



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021

In preparation for the Friends of the Chair meeting on Sea Containers

Agenda item 11.3

Prepared by the small CPM group and IPPC Secretariat

I. Background

1. In considering this paper, it should be noted that the work of the Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) ends in 2021, by which point they are expected to have prepared recommendations and considerations for presentation to CPM-16 (2022). CPM-16 is, therefore, expected to review the information provided by the SCTF and consider whether to: a) update the existing CPM Recommendation (No. 6) on sea containers; b) develop an ISPM on sea containers; or, c) proceed with both actions sequentially.
2. None of the proposals and decision points contained in this paper require, or are expected to lead to, a further extension of the term of the SCTF. Key activities identified in this paper are instead expected to be advanced by a prospective CPM Focus Group, the identification of which is included in the decision points below, although further, specific decisions on its establishment will be deferred until CPM-16. In this regard, it is expected that CPM-16 (2022) will be presented with:
 - the SCTF's final report, taking into account the criteria identified below; and,
 - a proposal to establish a CPM Focus Group, accompanied by associated draft terms of reference (following review of both at the 2021 Strategic Planning Group meeting).
3. The amended and consolidated decision points relating to the Sea Containers Task Force below have been prepared with reference to, and incorporating proposals presented in, the following papers:
 - CPM 2021/27, Update from the Sea Containers Task Force;
 - CPM 2021/INF/13, Update from the Sea Containers Task Force - Proposal for a Path Forward for the Sea Container Task Force;
 - CPM 2021/INF/14, New Zealand Written Statements on Selected Agenda Items.
4. These decision points take into account interventions made during the CPM-15 plenary session.

II. Decisions

5. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *communicate* to contracting parties the value of carrying out sea container surveys and, in so doing, making use of the IPPC Guidelines on Sea Container Surveys for NPPOs¹ and encouraging the submission of any related information to the IPPC Secretariat once any survey is executed;
- 2) *note* the executive summary of the “Questionnaire on Monitoring of Sea Container Cleanliness” (as annexed to CPM 2021/27 and also to be annexed to the CPM report);
- 3) *note* the work of the IPPC Secretariat and the SCTF on encouraging the inclusion of sea container cleanliness among the criteria for the Cargo Transport Units inspection programmes of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- 4) *note* that contracting parties may contact their IMO national contact points to support the inclusion of sea container cleanliness among the criteria for the Cargo Transport Units Inspection Programmes of the IMO;
- 5) *request* the IPPC Secretariat and SCTF to continue exploring the potential use of the Authorized Economic Operators framework to incorporate phytosanitary criteria and the inclusion of additional fields in the World Customs Organization Data Model to track container cleanliness;
- 6) *note* the IPPC Secretariat’s and SCTF’s arrangements to update the IMO /International Labour Organization (ILO)/United Nations Economic Commission for Europe’s (UNECE) Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code) and the potential co-sponsoring of the CTU Code by the FAO;
- 7) *encourage* contracting parties to use the CPM recommendation R06 (Sea Containers);
- 8) *encourage* contracting parties to use the guidance document entitled “The IPPC Sea Container Supply Chains and Cleanliness: An IPPC Best Practice Guidance on Measures to Minimize Pest Contamination”²;
- 9) *note* the IPPC leaflet entitled “Reducing the Spread of Invasive Pests by Sea Containers”³;
- 10) *confirm* the following key objectives for the SCTF to pursue during the remainder of its mandate (which extends to the end of December 2021) and which are to be reported on at CPM-16 in 2022 on behalf of the SCTF. In this regard, under the direction of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, *the SCTF is asked, as feasible in the remaining time available, to:*
 - a) consider and prepare responses to the core strategic questions laid out in CPM 2021/INF/13, “Update from the Sea Containers Task Force - Proposal for a Path Forward for the Sea Container Task Force”. The SCTF may also review additional sources of information of potential value in this regard, such as information gathered by the earlier IPPC working group that developed the recommendation on contaminating pests;
 - b) outline potential core aspects that the SCTF would consider important for inclusion in:
 - a) a potential revision of CPM Recommendation No. 6 on Sea Containers; and b) a potential ISPM on sea containers; recognizing that the CPM has yet to determine whether to proceed with further development of either approach;
 - c) consider and communicate viewpoints on the potential value of an international workshop (or open-ended technical consultation) that could be held in late 2022, subject to CPM-16 approval, to be arranged by a CPM Focus Group as described below, which would allow for: a) the discussion of the SCTF’s final report and any related recommendations; b) exchange of relevant lessons learned, views, experiences, and recommendations; and c) identification of critical elements which should be considered in conjunction with any future related activities or development of related

¹ <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87069/>

² <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7963en>

³ <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/88564/>

IPPC guidance. The outcomes of the workshop would be expected to be presented to CPM-17 in 2023.

- d) develop any other considerations, recommendations or options that CPM-16 may wish to take into account during related decision-taking in 2022;
- e) develop a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a prospective CPM Focus Group which would be charged with arranging a possible 2022 workshop/consultation or any other tasks which CPM 16 decide upon and assembling related information and/or recommendations for subsequent communication to CPM-17 (2023). The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for this Focus Group would be presented to the Strategic Planning Group in 2021 for review and subsequently presented to CPM-16 (2022) for consideration and decision on holding the workshop/consultation.