



Reducing the spread of invasive pests by sea containers

Guidance from the International Plant Protection Convention's Sea Container Task Force

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, plant pests and diseases are responsible for the loss of up to 40 percent of global food crops each year. They also cause trade losses exceeding USD 220 billion annually. Everyone across the international sea container supply chain has an opportunity to help make sure containers and their cargoes don't spread plant and animal pests. By taking recommended actions at critical interchange points, you can keep containers and their cargoes clean and help them move faster and easier through ports to their destination.



You can keep containers and their cargoes clean.

What to look for

-  plants, plant products, and plant debris
-  seeds
-  soil
-  beetles, moths, wasps, and bees; snails, slugs, ants, and spiders
-  mold and fungi
-  insect and bird droppings or waste
-  egg masses
-  animals, animal parts, blood, excreta, and reproductive components or parts thereof
-  other contamination that shows visible signs of harboring pests

Safety first!

Exercise caution when visually inspecting containers and their cargoes:



Do not attempt to enter a container before it has been determined that no harmful atmosphere, fumigation, or harmful fumes are present and all appropriate safety precautions have been taken.



Do not attempt to inspect the undercarriage or roof unless it is safe to do so.



In marine terminals, when a close visual inspection is not possible due to safety or other factors, look from a distance for signs of obvious visible pest contamination.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

at key interchange points

1 Container depot	
DEPOT EMPLOYEES	
GATE IN	GATE OUT
<i>Interior and exterior container surfaces</i>	
Sweep, vacuum, or wash container to remove visible contaminants	Sweep, vacuum, or wash container to remove visible contaminants or substitute with a clean container

2 Packing location		
SHIPPER OR PACKER		
UPON ARRIVAL	DURING PACKING	WHEN PACKING IS COMPLETE
<i>Interior and exterior container surfaces</i>	<i>Interior and exterior container surfaces and cargo</i>	
Reject container or sweep, vacuum, or wash container to remove visible contaminants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear the cargo staging and packing area to remove visible contaminants. Avoid placing containers on grassy areas or soil or under bright light Check containers and cargo regularly for visible signs of pest contamination and clean as needed Where appropriate, use baits, traps, or barriers to keep pests out of the cargo staging and packing area 	The container and its cargo should be free of visible pest contamination when packing is complete

3 Export terminal	
TERMINAL EMPLOYEES	
GATE IN	LOADING ON SHIP
<i>Exterior container surfaces</i>	
Report visible contamination to container operator or reject per local protocol	Report visible contamination to container operator

4 Transshipment terminal	
TERMINAL EMPLOYEES	
LOADING AND UNLOADING TO/FROM SHIP	
<i>Exterior container surfaces</i>	
Report visible contamination to container operator or responsible authority* as required	

5 Import terminal	
TERMINAL EMPLOYEES	
UNLOADING FROM SHIP	
<i>Exterior container surfaces</i>	
Report visible contamination to container operator or responsible authority* as required	

6 Unpacking location	
CONSIGNEE	
UPON ARRIVAL	DURING UNPACKING AND BEFORE RETURNING TO DEPOT
<i>Exterior container surfaces</i>	<i>Interior container surfaces and cargo</i>
Wash container to remove visible contaminants or report visible contamination to responsible authority* as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweep, vacuum, or wash container to remove visible contaminants; use other methods as appropriate to remove visible contaminants from cargo Avoid placing containers on grassy areas or soil or under bright lights Check containers regularly for visible signs of pest contamination and clean as needed Where appropriate, use baits, traps, or barriers to keep pests out of clean containers

* Local office of the country's National Plant Protection Organization or Animal Quarantine Organization

CONTACT US

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