



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

SIDE SESSION ON SEA CONTAINERS

29 March 2023 13:00-14:30 (Rome time)

RED ROOM (A121), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Concept Note

Background

- [1] In June 2022, the CPM Bureau formed the CPM FG on Sea Containers (FGSC) following the decision of CPM. According to the TORs the purpose of the FGSC is to review all relevant materials and recommendations, develop viable options that will contribute to the phytosanitary risk management of sea containers, and provide the CPM with recommendations, including the option of development of an ISPM; in addition, the FGSC was charged with preparing a draft revision of the existing CPM Recommendation No. 6.
- [2] During the revision of CPM Recommendation, it was agreed that it is expected to serve as interim guidance, and since the related work on developing longer-term guidance continues to evolve, it was felt important to include contextual information to accompany the key recommendations. Therefore, this CPM Recommendation includes contextual information regarding the background to plant health risks and the international sea container pathway, identification of shared responsibilities for stakeholders, a description of the types of risk presented by sea containers moving in international trade and related contamination of concern, the need for collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health, and information on planned next steps for work on sea containers being conducted under the direction of the CPM.
- [3] In September 2022, the International Workshop on Reducing the Introduction of Pests through the Sea Container Pathway was held on 19-20 September 2022 in London, UK, preceding the International Plant Health Conference. The workshop was attended by 130 participants representing NPPOs, RPPOs international organizations and industry stakeholders such as container owners, shipping lines, container manufacturers, freight forwarders, packers, port authorities, marine terminal operators, shippers, importers, and exporters.
- [4] During the workshop, the FGSC observed that there is no difference between empty and packed sea containers in terms of phytosanitary risk. Contamination might occur as a consequence of movements, from one point to another, within the supply chain.
- [5] The FGSC agreed with the importance and necessity of efficient communication between all the subjects involved, including stakeholders, to avoid risks for the sea container pathway.
- [6] In conclusion, the FGSC agreed with the organization of a follow up meeting in July 2023 to discuss the progress made by different stakeholders and collect additional input. This workshop should be considered as a step towards preparing recommendations for CPM-18. In addition, the workshop will be an important component of consultations on the draft revision to Recommendation No. 6, should CPM approve it for consultation.

Expected Outcomes

- [7] The Side Session on Sea Containers is expected to achieve the following outcomes:
- (1) raise awareness on the revised CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers No.6 (**R-06**);
 - (2) share outcomes of the international 2022 Workshop on reducing the introduction of pests through the sea container pathway held in London, UK (**Sea Containers Workshop**); and
 - (3) share objectives of the follow up workshop which will be held in Brisbane, Australia 17-19 July 2023.

Programme

Venue: Red Room, FAO HQ Facilitator: Artur Shamilov		
Time	Description	Speakers
13:00-13:05	Opening	Osama EL-LISSY , IPPC Secretary
13:05-13:30	Revised CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers No.6	Greg WOLFF , Chairperson of CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers, NPPO of Canada
13:30-13:45	Complexity of the containerized supply chains and revised joint industry guidelines for cleaning of containers	Lars KJAER , Senior Vice President, World Shipping Council
13:45-13:55	2023 IPPC Workshop on Sea Containers in Brisbane	Gabrielle VIVIAN-SMITH , Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer, NPPO of Australia
13:55-14:05	IPPC Video on sea containers	Safeguarding continuum for sea containers - YouTube
14:05-14:25	Question and Answer	All
14:25- 14:30	Closing	Greg WOLFF , Chairperson of CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers