



**Eighteenth Session**

**April 2024**

**Comments from New Zealand on Terms of Reference for Focus Group on Sea Containers**

**Agenda item 13.2**

**Prepared by New Zealand**

New Zealand supports the proposal to extend the term of the Focus Group on Sea Containers as proposed in document CPM/2024/25.

A draft terms of reference for extending the mandate of the Focus Group on Sea Containers is provided in CPM 2024/25 attachment 02. New Zealand proposes several changes to the terms of reference to improve the focus, effectiveness, and efficiency of the group.

A revised terms of reference is attached for CPM consideration (deletions are shown with strikethrough and additions are capitalised). The rationales for the proposed changes are provided below:

- i. Process – given budget constraints many NPPOs are feeling, an in-person meeting should not be required, but could occur.
- ii. Functions (tasks) – the task list has been simplified to be more focused:
  - a. Task (1) – Amended – noting the original Sea Container taskforce was tasked with assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the CTU Code but found not enough countries collect data to inform such an assessment. At some point in the future the IPPC Observatory could be requested to report on the impact of the CPM Recommendation on Sea Containers.
  - b. Task (2) – amended – including the invitation for NPPOs to share results of any relevant studies.
  - c. Task (4) – amended – to ensure the focus group remains focused on solution that will effectively manage the pest risk.
  - d. Task (5) – amended - to remove ambiguity.
  - e. Task (7) – amended - the final part of the task has been removed because it is unnecessarily detailed and is already captured by the phrase “and inform future considerations”.
  - f. Task (8) – deleted - unnecessary as there is already a requirement for the focus group to report provide a report to CPM each year.

A revised terms of reference is attached.

**Attachment**

**Title: CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers**

**Background and purpose:**

CPM-15 (2021) discussed how best to move forward on the work related to the CPM Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF), whose mandate was ending at the end of 2021. The CPM requested the SCTF to develop a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers (Focus Group).

CPM-16 (2022) made amendments to the draft ToR for the Focus Group based on some amendments proposed by one Contracting Party (CP).

The Focus Group met several times during 2023, both virtually and in person in Brisbane, Australia and, worked with an objective to develop viable options that will contribute to pest risk management and provide the CPM with recommendations (including the option of developing an ISPM). In March 2023, the Focus Group submitted the draft revision of the CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) to CPM-17 which was approved for countries consultation. The Focus Group subsequently completed the revision of the CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) following the consultation process, which was presented to CPM-18 for adoption.

The purpose of this Focus Group is to continue the work carried out by the 2022-2023 Focus Group and review all new, emerging and evolving technologies and opportunities. ~~In considering these factors,~~ The Focus Group will provide final recommendations to the CPM **ON OPTIONS FOR MANAGING THE PLANT HEALTH RISKS THAT MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH SEA CONTAINERS** ~~on long term IPPC guidance.~~

~~The proposed purpose, membership, functions, and duration of the Focus Group are described below.~~

#### **Process:**

The Focus Group will convene virtually ~~as needed, with at least~~ **BUT MAY HAVE** one in person meeting per year subject to availability of funds.

The Focus Group may seek information or feedback from other international organizations and invite them to meetings, as needed. 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.

#### **Membership:**

The membership of the Focus Group will remain as per the 2022-2023 Focus Group, but with the addition of a third Industry Advisory Group representative.

The Focus Group will be composed of up to eighteen members, taking into account geographical representation and gender balance as follows:

- a. Seven members from contracting parties;
- b. Two representatives from regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs);
- c. One representative of the CPM Bureau;
- d. One representative of the Standards Committee (SC);
- e. One representative of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC);
- f. Three representatives (chairperson and two representatives) of the Industry Advisory Group on sea containers.
- g. One representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- h. One representative of World Customs Organization (WCO)
- i. One representative of the World Bank Group (WBG)

The members may represent more than one role.

**Functions (tasks):**

The Focus Group may recommend the addition of tasks or amendments of the tasks listed below, according to the information they uncover during the active period, for approval by the CPM Bureau.

The Focus Group may also provide any further observations or recommendations to the CPM as deemed appropriate.

The key tasks of the Focus Group will be:

- (1) ~~Based on available information,~~ **SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE DATA** assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the CPM Recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) in reducing pest risks associated with the sea container pathway (e.g., raising awareness, visual examination, methods to remove contamination, design aspects).
- (2) Invite NPPOs and other stakeholders to advise the Focus Group of outcomes related to ongoing trials, ~~and~~ technology developments related to the sea container pathway, **AND THE RESULTS OF QUANTITATIVE STUDIES TO QUANTIFY PEST RISK AND THE IMPACT OF THE CPM RECOMMENDATION ON SEA CONTAINERS.**
- (3) Continue to analyze potential regulatory and non-regulatory options in order to identify and describe a recommended option or options to minimize pest risks in the sea container pathway.
- (4) Consider **THE COSTS AND BENEFITS FOR PEST RISK MANAGEMENT AND** the practicalities and possible ~~negative~~ impacts of the identified options on container logistics, supply chains and NPPOs as well as the required systems and tools.
- (5) Provide recommendation to CPM whether the development of an ISPM or other long-term guidance is a preferred option for the IPPC and if appropriate develop a draft **OR A** specification **FOR AN ISPM OR ADDITIONAL, ~~for such~~ guidance.**
- (6) Continue to communicate via the IPPC Secretariat with the WCO, IMO, CBD, WBG and WOH on areas for collaboration and further consider, in cooperation with the three sponsoring UN organizations, amendments to the CTU Code, which is undergoing revision, regarding sea container pathway cleanliness.
- (7) Support the IPPC Secretariat in organizing a workshop no later than 2026 (subject to availability of funds) that brings together industry, stakeholders and NPPOs to review the uptake and effectiveness of CPM recommendation on Sea containers (R-06) and inform future considerations ~~as well as collect viewpoints and information in consideration of developing long term guidance.~~
- ~~(8) Report on the activities of the Focus Group including any observations and recommendations they wish to make.~~

A progress report will be provided to CPM-19 and CPM-20.

**Expected Start Date and Duration:**

The Focus Group will initiate work by April 2024 and remain active until March-April 2027 or upon completion of their outputs and their final report and recommendations are presented to the CPM.

The IPPC Secretariat will support the Focus Group meetings. The meetings shall be held in English.

**Expected outputs:**

The final report will be provided to CPM-21, following input from the SPG, the IC, SC, and the Industry Advisory Group.

**Reports to:** CPM Bureau

**Funding:**

It is expected that most meetings for this Focus Group will be virtual. However, where in-person meetings are required, the organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e., travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP ([Criteria used for prioritizing participants to receive travel assistance to attend meetings organized by the IPPC Secretariat - International Plant Protection Convention](#)).