Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Bureau meeting

**Concept note for proposed CPM-20 (2026) side session on sea containers**

*(Prepared by IPPC secretariat with inputs from the SCFG Co-Chairs)*

1. Background

1. In June 2022, the CPM Bureau formed the CPM Focus Group 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 06.
2. 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, followed by the International Workshop on Pest Risk Mitigation of Sea Containers and their Cargoes and the Facilitation of International Trade – Defining the Way Forward, in Brisbane, Australia (17-19 July 2023). In November 2024 the International Symposium: Optimizing Container Design to Mitigate Risks of Pest Contamination in the International Containerized Supply Chain was held in Rotterdam, Netherlands. These events were well attended by participants from 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. These forums provided active and valuable feedback to inform the work of the Focus Group, including the formation of a Working Group with industry on practical and feasible sea container design modifications to minimize pest risks.
3. During CPM 18 (2024) the revised CPM Recommendation 06 on sea containers was adopted and the Focus Group was tasked with measuring the uptake and the impact of the recommendation, and progressing actions as outlined in the approved TOR.
4. As part of the Focus Group’s action plan, a side session is proposed for CPM 20 in 2026. This was initially discussed at the December 2024 CPM Bureau meeting. Therefore, the Focus Group is putting forward this concept note to support the proposal and bring it to the attention of the Bureau for consideration.
5. It is proposed that a general overview of the work and progress of the Focus Group will be presented at the plenary session of CPM 20. Subsequently, during the side session presentations and interactive discussions, with more focus and detail, will address the following topics that the Focus Group has been working on:
6. Container design;
7. Analysis of regulatory and non-regulatory measures;
8. Custodial responsibility; and
9. Collection of feedback and experiences on CPM Recommendation 06 on sea containers.
10. During the proposed side session, the Focus Group will use the opportunity to gather data from NPPOs and CPs present. This will be done in an interactive way, most notably on the uptake of CPM Recommendation 06.

2. Expected Outcomes

1. The Side Session on Sea Containers is expected to achieve the following outcomes:
2. Raise awareness on the progress of the work of the Focus Group on Container design, analysis of Regulatory and non-regulatory measures, and Custodial Responsibility);
3. Gather information from Contracting Parties and NPPOs present on the uptake of Recommendation 06 to inform and support the Focus Group ultimate recommendations to CPM 21 on the longer-term management of pest risks in the sea container pathway; and
4. Share objectives of, and promote, the follow up workshop proposed to be held in 2026.

Provisional Programme

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| Venue: FAO HQ, Rome  Facilitator: IPPC Secretariat | | |
| Provisional Timings | Description | Speakers |
| 13:00-13:05 | Opening | IPPC Secretary |
| 13:05-13:30 | Progress in Container design; a virtual tour | SCFG Rep |
| 13:30-13:45 | Analysis of regulatory and non-Regulatory measures | SCFG Rep |
| 13:45-13:55 | Custodial Responsibility | SCFG Rep |
| 13:55-14:05 | Uptake of R06 (voting on smartphone/virtual) | SCFG Rep |
| 14:05-14:25 | Question and Answer | All |
| 14:25- 14:30 | Closing | Chairperson of CPM Focus Group on Sea Containers |

1. Additionally, the Focus Group would like to highlight, as part of the Focus Group’s action plan, a further International Workshop is scheduled for 2026. The Focus Group is looking into the required funding arrangements, with the current related costs estimated at 150,000 USD. This is estimated following the related costs for the Brisbane 2023 workshop. The Focus Group is looking to provide a further paper to the Bureau for the upcoming October 2025 meeting with further details for discussion.