that this could be considered, and it would depend on whether RPPOs have a legal personality (otherwise the responsibility lies with their member countries).

The SC urged the Secretariat to explore a way of continuing the analysis of this issue, including the development of terms of reference for the legal study, and the possibility of using international accreditation agencies, taking into account the request for the legal side for assistance for this effort. (More information available in meeting report paragraph 147)

**Presentation of the topic of sea containers to CPM-8 (2013):**

* The SC noted that NPPOs will have to decide how they would manage a system for sea containers and they should understand clearly the responsibilities that would be involved by any of the options chosen. Information should be provided to contracting parties. The SC requested that the steward and the Secretariat develop a paper for the CPM with the aim of presenting the issues, and raising awareness in relation to accreditation and to verification/auditing by NPPOs.
* SC members were encouraged to find out what the views of NPPOs in their region are, for example on the development of the draft ISPM on Minimizing pest movement by sea containers (2008-001), practical implementation of a cleaning system, international and national accreditation, auditing/verification (see deadlines below). In doing so, it was mentioned that NPPOs may organise a regional approach (through their Bureau member or a RPPO) and obtain views from national or regional representatives of the organisations involved (e.g. World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Container Owners Association (COA)). The Secretariat would attempt to find lists of contacts for other organisations involved, and transmit them to SC members.

2012-10 Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting

(See [2012 October SPG meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140225/1352815214_report_spg_2012_nov_2012-11-13_201402251447--770.94%20KB.pdf), paragraph 36 to 43)

**Legal feasibility of International Accreditation of shipping lines by the IPPC**

The FAO Legal Office stated that the IPPC Secretariat is under the framework of FAO, whose mandate as a UN organization does not include accreditation. The Legal Office stated that under the FAO and IPPC current mandates there is no possibility for the IPPC to act as an accreditation entity. Firstly, if the IPPC Secretariat started accrediting industry, it would be charging for this activity and this might be considered as a conflict of interest by the parties to the Convention. Secondly, the wording “accreditation” is not included in the FAO and IPPC mandates. As a principle, the IPPC Secretariat should not be carrying out this activity and NPPOs should be dealing with the accreditation.

The SPG felt caution was needed on this issue and the advice given by FAO Legal Office should be followed. There was a suggestion to investigate the options of establishing an arrangement between the IPPC and the IMO (with the IMO carrying the international accreditation of shipping lines for the IPPC) and of having an international accreditation agency doing the work. The FAO Legal Office mentioned that the legal basis for such an arrangement between the IPPC and the IMO could be found under the Article XI of the IPPC Convention, as it reads: “ The functions of the Commission shall be to promote the full implementation of the objectives of the Convention and, in particular, to: (…) (f) establish cooperation with other relevant international organizations on matters covered by this Convention”.

The SPG:

1. *noted* the proposal and the legal advice given on the possibility of the IPPC Secretariat acting as an accrediting body, which stated that there was no provision in the Convention for the IPPC Secretariat to carry out this activity;
2. *recommended* that FAO Legal Office investigate the possibility of the IMO or an international accreditation agency pursuing international accreditation of shipping lines on behalf of the IPPC Secretariat. The FAO Legal Office will try to gather substantive information on this topic for the next SC meeting (12-16 November 2012).

2012-09 Annual Cool Logistics Global Conference, Antwerp, Belgium

(See [presentation](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/1354550705_Presentation_IPPC_SeaContEtc_Coo.pdf))

The IPPC Secretariat was invited to give a presentation to the key stakeholders involved in refrigerated transport.

2012-06 10th Container Owner's Association (COA) meeting

(See [presentation](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/1354717944_EWG_presentation_to_COA.pdf))

A member of the EWG attended this meeting held in Seoul, Korea. Over 145 delegates were present. The EWG member gave a short presentation.

2012-05 Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting in Malaysia

(See [meeting report, EWG on Minimizing Pest Movement by Sea Containers (May, 2012)](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140225/1347522460_report_ewgseacon_2012_may_2012-_201402251450--215.97%20KB.pdf))

* EWG decided to focus on ensuring sea containers are clean and only on empty containers
* Provided input into Industry guidance being developed in the form of criteria for cleanliness of sea containers moved in trade. These criteria were being developed jointly by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Container Owners Association (COA) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).
* Discussion on which database to use for documenting the cleaning of containers. The WCO was working with several organizations to develop data files which may facilitate trade involving different organizations. This system could include fields referring to the last date a container was checked and whether it has been cleaned, which would provide useful information for NPPOs. Currently this information was contained in industry’s Bayplan/Stowage Plan Occupied and Empty Locations (BAPLIE) file and it needs to be explored to see whether relevant data could be transferred to the more permanent WCO database.
* Discussion commenced on how to accredit shipping lines and/or depots. It was determined that there needs to be a system of international accreditation - the IPPC secretariat was asked to explore further.

2012-04 SC April 2012

(See [2012 April SC meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140225/1352210506_report_sc_2012_apr_2012-11-06_201402251448--476.85%20KB.pdf))

The SC agreed that:

* The draft ISPM should recognize the three categories of containers: empty containers ready to be packed; empty containers for repositioning, and; packed containers.
* Contamination at packing is a different topic related to cargo and should not be covered in this draft ISPM at this stage.
* The following international organizations would be relevant to help reduce the pest risks associated with sea containers and should be consulted: International Maritime Organization (IMO), Container Owners Association (COA), World Customs Organization (WCO), Institute of International Container Lessors (IICL), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), World Shipping Council (WSC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
* A technical document should be coordinated with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the OIE and should include general recommendations about safe disposal of dunnage and wash water, use of chemicals, etc., and the draft ISPM should include wording regarding limiting the spread of invasive alien species, etc.
* The IPPC should work with the container industry, and collaborate with other stakeholders, to supply some interim guidance.
* The IPPC standard setting process continues to develop a draft ISPM, consulting with members and relevant international organizations.

2012-03 CPM-7 (2012) decision and side event

(See [CPM-7 (2012) meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140225/1364237095_report_cpm-7_2012-03-25_1_201402251453--1.07%20MB.pdf), and [presentation](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/1354550290_1334056153_ContainerReportUpdate.pdf) given at the side event)

The Technical Consultation among RPPOs had requested that a side session on this issue be held at CPM-7 (2012); this would provide another opportunity for contracting parties to discuss the way forward on this topic.

2011-11 Steering Committee on Sea Containers (SCSC)

(See [2011 November SCSC meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140225/1333457966_report_ewgseacon_2011_nov_2012-0_201402251446--189.47%20KB.pdf))

Experts worked virtually to develop a first draft and those experts who contributed substantially to that draft met in Rome, Italy 15-17 November 2011. Main points coming from that meeting were:

* Changing the title of the draft ISPM to Minimizing pest movement by sea containers in international trade, thus reducing the scope to exclude conveyances
* Discussions with industry led to containers being limited to sea containers only excluding inland, intermodal freight, ferry, coastal, domestic and offshore.
* Considering a phased-in approach, starting with empty containers to be packed. In the future other issues such as packed containers and empty containers being repositioned could be considered. As the majority of sea containers are cleaned when they are empty, it was felt that targeting empty sea containers would have the greatest impact. The steering group recommended that the standard should initially deal only with empty containers and that conveyances should not be included in the scope.
* If possible, the IPPC requirements should be included in existing commercial inspection and repair guidance in order to avoid duplication of effort and build synergies among all stakeholders. The Containers Owners’ Association (COA) manages approximately 90% of the 30 million containers moving in the world and is willing to make the necessary adjustments to their systems to help address phytosanitary issues.
* The standard should focus on only phytosanitary issues; however, biosecurity issues could be addressed by cooperation with CBD and OIE.

See also the [presentation](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/1354550364_1334056517_COA_presentation-lite.pdf) given by the industry during the meeting (Container Owners' Presentation to SCSC).

2011-11 SC November 2011

(See [2011 November SC meeting report](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/20140225/1324300176_report_2011_sc_nov_2011-12-15_201402251443--1.52%20MB.pdf))

The Steward of *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in international trade*; outlined activities regarding the development of this draft standard. He noted that this is a complex issue and the scope might have to be restricted (possibly excluding conveyances and initially only deal with empty containers). In addition he felt it would be prudent to also try to help contracting parties deal with their responsibilities in regards to biodiversity at entry points. A small group of experts from the expert working group would discuss the topic in the following week, and he invited SC members to send him contributions and views on these issues.

2011-03 SC selected experts for Expert Working Group (EWG)

[Membership of EWG](https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/expert-drafting-groups/expert-working-groups/sea-containers): experts for the Expert Working Group (EWG) with phytosanitary expertise were selected, it was also agreed that stakeholders outside the phytosanitary community would add valued input so representatives from the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Container Owners Association (COA) were invited to participate.

2010-04 SC approved [Specification 51 *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances in international trade*](https://www.ippc.int/publications/specification-51-minimizing-pest-movement-sea-containers-and-conveyances-international)

2010-03 [CPM-5](https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/governance/cpm) recommended this topic be worked on as a matter of urgency

[2009-11 Standards Committee (SC)](https://www.ippc.int/sites/default/files/documents/1262705885_2009-SC-Nov-Report-With_Appendic.pdf) approved draft specification for MC

2008-03 Third meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures ([CPM-3](https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/governance/cpm)) added topic *Minimizing pest movement by sea containers and conveyances* (2008-001) to the *List of topics for IPPC standards*.

1. See also documents CPM 2015/15, CPM 2015/INF/17: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/governance/cpm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Available at: <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/standards-setting/standards-committee> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. CPM 2014/11, CPM 2014/23; CPM 2014/INF/10Rev.1: <https://www.ippc.int/en/cpm-2014/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)