



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

CPM FOCUS GROUP ON SEA CONTAINERS

AGENDA ITEM 13.2

(Prepared by the Focus Group and IPPC Secretariat)

Introduction

- [1] The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers (the Focus Group) were agreed to by CPM-16 in 2022 outlining the key purpose of the group to review all relevant materials and recommendations, develop viable options that will contribute to risk management, and provide CPM with recommendations, including considerations around the option of development of an ISPM.

Overview of CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers mandate

- [2] In order to address the items outlined in the ToR, and as recommended by the previous Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF), the Focus Group examined the potential value in the use of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) programmes, and adding data elements to assist in tracking the cleanliness status of container units under the Data Model of the World Customs Organization (WCO); worked on proposals to update the CTU Code with elements for prevention of pest contamination to be submitted to UNECE informal group of experts; consider available data relating to phytosanitary risks associated with the movement of sea containers, and; considered and investigated potential sea container design improvements to minimize pest risks associated with the movement of sea containers.
- [3] The Focus Group, in its 2023 report (Attachment 01), provides detailed observations and outcomes of the 2022-2023 mandate and outlines recommended future actions towards minimizing pest risk contamination associated with the sea container pathway.
- [4] Further, a key element of the Focus Group was the revision of CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06). CPM-17 (2023) was presented with the initial revision of CPM Recommendation 6 and approved the revised document for country consultations. Following the consultation process the draft revised CPM Recommendation 6 was further refined, with the final version being presented to CPM-18 for adoption as contained in CPM 2024/12_01 (Agenda item 11.1).

Proposed future work

- [5] The Focus Group identified a number of significant elements for further investigation and pursuit, including work with IMO, CBD, WCO and WOH, to continue to review uptake of revised CPM Recommendation 6, if adopted, and continue other options, for example to review anticipated developments relating to improved technology, container design, and industry-led proposals including a custodial responsibility model. As such, the Focus Group recommends that its work continue for another three years, after which further observations and recommendations may be made to the CPM, including recommendations on long term guidance, as detailed in section 8. Require future work of the Focus Group report (Attachment 01).

- [6] To direct and facilitate the proposed further work of the Focus Group, a new, draft ToR (Attachment 02) has been developed for consideration by CPM-18 in conjunction with the proposal to extend the mandate of the Focus Group.

Recommendations

- [7] The CPM-18 is invited to:
- (1) *Consider and note* the 2023 report of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers (Attachment 01).
 - (2) *Agree* to extend the mandate of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers until 2027.
 - (3) *Agree* to the proposed new ToR for the extended mandate of the CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers (Attachment 02).
 - (4) *Agree* to the establishment of an ongoing feedback channel with staff assigned within the IPPC Secretariat to receive and collate information on the uptake and effectiveness of the revised CPM Recommendation 6 and to provide this to the Focus Group at periodic intervals in order to facilitate its work.
 - (5) *Ask* the IPPC Secretariat to continue to collaborate with IMO, CBD, WCO and WOAHI, with a view to align guidance on sea containers cleanliness based on CPM Recommendation 6 and any new information.
 - (6) *Agree* to have three members from the Industry Advisory Group included in the Focus Group's membership in order to ensure that the broad range of industry sea container logistics activities are appropriately represented and to provide the necessary scope of expertise.
 - (7) *Agree* that the Focus Group may temporarily coopt experts or advisors as required to address specific issues, the term of such coopting not to exceed 6 months.
 - (8) *Agree* that the Focus Group continue to assess possible regulatory and non-regulatory measures and the value and feasibility of developing an ISPM or other long-term guidance, in accordance with the standard setting procedure, and that any decisions on developing an ISPM as a potential solution would be considered by the CPM in the future.