North American Sea Container Initiative Awareness Raising and Outreach

International Sea Container Workshop

Brisbane, Australia

July 17 – 19, 2023

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What we heard in webinars and workshop

- Education and awareness is paramount to success -outreach materials for many audiences and purposes (e.g., strategic, technical and tactical levels to consider)

- Use networks of networks to engage broadly
- Provide information to assist with understanding of risks
- Provide contacts in NPPOs or other organizations to get more information, report issues, etc.
- Provide clear definitions
- Training – materials and contacts

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Joint outreach information housed on NAPPO website
https://www.nappo.org/english/nasci/

NASCI

LINKS

U.S.-Canada Sea Container Cleanliness Notice

- English
- Simplified Chinese

Preventing the Spread of Invasive Pests, Recommended Practices for the Container Supply Chain

- English
- French

North American Sea Container Initiative, **Frequently Asked Questions**

- English

Sea Container Cleanliness: Preventing the Spread of Invasive Pests (**Video**)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Joint Industry Guidelines for Cleaning of Containers
- International Maritime Organization's Code of Practice for Packing Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code)

VERSION EN ESPAÑOL

A A A BACK | PRINT

THE NORTH AMERICAN SEA CONTAINER INITIATIVE

To protect North American agriculture, forestry and natural resources against the introduction of invasive pests and diseases, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have worked with U.S. and Canadian border protection agencies, shippers, and global shipping companies to develop the following guidance for cleaning and inspecting sea containers. The guidance complements the International Maritime Organization's Code of Practice for Packing Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). Everyone involved in moving containers has an opportunity to protect our crops, forests, and livestock by ensuring that containers and their cargo are free from unwanted plants, plant products, insects, snails, soil, animals and animal droppings.

IMPACT OF INVASIVE PESTS ON TRADE

Invasive pests threaten crops, forests, and livestock. They also have a very real impact on trade. When a contaminated container is found in port, the cargo owner, importer, or shipper can expect:

- delayed cargo release
- demurrage charges due to cargo holds, and
- unexpected costs associated with having the container quarantined, tarped and treated, cleaned, or re-exported back to origin at the cargo owner's expense

By taking reasonable steps to keep containers and their cargo clean, you will help prevent the spread of invasive pests through commerce and facilitate the movement of your containers through North American ports. As a result, you may experience:

- reduced port-of-entry inspections;
- faster cargo release; and
- fewer unexpected expenses, such as demurrage charges due to cargo holds or costs associated with having your container quarantined, tarped and treated, cleaned, or re-exported back to origin

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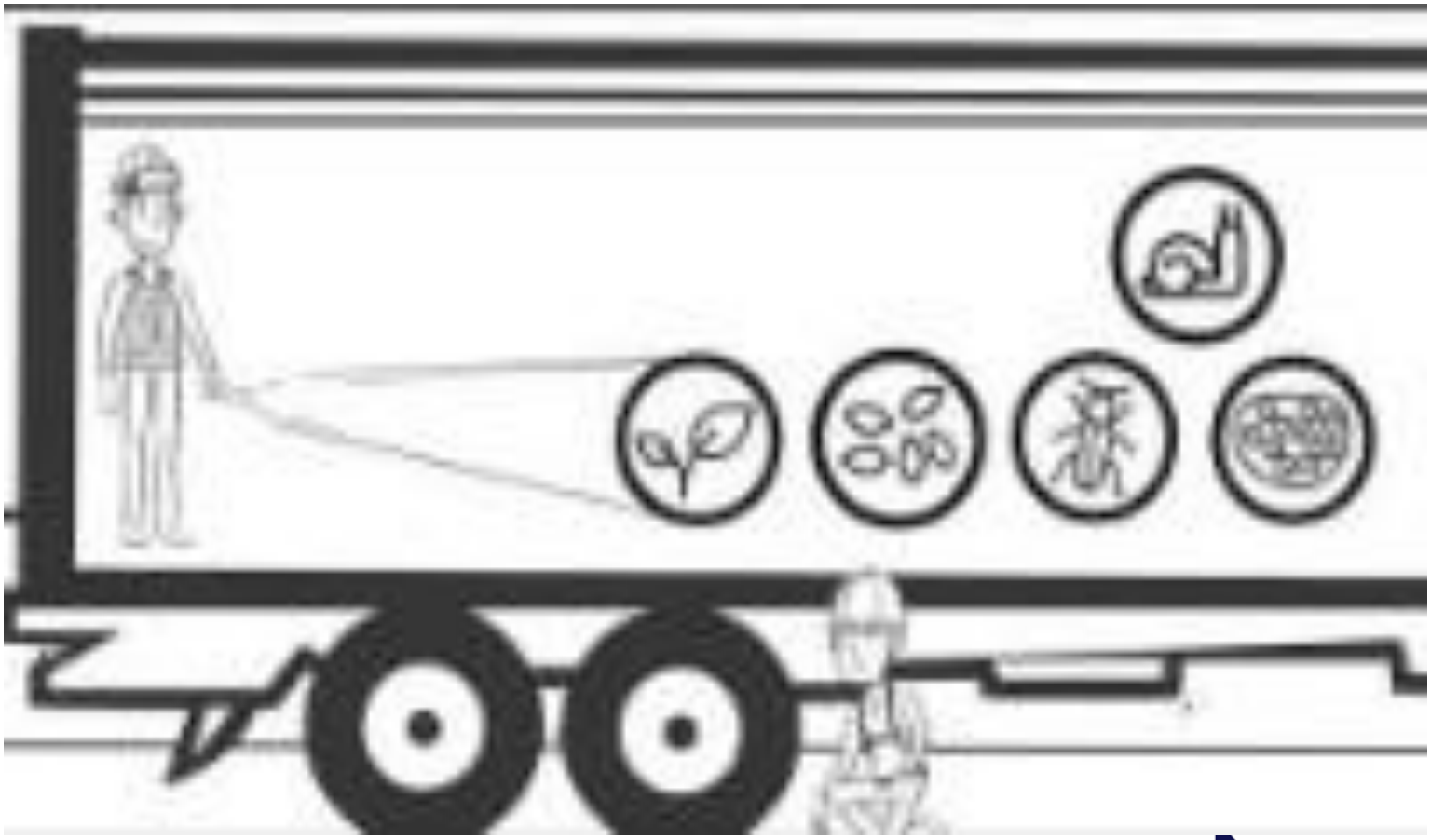

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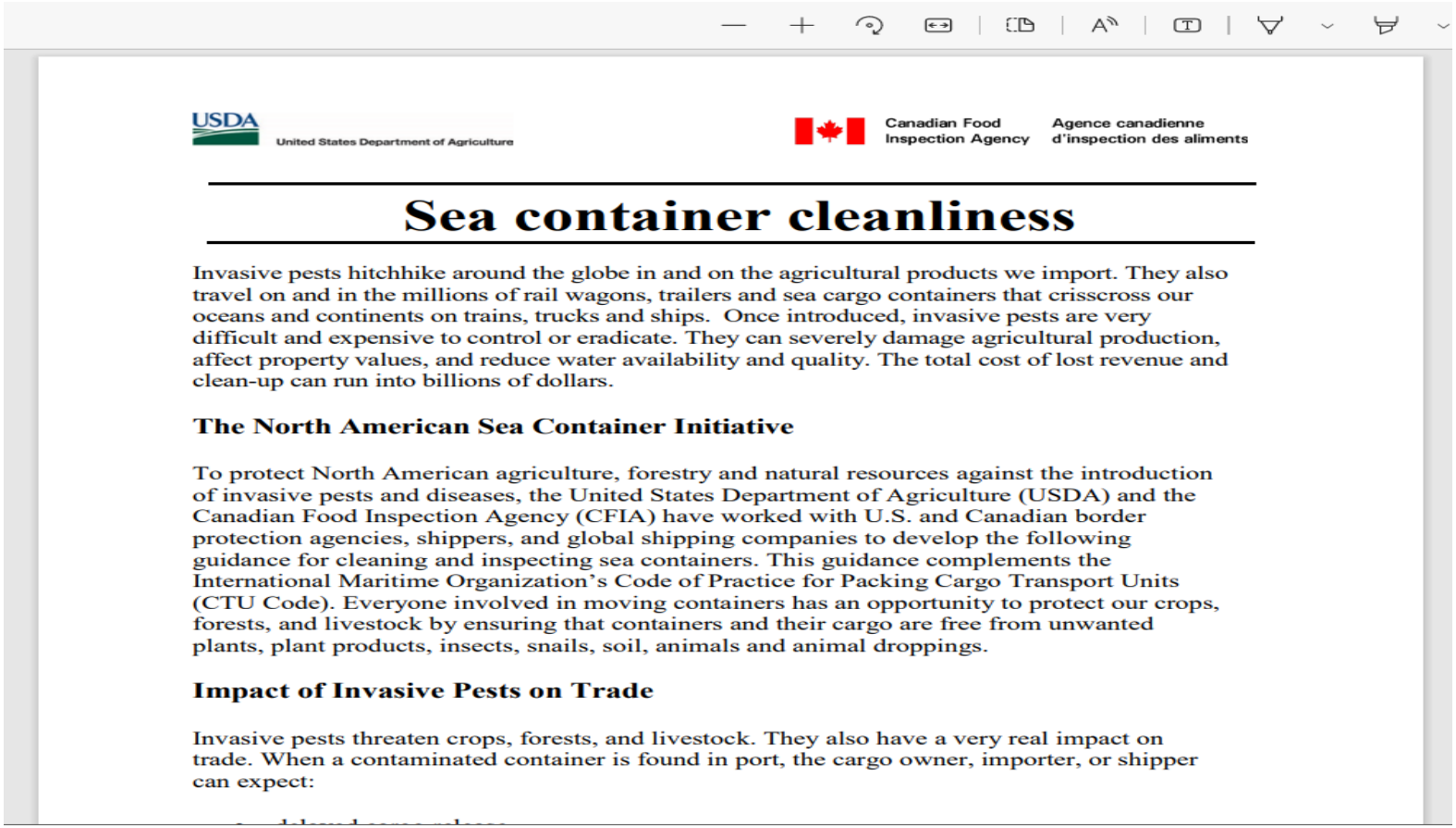

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Canadian Food Inspection Agency | Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Sea container cleanliness

Invasive pests hitchhike around the globe in and on the agricultural products we import. They also travel on and in the millions of rail wagons, trailers and sea cargo containers that crisscross our oceans and continents on trains, trucks and ships. Once introduced, invasive pests are very difficult and expensive to control or eradicate. They can severely damage agricultural production, affect property values, and reduce water availability and quality. The total cost of lost revenue and clean-up can run into billions of dollars.

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Impact of Invasive Pests on Trade

Invasive pests threaten crops, forests, and livestock. They also have a very real impact on trade. When a contaminated container is found in port, the cargo owner, importer, or shipper can expect:

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Preventing the Spread of Invasive Pests

Recommended Practices for the Container Supply Chain

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Invasive pests threaten crops, forests, and livestock. By taking reasonable steps to keep containers and their cargo clean, you will help prevent the spread of invasive pests through commerce and facilitate the movement of your containers through North American ports.

The risk for pests to contaminate containers and cargo is greatest at the packing location. Shippers or packers acting on behalf of shippers should put measures in place to minimize pest contamination during packing. Others in the supply chain should also put measures in place to reduce the risk of pest contamination while the container is in their control. These measures should be in accordance with individual roles and responsibilities in the supply chain and should take into consideration all safety and operational constraints.

CLEAN CONTAINERS

Sweep, vacuum, or wash containers before packing to remove potential contaminants. Be aware that environmental factors, such as heavy rains, may increase the likelihood of certain types of contamination.

CLEAN CARGO

Ensure cargo packed into the container is clean and free of visible contaminants.

CLEAN STAGING/PACKING AREA

Clear the cargo staging and packing area to ensure that it is free from plants and visible pests. Containers placed on grassy areas may be more vulnerable to contamination by insects and snails.

VISUALLY INSPECT CONTAINERS BEFORE PACKING

Visually inspect the outside and inside of the container for visible contaminants such as plants, seeds, insects, egg masses, snails, animals, animal droppings, and soil.

DO NOT KEEP UNDER BRIGHT LIGHTS

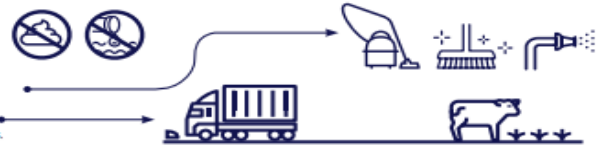
Do not keep containers under bright lights, which will attract insects to the cargo staging area and increase the likelihood of contamination. If containers must be kept under bright lights, thoroughly check each container before packing.

USE BAITS, TRAPS OR BARRIERS

Where appropriate, use baits, traps, or barriers to keep pests out of the cargo staging and packing area. For example, you can use a salt barrier to prevent snail infestations.

WHEN MOVING CONTAINERS BETWEEN ANIMAL PRODUCTION FACILITIES

1. Avoid driving containers through manure or wastewater.
2. Where applicable, sweep, vacuum, or wash containers to remove contaminants, such as soil or animal droppings, that could move animal disease from one location to another.
3. Whenever possible, park containers on paved areas and away from livestock pens and pastures.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How many sea containers move globally each year?

The global container fleet exceeds 25 million intermodal containers operating in international commerce. As containers come in several sizes, the common term used in industry is twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU). For example, a forty-foot container is two TEUs. In 2017, there were over 210 million packed TEUs moving globally which transported cargo valued at more than $4 trillion, or about 60% of the value of global seaborne trade. In addition, that same year more than 135 million empty TEUs were repositioned between countries.

Why does cleanliness matter?

Sea containers and their cargos can potentially carry pests that could pose a serious risk to agriculture, forestry and natural resources. These containers and their cargos not only pose a risk at ports of entry but, as they move within, through and among countries, the pests could also potentially be spread.

What kinds of pests contaminate containers and their cargos?

Examples include:

- Mollusks: snails and slugs
- Insects: egg masses (e.g. Asian gypsy moth), storage pests, weevils, leafhoppers, pupal cases, etc.
- Seeds (e.g. weeds, crops)
- Contaminants such as soil, plant debris (e.g. stems, leaves, branches, etc.)
- Other: straw, spiders, earthworms, bird nests, bird droppings, etc.
- Animals (live or dead), their parts and their by-products.

Is there any evidence that sea containers are contaminated with pests?

Pests have been intercepted on containers and their cargo in both the United States and Canada. Analysis, research and assessment of the types and magnitude of the pest risks associated with sea containers and their cargos is ongoing.

What's in it for me?

By taking reasonable and focused measures to reduce the risk of visible pest contaminants, industry demonstrates it is committed to protecting North American agriculture, forestry and natural resources. In turn, this may result in:

- Reduction in container inspections for pest contaminants.
- Fewer delays for cargo release.
- Fewer demurrage charges due to cargo holds.
- Avoidance of the expense of having your container quarantined, tarped, and treated or cleaned, or re-exported back to origin.
- Importers will have increased business certainty because a system of internal control helps to ensure compliant transactions.

Are there any recommended guidelines parties in the container supply chain should use to minimize pest contamination of containers and their cargos?

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) jointly developed the 2014 IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code). It is a voluntary global code of practice for handling and packing containers for transportation by sea and land. Chapter 8 section 4 offers guidance for the cleanliness of containers and Annex 6 addresses minimizing recontamination. Related informative material (IM 4) identifies pests of concern regarding recontamination.

In addition, the Global Shippers' Forum (GSF) has published a variety of documents for shippers and packers to promote the safe handling of cargo by those members of the supply chain that pack and unpack cargos. As part of this initiative, the GSF has published a "Working with Containers" document that augments the IMO Guidelines for packing and unpacking cargo transport units, i.e., the "CTU Code." The various GSF documents that promote the safe handling of containers can be found on the GSF website at www.globalshippersforum.com/media/1073/gsf_p19.pdf. These documents can also be ordered through the UK Freight Transportation Association website www.shop.fta.co.uk.

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The container industry (World Shipping Council, Container Owners Association, The Institute of International Container Lessors, and International Cargo Handling Coordination Association) has also developed joint industry guidelines for cleaning containers when an empty container is in the custody of the container operator in a container depot. These guidelines complement the guidance provided in the CTU Code and can help minimize the movement of pests by sea containers. The joint industry guidelines can be accessed at: www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/joint-industry-guidelines-for-cleaning-of-containers.

The North American Sea Container Initiative (NASCI) working group developed a sea container cleanliness bulletin outlining the impacts to trade from contaminated sea containers and their cargos. The bulletin outlines a number of practices that parties involved in the container supply chain can implement to minimize pest contamination.

Where is the best location to inspect and clean a container?

As there is no single party responsible for the cleanliness of the container throughout its journey from origin to ultimate consignee, there is no single location for inspection and cleaning. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures recommendation from 2015 confirms that "the packing of sea containers with cargo is the most likely stage in the sea container supply chain at which contamination can occur." That does not mean, however, that other parties, and therefore locations, in the container supply chain do not have a role to play. In fact, the CTU Code clarifies that "all persons involved in the movement of cargo transport units (e.g., containers) have a duty to ensure, in accordance with their roles and responsibilities in the supply chain, that the CTU is not infested with plants, plant products, insects or other animals."

How are government and industry collaborating to address this concern?

As part of national, regional and global efforts to reduce pest risks associated with sea containers and their cargos, the United States and Canada have launched NASCI. NASCI is a partnership between the U.S. and Canadian national plant protection organizations, border protection agencies, shippers and maritime and shipping industry entities operating in North America.

How will NASCI help to mitigate pest contamination on containers and cargo?

Under NASCI, industry and government are working collaboratively to raise awareness, educate, and motivate participants along the supply chain to help reduce pest risks associated with sea containers and their cargos.

- Cleanliness matters
- Cleanliness protects
- Clean containers and clean cargos are good business
- Clean containers and clean cargos reduce inspections, expedite clearance, and result in lower costs to the sea container supply chain

NASCI aims to:

- Gain a better understanding of the pest risks associated with containers and their contents and of challenges and opportunities for identifying and reducing pest risks in the sea container supply chain. Such information would assist in guiding future efforts and response actions aimed at diminishing and preventing the spread of pests.
- Gain a better understanding of container logistics and movements in North America and around the world
- Conduct outreach and education to our respective industries and stakeholders
- Encourage global adoption of similar, voluntary programs through the International Plant Protection Convention and other relevant international and regional forums

What can I do?

- See it, say it. If you see a pest or contaminant associated with a container or its cargo, notify the local biosecurity authorities.
- Live it. Adopt best management practices such as the CTU code and industry cleaning guidelines.
- Participate. Spread the word that container and cargo cleanliness matters.
- Provide your ideas and experience regarding sea container and cargo cleanliness so that we can all better protect our global plant resources.

How can I find out more information about NASCI?

To learn more, visit the North American Plant Protection Organization website at www.nappo.org and click on NA Sea Container Initiative under Quick Links.

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Best Practices

- Co-ordination and cooperation among NPPOs and industry
- Engage early, often and consistently
- Align general requirements, messages and outreach - where feasible (e.g., joint bulletins, webinars)

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Expected Outcomes

- Better mitigate risks of introduction and spread of pests
- Simplify requirements for industry and NPPOs
- Increase compliance and facilitate trade

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Contacts

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Resources

International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC)

https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/capacity-development/sea-containers/

https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I8960EN

http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7670en

https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cb9533en%2f

https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/01/CA7963EN.pdf

NASCI

https://nappo.org/english/north-american-sea-container-initiative

Videos

https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-unit-and-cargo-cleanliness/

https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-transit-conditions/

https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-unit-cleanliness-pre-packing/

https://www.ttclub.com/news-and-resources/video-library/invasive-pests-lighting-risks/

Resources

Other Infographics, factsheets, posters and guidelines

https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/contaminating-pests-poster.pdf

https://www.worldshipping.org/news/new-updated-version-released-of-pjoint-industry-guidelines-for-the-cleaning-of-containers

https://www.containerownersassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CTU-Code-A-Quick-Guide.pdf

Sea container cleanliness videos and other information - Australia

***Note:** This list is not all-inclusive. It represents the material mentioned at the NASCI workshop and will be updated as additional information and resources are available. Notification of updates will be provided.


Thank you
Comments, Questions,
Discussion
Biosecurity: Shared Risk – Shared Responsibility