



MINUTES OF THE SEA CONTAINERS TASK FORCE, IC Sub-group

Virtual meeting, 21 July 2021, 22:00–00:00 (CET)

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Opening

[1] The IPPC Secretariat (Secretariat) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

1.2 Election of the Chair

[2] The IC Sub-group Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF) participants elected Mr Greg WOLFF as Chairperson of the meeting.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

[3] Having received the document “Recommendations to the SCTF concerning an International Workshop on Sea Container Pest Contamination”, the Chairperson proposed adding that to the agenda as item 4.1, and renumbering “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)” as new agenda item 4.2. That resolved, the agenda of the meeting was adopted as presented in Appendix 1.

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Participants list

[4] Participants¹ present were as listed in Appendix 2.

[5] The Secretariat welcomed two new participants to SCTF as observers: Ms Wendy ASBIL from the North American Sea Containers Initiative (NASCI) and Ms Qian LIE from China.

4. Addressing questions and guidance raised at CPM-15 (2021)

4.1 Workshop

[6] At its meeting in June, SCTF tasked one group of participants with preparing a paper to address the organizational arrangements for a potential international workshop. It tasked a second group of participants with preparing a paper on the workshop agenda. When the two groups had started their work, they realized there were many interdependencies between the two points, and thus had decided to work together to prepare the document “Recommendations to the SCTF concerning an International Workshop on Sea Container Pest Contamination” for SCTF’s consideration.

[7] The document had used a number of working assumptions in order to arrive at the framework as presented and to determine if a workshop would fulfil its intended purpose of presenting the report and recommendations of SCTF, facilitating discussion thereon and gathering feedback. In addition to serving the purposes of SCTF and CPM, the workshop would also have a significant external facet; as a major global event, it would be an important opportunity to raise awareness of pest risks associated with the movement of sea containers and to promote the importance of the issue to international trade.

[8] The Chair thanked those involved in the preparation of the report. The working assumptions were well thought out and the framework clear. The Chair wondered if there should be a specific item for

¹ SCTF membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/85435/>

considering potential IPPC guidance on sea containers. The ad hoc workshop group explained that since any recommendation for specific action would be captured in the SCTF final report and recommendations, potential IPPC guidance would be presented and discussed under item 1 (“present the conclusions and recommendations of the SCTF Report”). The resulting feedback from those discussions would then be gathered and presented to CPM (item 2). As many Contracting Parties had not spoken on the issue, it would be an important opportunity to capture their points of view.

- [9] The ad hoc workshop group stated that the workshop should represent a pathway forward. It should be an opportunity to advance some conclusions, draw on developments and evolution over the years, and highlight areas where positive outcomes had been achieved. It would also be an opportunity to reflect on questions that remained outstanding and needed to be discussed, closing the gaps that were not well understood.
- [10] Other SCTF participants welcomed and supported the document.
- [11] One participant said that the workshop would be an important opportunity to raise awareness of the complexities of sea container logistics, as many stakeholders would not be familiar with the issue. Adding a keynote presentation on that issue might be beneficial to the broader audience, as might adding an annex on the topic to the SCTF final report.
- [12] One participant noted that industry points of view were not specifically addressed in the current document. For there to be industry buy-in, there had to be workable solutions presented. Another participant agreed that industry views should be a separate item, as containers were used in the wider logistics industry for interregional trade on land as well, not just for sea cargo.
- [13] One participant said that the Target Audiences section would merit simplification, as it currently made distinctions between groups with and without representation on SCTF. The ad hoc workshop group said the intention was to ensure that groups currently standing outside the discussion were brought in, as any decisions on guidance had the potential to affect a very wide range of parties.
- [14] In noting cargo container manufacturers in the Target Audiences section, one participant said it would be beneficial to invite cargo container manufacturers to lead a break-out session where they could explain how containers are being built currently and exchange ideas on how to improve cargo container design so that containers were less receptive to harbouring pests.
- [15] With regard to keynote presentations, a number of participants said that item (c) “Presentation on what is currently understood and what information is lacking about the risks of pests and contaminants associated with the sea container pathway” should be presented by a governmental representative, which would be better received and more authoritative than a presentation by an academic or a non-governmental organization. Given the difficulty of getting an unbiased view on that polarizing topic, a regional plant protection organization (RPPO) may be able to present a broader view than a single national plant protection organization (NPPO). It would also be an opportunity for regulators to convey a strong message to industry. It was resolved that SCTF would approach its RPPO representative to add the request for a keynote presentation to the agenda of the forthcoming Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO). One participant drew attention to the fact that the topic need not be polarizing; the focus was on what was understood and what information was lacking.
- [16] The Chairperson expressed concern about the short timeline between presenting the document to CPM, getting permissions, moving to the planning stage, then holding the workshop in late 2022. The Secretariat explained that assigning the task to a CPM focus group was not the usual process for organising an international workshop. In the past, a small steering committee would be struck to manage such an event, including logistics and arranging presentations, etc. The Secretariat recommended to activate a steering committee as soon as possible and to recommend the removal of the management of the workshop from the terms of reference of CPM focus group on sea containers.

[17] The Chairperson also raised the possibility of holding the workshop in the closing months of 2022 in order to give sufficient time to finalize publications and make the necessary preparations.

[18] Another important logistical consideration was financing of the workshop. The Chairperson said Canada had already contributed some funds to the IPPC Multi-donor trust fund, which were set aside for SCTF work, and he thought that some funds might still remain to help support this workshop. He also hoped that Canada and other donors might consider contributing additional extra-budgetary funding to support this workshop. The Secretariat recommended that a call for donations and expressions of interest be made as soon as possible.

[19] SCTF concluded that:

- (1) A potential international workshop was an important opportunity to capture the points of view of many Contracting Parties that had yet to speak on the issue.
- (2) The workshop should represent a pathway forward and an opportunity to advance some conclusions and highlight areas where positive outcomes had been achieved. It would also be an opportunity to close gaps in what was understood.
- (3) Adding a keynote presentation on the complexities of sea container logistics would be beneficial to the broader audience, as might adding an annex on the topic to the SCTF final report.
- (4) The workshop should have an opportunity for industry to present their views.
- (5) The workshop should ensure that groups currently standing outside the discussion were brought in.
- (6) Cargo container manufacturers should be invited to lead a break-out session where they could explain how containers are being built currently and exchange ideas on how to improve container design so that containers were less receptive to harbouring pests.
- (7) The Secretariat should establish a steering committee for the workshop as soon as possible.
- (8) The IC, via e-Decision, should be requested to consider supporting the SCTF request to removing the management of the workshop from the terms of reference of the CPM focus group on sea containers. (Secretariat to follow up with e-Decision and request to Bureau as appropriate)
- (9) The IPPC Secretariat would approach the RPPO representative on the SCTF to request them to discuss with the TC-RPPO to:
 - Consider if a combined RPPO presentation could be made to the workshop on sea containers in 2022 on the subjects of current knowledge and what information was lacking regarding the risks of pests and contaminants associated with the sea container pathway; and, if the TC-RPPO agreed, prepare the presentation and identify a representative to deliver it during the workshop.

It was agreed to post the proposal for the International Workshop in the SCTF MS Team work area and requested participants to submit their comments no later than 6 August 2021.

4.2 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)

[20] SCTF participants provided a number of comments on the terms of reference (TOR) for a prospective CPM focus group, which are captured in the version of the document found on the MS Teams workspace. Participants noted particularly that it was important for the focus group to have diverse geographic representation. The focus group should be smaller and more nimble than SCTF. The focus group should concentrate on the report and recommendations of SCTF and taking those

recommendations forward. Composition of the focus group should also be informed by those recommendations; if, for example, shippers were deemed best suited to manage the risk, they should have representation on the focus group.

[21] SCTF concluded that:

- (10) The focus group should be smaller and more nimble than SCTF while still ensuring diverse geographic representation.
- (11) The focus group should concentrate on taking the SCTF recommendations forward.
- (12) The composition of the focus group should be informed by SCTF recommendations.

It was agreed to post the draft TOR for the proposed CPM FG on Sea Containers in the SCTF MS Team work area and requested participants to submit their comments no later than 8 September 2021.

5. Any other business

5.1 Review and agree on SCTF comments on Draft Specification for Development and implementation of regulations and legislation to manage phytosanitary risks on regulated articles for NPPOs, Guide (2018-008)

[22] The Secretariat explained that all comments from SCTF would be compiled then entered into the comment system along with all comments from other parties. As such, any conflicting comments would need to be resolved as it was not possible to enter two sets of SCTF comments into the comment system. The Secretariat encouraged anyone with conflicting comments to reach out to their peer to resolve the issue.

[23] A number of participants said that the title for the draft specification was unclear.

[24] A number of participants also said that the draft specification lacked clarity. If an article was regulated, then logically legislation existed already to regulate it. A number of participants said that some Contracting Parties only had legislation on plants and plant products, not on other articles. If the aim of the specification was to provide guidance on expanding the ability to take action on plant pests to other articles, then the guide should state that.

[25] One participant suggested it might be inappropriate to recommend how Contracting Parties should draft their national legislation.

[26] One participant noted with disappointment that the draft specification did not mention consultation with industry in any way and stated that this was an important consideration to include.

[27] It was agreed to post the Draft Specification in the SCTF MS Team work area and requested participants to submit their comments no later than 13 August 2021.

6. Date and arrangement of the next meeting

[28] The Chairperson, noting that a number of participants had expressed concerns about the distribution of meetings outside of normal working hours, presented a proposal by the Secretariat to rotate the timings of future SCTF meetings.

[29] A number of participants said that the group should not lose sight of the fact that SCTF was working to resolve a serious issue that was important to the whole world. SCTF meetings were recorded; if a time proved unsuitable, a participant could watch the video then provide written comments.

[30] The participants of SCTF agreed to have their forthcoming virtual meetings on the following schedule:

- 22 September 2021 from 04:00 to 06:00 (CET);
- 26 October 2021 from 10:00 to 12:00 (CET);
- 24 November 2021 from 16:00 to 18:00 (CET);

- 7 December 2021 from 22:00 to 00:00 (CET);
- 15 December 2021 from 04:00 to 06:00 (CET).

[31] The following is a summary of documents and deadlines that the SCTF participants were requested to review and comment on, with track changes. These documents are saved in the SCTF MS Teams folder: Documents for SCTF comments²

File name	Deadline
SCTF_2021-06 June meeting minutes_2021-07-21.docx	31 July , (Sunday)
04_SCTF_VM03_2021_Jul_IntWkshopProposal_2021-07-22.docx	6 August, (Friday)
03_SCTF_VM03_2021_Jul_DraftSpecLegislationGuide_2021-07-22.docx	13 August, (Friday)
02_SCTF_VM03_2021_Jul_TOR_CPM_FG_SeaCont_2021-07-22.docx	8 September, (Wednesday)

7. Close of the Meeting

[32] The Chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and the Secretariat closed the meeting.

² MS Teams SCTF folder for documents to comment on:

https://teams.microsoft.com/#/files/IC_SCTF?threadId=19%3Aeba83688dc214c43890ec0fd3e304e12%40thead.tacv2&ctx=channel&context=Documents%2520for%2520SCTF%2520comments&rootfolder=%252Fsites%252FIPPC-External-Collaboration-Team-IC_SCTF%252FDocumenti%2520condivisi%252FIC_SCTF%252FDocuments%2520for%2520SCTF%2520comments

APPENDIX 1**THE IPPC SEA CONTAINERS TASK FORCE (SCTF)****Virtual Meeting:****21 July 2021 - 22:00-24:00 (Rome, Italy)****AGENDA**

Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
1. Opening of the meeting		
1.1 Opening		Secretariat
1.2 Election of the Chair		Secretariat
2. Meeting arrangements		
2.2 Adoption of the agenda	01_SCTF_VM03_2021_Jul	Chairperson
3. Administrative matters		
3.1 Participants list	Link	Secretariat
4 Addressing questions and guidance raised at CPM-15 (2021)		
4.1 Workshop: Recommendations to the SCTF concerning an International Workshop on Sea Container Pest Contamination	04_SCTF_VM03_2021_Jul	
4.2 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)	02_SCTF_VM03_2021_Jul	Chairperson
5. Any other business		Chairperson
5.1 Review and agree on SCTF comments on Draft Specification for Development and implementation of regulations and legislation to manage phytosanitary risks on regulated articles for NPPOs, Guide (2018-008)	03_SCTF_VM03_2021_Jul	YAMADA
6. Date and arrangement of the next meeting		Chairperson
7. Close of the meeting		Chairperson

APPENDIX 2**Participants List**

Region/Country /IPPC Body/Organization	Name	e-mail account	21 July 2021
Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) IC Lead for the SCTF	Mr Dominique PELLETIER	dominique.pelletier2@canada.ca	Attended
CPM Bureau	Mr Greg WOLFF	greg.wolff@canada.ca ;	Attended
Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPO)	Ms Sina WAGHORN	sina.waghorn@mpi.govt.nz ;	Attended
Standards Committee (SC)	Ms Marina ZLOTINA	Marina.a.zlotina@usda.gov ;	Attended
Contracting Parties	Ms Guanghao GU	317352941@qq.com ;	Attended
Contracting Parties	Mr Rama KARRI	rama.karri@agriculture.gov.au ;	Attended
Contracting Parties	Ms Wendolyn (Wendy) BELTZ	wendolyn.beltz@aphis.usda.gov ;	Attended
Contracting Parties	Mr Frederick MAKATHIMA	makathima@kephis.org ;	Attended
Former Expert Working Group drafting ISPM on sea containers	Mr Nicolaas (Nico) Maria HORN	nico.horn@eppo.int ;	Attended
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	Mr Bingbing SONG	BSong@imo.org ;	Attended
World Customs Organization (WCO)	Mrs Özlem SOYSANLI	ozlem.soysanli@wcoomd.org ;	Attended
Expert	Mr John HEDLEY	jhedley1910@gmail.com ;	Attended
China	Ms Qian LIE	38157368@qq.com ;	Attended
Chinese industry	Mr Jiang MINDE	jiangmd@coscon.com ;	Attended
Container Owners Association (COA)	Mr Uffe ERNST-FREDERIKSEN	Uffe.V.Ernst-Frederiksen@maersk.com ; secretary@containerownersassociation.org ;	Attended
Global Shippers Forum (GSF)	Mr James HOOKHAM	secretariat@globalshippersforum.com ;	Attended
North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI)	Ms Wendy ASBIL	wendy.asbil@inspection.gc.ca ;	Attended
World Bank Group (WBG)	Mr Shane SELA	ssela@worldbank.org ;	Attended

Region/Country /IPPC Body/Organization	Name	e-mail account	21 July 2021
World Shipping Council (WSC)	Mr Lars KJAER	lkjaer@worldshipping.org ;	Attended
IPPC Secretariat	Ms Natsumi YAMADA	Natsumi.Yamada@fao.org ;	Attended
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Brent LARSON	Brent.Larson@fao.org ;	Attended
IPPC Secretariat	Mr Daniel McKINNON	DanielnMcKinnon@yahoo.com ;	Attended