



## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION IN 2023 RELATED TO THE TRANSPORT OF CONTAINERS

### REPORT BY THE IMO SECRETARIAT

#### Introduction

1 The report of the International Maritime Organization to the 18th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) provides a summary of IMO activities in relation to the movement of containers by sea, which may be relevant to the work done within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

#### Transport of Containers

##### *Prevention of loss of containers at sea*

2 A new output on "Development of measures to prevent the loss of containers at sea" was approved by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its 107th session (June 2023) and to be coordinated by its Sub-Committee on Cargoes of Containers (CCC). Consequently, IMO is following the developments of the Container TopTier group, which was established by some Member States and industry. This Group is working on a joint proposal with coordinated measures to prevent the loss of containers at sea and is to be submitted to CCC 10<sup>th</sup> session for its consideration in September this year.

3 The new agenda item aims to contain potential amendments to existing instruments such as CSC Convention, CSS Code and CTU Code, as well as to revisit SOLAS regulation to address the Verification of Gross Mass Container (VGM) and explore the effect of Mis-Declaration and Non-declaration of cargoes including dangerous goods.

##### *Cargo Securing*

4 Also a new agenda item for the Revision of the Revised guidelines for the preparation of the Cargo Securing Manual (MSC.1/Circ.1353/Rev.2) is to be initiated at CCC 10 in September this year.

5 New amendments to Chapter V of IMO's SOLAS Convention in relation to reporting of loss containers at sea are to be [adopted] by the Maritime Safety Committee at its 108<sup>th</sup> session in June this year.

##### *Cooperation with UNECE and ILO*

6 IMO Secretariat participates with UNECE and ILO on the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units. The revision/restructuring of the Code was approved (20-23 February 2024) by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and its Working Party (WP.) 24 on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, and with a view to submitting a first draft to IMO's MSC 109 for its consideration in December this year.

### **Cooperation with FAO**

7 IMO Secretariat participates on the FAO's Commission on Phytosanitary Measures and its International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). A containers Focus Group conformed by Member States and Industry is established to issue recommendations on cleanliness of containers to prevent the movement of pests and their intention is to propose an input to the recommendatory CTU Code (under revision).

### **Transport of Dangerous Goods**

8 Continuous processes of amendments to the IMDG Code within CCC Sub-Committee and its Editorial and Technical (E&T) Group. Secretariat participates in a constant awareness campaign with Administrations and its shore-side personnel engaged on movement, management, storage and inspection of dangerous goods in port areas and in context of the mandatory provisions of the IMDG Code.

### **Cooperation with UNECE**

9 Continuous cooperation with ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods for the development of Recommendations applicable to multimodal transport.

### **Technical Cooperation**

10 IMO is about to launch a new training activity on "*Safe container operations in maritime transport, including multimodal aspects*", which aim to provide training to shore-side personnel involved in the management of containers in all their various aspects, before, during and after their transport, (including construction of the container, its certification, maintenance, cleaning and fumigation, packing, securing, cargo information, weighting, markings, inspections, stowage, segregation, lashing, loading and unloading operations, multimodal aspects to be considered, and emergency response), with a view to improving the understanding of the CSC Convention, CTU Code, and CSS Code, among other available material to enhance implementation and good practice when dealing with those mandatory and non-mandatory international instruments

---