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REPORT

**Commission on Phytosanitary Measures**

**Focus Group on Sea Containers**

**Virtual Meeting**

**22-23 November 2022**

**IPPC Secretariat**

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Opening

1. Mr Greg WOLFF Chairperson of the CPM FG opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
   1. 1.2 CCIAG Chair temporary replacement
2. It was agreed that Mr Mike DOWNES would join the Focus Group as the temporary replacement CCIAG Chair member. The Chairperson will advise the Bureau of this approach.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Election of the Rapporteur

1. Participants elected Ms Colleen STIRLING as rapporteur.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as presented in Appendix 1.

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Participants list

1. Participants[[1]](#footnote-2) present are as listed in Appendix 2.
2. The Secretariat asked participants to ensure their contact details were up to date.

4. Finalisation of revised CPM recommendations

4.1 Revised CPM recommendation #6

1. It was agreed that the intent of this section was to review comments provided against the initial draft update and finalise the draft updated CPM recommendation #6, ready for submission to the CPM for consideration.
2. A purpose statement for the document was developed to highlight that the exportation of contaminated sea containers is a factor in the spread of contamination pests.
3. The term ‘Recommendation’ was added to a number of section titles to define these sections as recommendations throughout the document and differentiate between contextual and background information.
4. It was agreed to include a note in the ‘Intent’ section regarding the risks posed by wooden sea container floors and the idea behind replacing wooden floors to eliminate these risks.
5. The ‘Background’ section was expanded to include information and context around the document to explain the intent of the recommendation to serve as interim guidance and explain why it is longer and more detailed than a usual recommendation.
6. It was further emphasized, in the section on “Shared responsibilities” that all stakeholders, i.e. government and industry, have a role to play in reducing the risks of pest contamination of sea containers.
7. The Focus Group discussed replacing the term ‘steps’ to ‘practices’ to emphasize that the practices outlined in the recommendation should be employed.
8. The Focus group also discussed the section “Risks related to empty containers”. The importance of ensuring that containers are clean prior to exportation/the next usage is important, but this is not only a statement for empty containers. It was agreed to move this point to the purport statement, noting that contamination of all containers (empty and packed) should be avoided.
9. The Focus Group discussed the importance of, and agreed to, include examples of plant and non-plant products in the ‘Risks influenced by type of cargo’ section.
10. Further discussion was had around the wording of safety requirements relating to visual inspections of sea containers. It was agreed that for further information on how to conduct inspections in a safe manner, the IPPC Survey Guideline will be referenced.
11. With regard to the section ‘Methods to remove contamination’, it was agreed to keep further in-depth details in this section, including references to leaf blowers as a method of contamination removal and further information on disposal methods of contamination.
12. Finally, it was noted that a clean version of the document would be developed for submission to the CPM for comment as this is due for submission by 16 December 2022.

4.2 Input from CCIAG

1. It was noted that the role of the CCIAG is to provide consensus views on behalf of members. Some resistance was noted on the implied responsibilities in the draft recommendation as it was initially presented. However further consultation on the updated draft is needed with respective memberships.

5. CPM FG work plan

1. An overview of the work plan was provided by the secretariat, noting that the scheduled December 2022 meeting was moved brought forward to November 2022.

5.1 Updates from small groups

1. In order to deliver the task from the workplan several small groups were formed to deal with each task and bring proposal to the group for agreement. The following groups were created as listed in Annex 4 of this report.
2. WCO data model – The sub-group had its first meeting in October, where the scope was considered and it was agreed that the scope should be limited to options to track container cleanliness using the data model, but not a feasibility study. The sub-group will identify what declarations and statements will be needed to capture to track cleanliness globally. The membership has been updated to include Lars Kjaer and Grace Gu.
3. A further meeting held in Brussels with WCO representatives clarified that tracking container cleanliness as envisioned through the WCO data model sub-group is feasible, however there are policy aspects which need to be made clear, including an identified cleanliness declaration or statement and whether adoption is to be voluntary or mandatory. A further update will be provided to the Focus Group on the outcomes of the sub-group’s decisions.
4. Sea container design improvements – Following the inclusion of the recommendation to utilize steel container floors in the draft revised CPM Recommendation 6, the project is now looking to focus on external sea container risks. Discussions are underway to investigate the trial of existing modified steel floored containers in the international supply chain, to identify differences in terms of contamination when compared with standard container designs. Discussions are ongoing with the project’s established Industry Advisory Group (IAG) regarding the establishment of the proposed trial.
5. CTU Code update – It was noted that the UNECE secretariat advised a timeframe of the end of February 2023 to provide input regarding pest contamination into the CTU code. The lead will develop short sharp information for inclusion, with links to IPPC material. Proposals for inclusion will be reviewed by the group of experts.

6. Any other business

1. Discussion was had on the next International Sea Container Workshop. The week of the 17th of July 2023 was confirmed. It is proposed that the workshop will be held from Monday to Wednesday, with a two-day Focus Group meeting to follow. It was estimated that there will be approximately 150 participants.
2. It was noted that one IPPC Contracting party is planning to fund the workshop, however funding has not been confirmed. It was also noted that the IPPC secretariat has some capacity to start arrangements and the host country is taking on some expenses. IPPC funds may be used to assist participants from developing countries.
3. The Steering Committee will be formulated, with the secretariat to initiate preparations and confirmation of members. The initial intent is to hold the first meeting in February 2023, with the potential to move this to December 2022, pending the ability to formulate the group in this time.
4. Different options to manage the comments regarding the updated ISPM Recommendation 6 were discussed. Comments may be reviewed by the secretariate and distributed to different members of the Focus Group based on the sections for internal review. Amendments could then be reviewed by the Focus Group as a whole. Final agreement as to the preferred option to be confirmed.
5. There was discussion of another physical meeting in October/November 2023, however it was noted that this would need to be booked quickly. It was also noted that there may be travel difficulties for some members.
6. The idea to create a shared portal like the one used for the Sea Container Task Force was raised. The Secretariate will investigate this.
7. It was agreed to use MS Teams for the next Focus Group meeting.

7. Date of the next meeting

1. The participants agreed to have their next virtual meeting in February 2023.

8. Close of the meeting

1. The Chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and the Secretariat closed the meeting.

Appendix 1

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Focus Group on THE SEA CONTAINERs

Virtual Meeting:

22-23 November 2022 – 22:00-01:00 (Rome, Italy)

Preliminary Agenda

| **Agenda Item** | | **Document No.** | **Presenter** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Opening of the Meeting** |  |  |
| 1.1 | Opening |  | Chairperson |
| 1.2 | CCIAG Chair temporary replacement |  | Secretariat |
| **2.** | **Meeting Arrangements** |  |  |
| 2.1 | Election of Rapporteur |  | Chairperson |
| 2.2 | Adoption of the Agenda |  | Chairperson |
| **3.** | **Administrative Matters** |  |  |
| 3.2 | Participants list | <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91439/> | SHAMILOV |
| **4.** | **Finalization of revised CPM recommendations** |  |  |
| 4.1 | Revised CPM recommendation #6 |  | Chairperson |
| 4.2 | Input from CCIAG |  | CCIAG rep |
| **5.** | **CPM FG work plan** |  |  |
| 5.1 | Updates from small groups |  | All |
| **6.** | **Any other business** |  | Chairperson |
| **7.** | **Date of the Next Meeting** |  | Chairperson |
| **8.** | **Close of the Meeting** |  | Chairperson |

Appendix 2

Participants List

| **Mode** | **Role** | **Name, mailing address, telephone** | **Email address** | **Confirmed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Online | NPPO | **Mr Fredrick Koome MAKATHIMA**  Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (Kenya NPPO)  Principle Plant Health Inspector  49421-00100  **KENYA**  Tel: +254722560936 | [makathima@kephis.org](mailto:makathima@kephis.org) | 2022 |
| Online | RPPO  (PPPO) | **Mr Rama KARRI**  Australian government, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  Director (Hitchhiker working group)  GPO Box 858 Canberra, ACT, 2601  **AUSTRALIA**  Tel: +61401565254 | [Rama.Karri@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:Rama.Karri@agriculture.gov.au) | 2022 |
| Online | CPM Bureau | **Mr Gregory WOLFF**  Canadian Food Inspection Agency  Senior Director, Plant Export Division, International Programs Directorate, International Affairs Branch  59 Camelot Dr., Ottawa. K1A 0Y9  **CANADA**  Tel: +16133252941 | [greg.wolff@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:greg.wolff@inspection.gc.ca) | 2022 |
| Online | CCIAG | **Mr Lars KJAER**  Senior Vice President  World Shipping Council  **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  Tel.: | [lkjaer@worldshipping.org](mailto:lkjaer@worldshipping.org) | 2022 |
| Apology | CCIAG | **Mr Uffe Vendelin ERNST-FREDERIKSEN**  Head of Cargo Standards  Container Owners Association  **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**  Tel.: | [uffe.v.ernst-frederiksen@maersk.com](mailto:uffe.v.ernst-frederiksen@maersk.com) | 2022 |
| Online | NPPO | **Mr Matias GONZALEZ BUTTERA**  Senasa Argentina NPPO  Plant Protection Analyst  Avenida Paseo Colón 367, Buenos Aires, **ARGENTINA**  +5491136661284 | [mbuttera@senasa.gob.ar](mailto:mbuttera@senasa.gob.ar) | 2022 |
| Online | NPPO | **Ms Wendy ASBIL**  Government of Canada - Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)  National Manager, Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Programs  59 Camelot Dr., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9  **CANADA**  Tel: +16137933358 | [wendy.asbil@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:wendy.asbil@inspection.gc.ca) | 2022 |
| Online | NPPO | **Ms Guanghao GU**  Animal and Plant Quarantine Division of Shenzhen Customs District  Consultant  No.2006 Shennan Road, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province,  **CHINA**  Tel: +8613538102323 | [gu\_guanghao@customs.gov.cn](mailto:gu_guanghao@customs.gov.cn) | 2022 |
| Online | NPPO | **Mr Martijn SCHENK**  Utrecht, the Netherlands  Senior policy officer plant health for the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority  Catharijnesingel 59, 3511 GG Utrecht  **THE NETHERLANDS**  Tel: +31652565631 | [M.Schenk1@nvwa.nl](mailto:M.Schenk1@nvwa.nl) | 2022 |
| Online | NPPO | **Ms Sina WAGHORN**  New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries  Manager, Invasive Species  14 Sir William Pickering Drive, Private Bag 4765, Christchurch  **NEW ZEALAND**  Tel: +64225020192 | [Sina.Waghorn@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Sina.Waghorn@mpi.govt.nz) | 2022 |
| Online | NPPO | **Ms Shaimaa Ibraheem BADR**  The Central Administration of Egyptian Plant Quarantine (NPPO of Egypt)  Phytosanitary Specialist, a member of the European file department and risk assessor  12611  **EGYPT**  Tel: +201141444212 | [shaimaaphyto@gmail.com](mailto:shaimaaphyto@gmail.com) | 2022 |
| Online | RPPO  (NAPPO) | **Ms Wendolyn BELTZ**  U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine  Field Operations Director  109 Yale Ave. Fort Collins, CO 80525  **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  Tel: +18177091860 | [Wendolyn.Beltz@usda.gov](mailto:Wendolyn.Beltz@usda.gov) | 2022 |
| Online | IC | **Dominique PELLETIER**  National Manager, Forestry Section  Canadian Food Inspection Agency  59, Camelot Dr.  Ottawa, ON, K1A 0Y9  **CANADA**  Tel.: 613-7854-0954 | [dominique.pelletier@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:dominique.pelletier2@canada.ca) | 2022 |
| Online | SC | **Mr Hernando Morera GONZÁLEZ**  Pest Risk Analyst  Servicio Fitosanitario del Estado  300 Sur de Teletica, Sabana Sur, San José,  **COSTA RICA**  Tel: +50686608383 | [hmorera@sfe.go.cr](mailto:hmorera@sfe.go.cr) | 2022 |
| Online | WCO | **Ms Taeyeon KIM**  Technical Attaché in Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate  World Customs Organization (WCO)  Rue du Marche 30 B-1210 Bruxelles  **BELGIUM**  Tel: +3222099345 | [taeyeon.kim@wcoomd.org](mailto:taeyeon.kim@wcoomd.org) | 2022 |
| Online | WBG | **Mr Shane SELA**  Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist  World Bank Group  1818 H Street N.W.  **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  Tel: +12022907321 | [ssela@worldbank.org](mailto:ssela@worldbank.org) | 2022 |
| Online | IMO | **Mr Bingbing SONG**  Technical Officer  Subdivision for Marine Technology and Cargoes  Maritime Safety Division  **UNITED KINGDOM**  Tel: +442074634278 | [BSong@imo.org](mailto:BSong@imo.org) | 2022 |

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| **IPPC Secretariat** | | | | |
| Online |  | **Avetik Nersisyan** |  |  |
| Online |  | **Artur SHAMILOV** |  |  |
| Online |  | **Colleen STIRLING** |  |  |
| Online |  | **Alejandra JIMÉNEZ TABARES** |  |  |

Appendix 4

List of small groups and their members

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| **Small group** | **Lead and members** |
| Regulatory and non-regulatory options - Identify potential regulatory and non-regulatory options necessary for efficient and effective management of the phytosanitary risks associated with the movement of sea containers and consider the effectiveness and efficiency of each option. | **Lead** – Wendy Asbil  **Members** – Lars Kjaer, Grace Gu, Rama Karri, Martijn Schenk, Wendy Beltz, Sina Waghorn |
| Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) programmes - Explore the potential value in the use of AEO programmes, with a view to recognise secure supply chains. | **Lead** – Wendy Beltz  **Members** – Rama Karri, Wendy Asbil, Taeyeon Kim, Lars Kjaer, Grace Gu |
| Data Model (DM) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) - Assess the potential of adding data elements to assist in tracking the cleanliness status of container units under the DM of the WCO. | **Lead** – Rama Karri  **Members** – Wendy Asbil, Wendy Beltz, Taeyeon Kim, Lars Kjaer, Grace Gu, Sina Waghorn, Colleen Stirling |
| CTU Code Update - Draft CTU Code update proposal for prevention of pest contamination. | **Lead** – Lars Kjaer  **Members** – Rama Karri, Greg Wolff, Artur Shamilov, Dominique Pelletier, Colleen Stirling, Wendy Asbil |
| Data and risk – Consider available data relating to phytosanitary risks associated with the movement of sea containers. | **Lead** – Wendy Asbil  **Members** – Wendy Beltz, Rama Karri, Sina Waghorn, Shaimaa Ibraheem, Martijn Schenk |
| Sea Container Design – Consider and investigate potential sea container design improvements to minimise pest risks associated with the movement of sea containers. | **Lead** – Rama Karri  **Members** – Lars Kjaer, Mike Downes |

1. CPM FG on sea containers membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/91439/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)