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

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**Code of practice for the plant quarantine of import 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 import freight container

## 1 Scope

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

This document applies to the plant quarantine of import 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 transferred from abroad for reloading.

### 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

#### **quarantine pest**

A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

[Source: ISPM 5-2019]

### 3.8

#### **declaration batch**

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

### 3.9

#### **container cleanliness certificate**

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

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

## 4 **Legal Basis**

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

4.2 Procedure for the Inspection and Quarantine of Empty Import Freight Containers (Trial).

4.3 Procedure for the Inspection and Quarantine of Loaded Import Freight Containers (Trial).

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

4.5 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 import freight containers shall be carried out in accordance with the principle of combining on-site quarantine, laboratory testing and container depot supervision.

5.2 The plant quarantine of the import freight containers shall follow the principles of risk management and dynamic adjustment. The inspection proportion shall be timely adjusted according to various risk levels and the credit rating of shipping line operators.

5.3 The inspection shall be implemented simultaneously for the interior and exterior of the container; While, the inspection of the loaded container shall be carried out together with the inspection of the cargo.

## 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-based 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, toxic gas detection and monitoring devices, protective equipment, cameras, etc.

## **6.2 Establishment of Inspection Proportion**

### **6.2.1 Repositioning Empty Container**

The phytosanitary risk levels involved in import repositioning empty containers are divided into three levels, i.e. low, medium and high (refer to Appendix A for specific classification rule). For import repositioning empty containers with low, medium and high risk levels, different sampling and inspection proportions shall be implemented as per the customs-certified credit rating of shipping line operators (refer to Appendix B). If the competent department specifies otherwise, relevant requirements shall be followed.

### **6.2.2 Import Loaded Containers**

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 Determination of Inspection Sites**

### **6.3.1 Repositioning Empty Container**

6.3.1.1 For import repositioning empty containers of low risk level belonging to general credit operator, general certified operator and authorized economic operator, except defaulting operators, apply to be inspected at container depots that conform to the conditions of the plant quarantine system. For import repositioning empty containers belonging to general credit enterprises, general certified enterprises and authorized economic operator of medium risk level, if any significant epidemic or serious non-conformity is found through inspection, they may be applied for raised inspection proportion or subsequent quarantine treatment at the container depot with conditions of the plant quarantine system.

6.3.1.2 For import repositioning empty containers belonging to defaulting operators and those of high risks belonging to general credit operators, general certified enterprises and authorized economic operator, they shall be inspected in the customs surveillance zone.

### **6.3.2 Import Loaded Containers**

The inspection of containers shall be carried out in conjunction with the inspection site of the cargo loaded or plant-based packaging and bedding materials carried.

## **6.4 General Purpose Containers Inspection**

### **6.4.1 Verification of Document Submitted**

The numbers and specifications of the containers shall be verified in accordance with Article 6.1.1 to check the conformity of them with the document submitted.

### **6.4.2 Inspection of Containers 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, etc.) and pests (live insects,

molluscs and mites, etc., with special attention to the insect pupae and moth egg mass).

#### 6.4.3 **Inspection of Containers Interior**

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

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

#### 6.5 **Inspection of Other Types of Containers**

On-site inspection of other types of containers shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements in Appendix C.

#### 6.6 **Sampling for Inspection**

Samples of soil, animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packaging and bedding materials, etc.) and pests (insects, molluscs and mites, etc.) found during on-site inspection shall be taken and sent to the laboratory for testing. If live pests are found, samples shall be taken immediately or after disinfection treatment as appropriate.

### 7 **Laboratory Inspecting**

7.1 Soil shall be inspected for pathogens, nematodes, weeds and insects.

7.2 Plant seeds shall be inspected for insects, pathogens and weeds.

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) If any of the following situation is found during the inspection, the container shall be judged as non-conformity, and measures will be taken to raise the inspection proportion for other unexamined containers. The raised proportion maybe no lower than 10% of all units. If one of the following conditions remains after the raised proportion inspection, all units shall be subject to examination:

1) Soil found on the exterior of containers;

2) Molluscs or egg clusters found on the exterior of containers;

3) Soil found in the interior of containers;

4) Animal & plant remains (seeds, remains, plant-based packaging and bedding materials, etc.) or pests found inside the containers;

5) Animal & plant remains or pests found not related to the cargo in the loaded containers.

8.3 For containers which container cleanliness certificate is attached, if one of the conditions listed



in Article 8.2 is found during the inspection, the containers will be judged non-conformity.

## 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. 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 A**  
**(Informative)**

**Classification Rule for Risks of Import Repositioning Empty Containers**

**A.1 Low risk**

If one of the following conditions is met, it shall be defined as a low-risk import repositioning empty container:

- a) No animals, plants or animal and plant products are loaded in the previous voyage sequence of freight and live quarantine pests or other live pests with quarantine risk in the repositioning empty containers imported from the exporting country that have not been detected within last three years;
- b) Container cleanliness certificate is attached, which indicates with the offshore cleaning agency, cleaning location, cleaning time and cleaning standard.

**A.2 Medium risk**

If one of the following conditions is met, it shall be defined as a medium-risk import repositioning empty container:

- a) The previous freight was loaded with animals, plants or animal and plant products.
- b) No animals, plants or animal and plant products are loaded in the previous voyage sequence of freight but live quarantine pests or other live pests with quarantine risk in the repositioning empty containers imported from the exporting country that have been detected within last three years.

**A.3 High risk**

If one of the following conditions is met, it shall be defined as a high-risk import repositioning empty container:

- a) Animals, plants or animal and plant products have been loaded in the previous voyage sequence of freight and live quarantine pests or other live pests with quarantine risk in the repositioning empty containers imported from the exporting country that have been detected within the last three years;
- b) The quarantine pest detection rate (batch detected/batch inspected) of repositioning empty containers exported to countries or regions in the previous year is higher than 5%.

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

**Inspection Proportion of Import Repositioning Empty Containers**

Refer to Table B.1 for the inspection proportion of import repositioning empty containers.

**Table B.1 Inspection Proportion of Import Repositioning Empty Containers**

Corporate credit	Risk level					
	Low risk		Medium risk		High risk	
	Proportion of inspected batches	Proportion of containers inspected per batch	Proportion of inspected batches	Proportion of containers inspected per batch	Proportion of inspected batches	Proportion of containers inspected per batch
Defaulting Operator	Not less than a%	Not less than b%	Not less than c%	Not less than b%	100%	Not less than d%
General credit Operator	Not less than ( 0.5 a ) %	Not less than ( 0.5 b ) %	Not less than ( 0.5 c ) %	Not less than ( 0.5 b ) %		
General certified Operator	Not less than ( 0.25 a ) %	Not less than ( 0.25 b ) %	Not less than ( 0.25 c ) %	Not less than ( 0.25 b ) %		
Authorized Economic Operator	Not less than ( 0.05 a ) %	Not less than ( 0.05 b ) %	Not less than ( 0.05 c ) %	Not less than ( 0.05 b ) %		

Note:  $a < c$ ,  $b \leq d$

## 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 containers			On-site Quarantine			Remarks
			Document verification	Containers exterior inspection	Containers interior inspection	
General cargo containers	General purpose containers	Closed ventilated containers	6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	-----
	Special purpose containers	Open top containers	6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	-----
		Platform containers	6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	
		Platform-based containers	6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	-----
Special purpose containers	Thermal containers		6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	-----
	Tanker containers		6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	Charging & discharging hatch shall be inspected simultaneously
	Dry bulk containers		6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	-----
	Named cargo containers		6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	-----
Air containers	Air containers		6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	The inspection of the container surface shall include the track and motion limiting device
	Air-land-sea intermodal containers		6.4.1	6.4.2	6.4.3	The inspection of the container surface shall include the track and motion limiting device

Note: "-" 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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