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**Code of practice for the plant quarantine of exit freight containers**

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## Preface

This document is drafted in accordance with GB/T 1.1-2020 “Directives for standardization - Part 1: Rule for the structure and drafting of standardizing documents”.

Please note that some of the contents in this document may be patent related. The issuing authority of this document does not assume the responsibility for identifying patents.

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# Code of practice for the plant quarantine of exit freight container

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the quarantine requirements, on-site quarantine, laboratory testing, result determination, and non-conformity treatment in plant quarantine of exit freight containers.

This document applies to the plant quarantine of export freight containers.

## 2 Normative References

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and Definitions

The following terms and definitions are applied to this document.

### 3.1

#### **freight container**

It is a transport device, with the following conditions:

- a) Be of sufficient strength to be used repeatedly during the effective service life;
- b) Be suitable for the carriage of cargo by one or more modes of transportation, without offloading and loading en route;
- c) Be equipped with devices for fast loading and offloading, especially from one mode of transport to another;
- d) It is convenient to fill and empty the goods in the container;
- e) The internal volume is equal to or greater than 1m<sup>3</sup> (35ft<sup>3</sup>).

**NOTE:** The term "freight container" does not include either vehicles or general packing.

[Source: GB/T 1413-2008, Article 3.1, modified]

### 3.2

#### **general purpose container**

It is a fully enclosed freight container with weather-tight performance. It is equipped with a rigid roof panel, side panels, end panels and bottom structure with a door at least at one end to facilitate the loading of general cargo.

[Source: GB/T 1992-2006, Article 4.2.1.1]

### 3.3

#### **repositioning empty container**

Empty containers are transported out of the country for reloading cargo.

### 3.4

#### **loaded container**

Freight containers with cargo inside.

### 3.5

#### **container depot**

A place in the logistics chain where containers are exchanged.

**NOTE:** It includes container depots and container freight stations.

### 3.6

**pest**

Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products.

[Source: ISPM 5-2019]

3.7

**declaration batch**

Containers of the same bill of lading declared once at a time.

3.8

**container-cleaning agency**

The organization authorized and supervised by the Customs District, who implements quarantining and cleaning containers and issues container cleanliness certificate.

**Note:** Container depots authorized by the customs can be acted as container-cleaning agencies.

3.9

**container cleanliness certificate**

A document issued by a container cleaning agency to certify that the interior and exterior of an exit freight container being quarantined does not carry soil, animal & plant remains or pests, and that the container bottom is not contaminated with pests.

**Note 1:** The container cleanliness certificate can be in the form of either paper document or electronic label.

**Note 2:** See Appendix A for the format of cleaning certificate.

**4 Legal Basis**

4.1 Administrative Measures for the Inspection and Quarantine of Entry and Exit Freight Containers.

4.2 Procedure for Inspection and Quarantine of Exit Freight Containers (Trial).

4.3 Regulation on the Administration of Entry-Exit Quarantine Treatment.

4.4 Announcement on the Work Related to the Implementation of the Regulations on the Administration of Entry-Exit Quarantine Treatment.

**5 General Requirements**

5.1 The plant quarantine of exit freight containers shall be carried out according to the International Plant Protection Convention and relevant International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures, the official phytosanitary requirements of the importing country or the bilateral agreement between China and the importing country on plant quarantine of containers.

5.2 The plant quarantine of exit freight containers can be carried out by means of pre-exit inspection or combining with daily phytosanitary supervision and management of container depots, and shall be carried out in accordance with the principle of combining on-site quarantine, laboratory testing and container depot supervision.

5.3 The scope of plant quarantine of exit freight containers shall include the interior and exterior of containers, and the quarantine of loaded containers shall be carried out together with that of cargo.

5.4 The plant quarantine of the exit freight containers shall follow the principles of risk management and dynamic adjustment, and timely adjust the inspection proportion according to the changes of risks.

## **6 On-site Quarantine**

### **6.1 Preparation of Inspection**

6.1.1 Detailed examination of documents submitted is to be carried out on a declaration batch basis. The declaring documents include the quantity and size of containers, place of departure/destination, type and quantity of cargo, whether there are plant packaging and bedding materials in the container.

6.1.2 Necessary inspection tools and protective supplies are selected as per the type of containers and the loaded cargo, which include but not limited to the following: searchlights, magnifier, tweezers, brushes, sweep nets, live insect collection boxes, poison flasks, dactylethrae, ziplock bags, markers, such personal protective equipment as toxic gas detection and monitoring devices, protective equipment, cameras, etc.

### **6.2 Establishment of Inspection Proportion**

#### **6.2.1 Repositioning Empty Container**

If China has reached a bilateral agreement with the authority of the importing country on the plant quarantine of exit repositioning empty container, or if the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures require, the quarantine proportion shall be determined according to the following requirements:

a) If the container cleanliness certificate issued by the container-cleaning agency (see Appendix B for basic requirements) can be provided at the time of declaration, the sampling inspection shall be carried out at a rate not higher than 1% of the declaration batch. 3% - 5% proportion of all containers of the batch shall be checked, at least one container if less than 1 unit.

b) If the container cleanliness certificate issued by the container-cleaning agency cannot be provided at the time of declaration, each batch inspection shall be carried out. If the quantity of each declaration batch is less than 5 units (inclusive), inspect all; if there are 6-100 units, spot check shall be made at not less than 5% (the minimum not less than 5 units); for 101-500 units, spot check shall be made at not less than 3% (the minimum not less than 5 units); and for more than 500 units, spot check shall be made at not less than 1% (the minimum not less than 15 units).

#### **6.2.2 Exit Loaded Container**

The inspection is carried out in conjunction with the inspection proportion of the cargo loaded or the plant-based packaging and bedding materials carried.

### **6.3 General Purpose Containers Inspection**

#### **6.3.1 Verification of Document Submitted**

According to 6.1.1, check whether the container number and specifications are consistent with the declared data.

#### **6.3.2 Inspection of Container Exterior**

The inspection of the exterior of the containers (including corner casting, fork pockets, etc.) shall include:

- a) Whether there is soil;
- b) Whether there are animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packages, etc.) and pests (live insects, mollusks and mites, etc., with special attention to pupae and moth eggs mass, etc.).

#### **6.3.3 Inspection of Containers Interior**

The inspection of the interior of the container (including bottom plate, side wall and top plate) shall include:

- a) Whether the bottom is damaged by pests;
- b) Whether there is soil;
- c) Whether there are animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packaging and bedding materials, etc.) and pests (live insects, mollusks and mites, etc., with special attention to pupae and moth eggs mass, etc.).

#### **6.4 Inspection of Other Containers**

On-site inspection of other types of containers shall be implemented according to the requirements of Appendix C.

#### **6.5 Sampling for Inspection**

Soil, animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packaging and bedding materials, etc.) and pests (insects, mollusks, mites, etc., especially pupae and moth eggs mass, etc.) found in on-site inspection shall be sampled and sent to the laboratory for testing. If living pests are found, choose to take samples immediately or take samples after pesticide treatment as appropriate.

### **7 Laboratory Inspecting**

- 7.1 Soil shall be inspected for pathogens, weeds and insects.
- 7.2 Plant seeds shall be inspected for insects, weeds and pathogens.
- 7.3 Plant-based packaging and bedding materials shall be inspected for nematodes and insects.
- 7.4 Intercepted live pests shall be conducted identification.
- 7.5 Other animal & plant remains shall be conducted inspection or identification as appropriate.

### **8 Result Judgment**

8.1 If non-conformity is not found in the inspection, the conformity of the declared containers is judged.

8.2 The following cases are judged as non-conformities.

a) The numbers and specifications of the containers are inconsistent with the documents submitted.

b) In case of any of the following circumstances found in inspection, the container shall be judged as non-conformity, and measures shall be taken to raise the inspection proportion of other unexamined containers in the declaration batch. The proportion of raised inspection may cover not less than 10% of all units. If non-conformities are still found after the raised proportion inspection, quarantine of all shall be implemented. Unqualified conditions include:

- 1) Soil found on the exterior of containers;
- 2) Animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packages, etc.) and pests (live insects, mollusks and mites, especially pupae and moth egg mass, etc.) were found on the container exterior;
- 3) Soil found inside the container;
- 4) Animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packages, etc.) and pests (live insects, mollusks and mites, especially pupae and moth egg mass, etc.) were found in the container;
- 5) Animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packages, etc.) and pests (live insects, mollusks, moths, etc., especially pupae, moth egg mass, etc.) which are irrelevant to the goods loaded in the cargo container are found.

### **9 Measures for Non-conformities**



9.1 If the numbers and specifications of the containers are inconsistent with that in the submitted documents, the applicants will be required to state the reasons, then modification can be allowed to be made in the submitted documents.

9.2 Non-conformity containers are subject to the following measures.

a) The containers, which are related to the features for the disinfection treatment, shall be implemented in accordance with Rule on the Administration of Entry-Exit Disinfection Treatment.

b) Any animal & plant remains shall be removed if found. If the animal & plant remains which are related to the features for the disinfection treatment, shall be implemented in accordance with Rule on the Administration of Entry-Exit Disinfection Treatment.

9.3 The batch of containers is prohibited from entry if there is no effective disinfection treatment method.

**Appendix B**  
**(Informative)**

**Basic Conditions of Container-Cleaning Agencies**

Container-cleaning agencies are legally registered institutions in the territory, with a sufficient number of cleaning equipment, and their cleaning personnel have been trained by the customs and passed the examination.

After visual inspection, the containers cleaned by the container-cleaning agencies are confirmed to be free of pollutants and pests. Among them, pests include insects, snails, slugs, fungus, seeds or other parts of plants in all life stages, and pollutants include soil, organic remains from the previous batch of cargo, skids, etc.

**Appendix A**  
**(Informative)**

**Cleanliness Certificate of Repositioning Empty Container for Exit/Transit**

Cleanliness Certificate of Repositioning Empty Container for Exit/Transit

Consignor \_\_\_\_\_

Consignee \_\_\_\_\_

Means of transport \_\_\_\_\_

Name and No. of means of transport \_\_\_\_\_

Loading port \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival port \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the above-mentioned container has been cleaned, the interior and exterior of the container are free of soil, animal & plant remains and pests, and the bottom panel of the container is not polluted by pests.

Note (the container number can be listed in the note)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cleaning location \_\_\_\_\_

Cleaning time \_\_\_\_\_

Seal Cleaning operator \_\_\_\_\_

Cleaning operation company \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of cleaning supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix C**  
**(Normative)**

**On-site Quarantine of Other Types of Containers**

Containers are divided into different types as per the mode of transport, type of cargo and structure of container, and their on-site quarantine requirements are shown in Table C.1.

**Table C.1 On-site Quarantine Requirements for Other Types of Containers**

Type of container			On-site Quarantine			Remarks
			Verification of materials declared	Quarantine of the exterior of containers	Quarantine of the interior of container	
General cargo containers	General purpose containers	Closed ventilated containers	6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	—
	Special purpose containers	Open top containers	6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	—
		Platform containers	6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	—
		Platform-based containers	6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	—
Specific cargo containers	Thermal containers		6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	—
	Tanker containers		6.3.1	6.3.2	—	Charging & discharging hatch shall be inspected simultaneously
	Dry bulk containers		6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	—
	Named cargo containers		6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	—
Airline containers	Air containers		6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	The inspection of the container surface shall include the track and motion limiting device
	Air-land-sea intermodal containers		6.3.1	6.3.2	6.3.3	The inspection of the container surface shall include the track and motion limiting device
<b>Note:</b> "—" indicates that such item is not subject to inspect.						

### References

- [1] GB/T 1413-2008 Series 1 Freight containers Classification, dimensions and ratings
  - [2] GB/T 1992-2006 Freight container vocabulary
  - [3] ISPM 5-2019 Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms
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