North American Sea Container Initiative

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Wendy Asbil
National Manager,
Invasive Alien Species Programs
Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Wendy Beltz
Field Operations Director,
Plant Protection and Quarantine, Animal and
Plant Health Inspection Service, United States
Department of Agriculture
Sea Containers: Biosecurity Risk?

• Containers then transported by rail and truck throughout the United States and Canada

• Contaminated containers enter the United States and Canada every day
Sea Containers

- Over 35 million TEUs in global trade in 2016
- Move between many countries and carry many different commodities
- Risk of contaminants of phytosanitary concern is on or in containers
- Examples of pests or regulated articles found include: soil, plant debris, egg masses, Khapra beetle, leafhoppers, snails, and weed seeds
Cargo

- Non-agriculture cargo: often not regulated under plant protection legislation (e.g. car parts, tiles, steel slabs) but contaminants are regulated (e.g. soil, snails, weed seeds, and live insects)
Container and Cargo Contamination

How?

Container, conveyance and cargo contamination can occur for many reasons such as:

- soil-based staging, storage or handling areas
- vegetation around storage, staging, packing
- lights that attract insects (e.g. moths)
- environmental factors (e.g. wind, rain)
- packaging
- previous cargo
Container and Cargo Contamination
Why Do We Care?

General
- negative impact on agriculture, forestry sectors and environmental sectors and the livelihood, health and social well-being they provide
- costs to manage are high – prevention is key
- affects trade, international obligations, competitiveness

Industry
- regulatory actions
- delays for cargo release, demurrage charges due to cargo holds, expense of having cargo quarantined, removed from North America, tarped, treated or cleaned

Photo: Lawrence Barringer, gwood.org
Credit: Mark R. McNeill
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Voluntary Canada-United States government-industry initiative
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Mission Statement
Industry and government 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

Ultimate Goal
Safeguarding the world’s agriculture and natural resources and facilitating safe international trade by reducing pest risks from sea containers and their cargos.
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Objectives

- Enhance understanding of challenges and opportunities for identifying and reducing pest risks in the sea container supply chain.

- Enhance understanding of logistics of container movement in North America

- Conduct outreach and education to our respective stakeholders, industries and organizations

- Collect data to measure risk of pathway and effectiveness of outreach

- Encourage global adoption of similar, voluntary programs through the International Plant Protection Convention and other relevant international and regional forums
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What’s been done so far

• Identifying existing industry guidelines related to sea container cleanliness (e.g. Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code), Joint Industry Guidelines for Cleaning of Containers)

• Engaging industry groups on guidelines and programs for cargo (e.g. the Italian ceramic tile industry’s Good Phytosanitary Practices Program)

• Working with government and industry to collect data to continue to measure biosecurity risks of sea container pathway

• Outreach
  • Joint United States-Canada Sea Container Bulletin
  • Web page published on NAPPO website
  • Frequently Asked Questions document, logo, infographic, deck of slides, video
  • Participated in various government and industry forums and meetings
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What’s next

• Continue to expand international awareness and potential adoption of this type of voluntary initiative

• Continue outreach and education efforts

• Continue to work with government and industry to collect data to continue to measure biosecurity risks of sea container pathway

• Contribute to revision of CTU code plant health/cleanliness aspects
Working Together

What We Can All Do

• See it, say it

• Do it – adopt best management practices such as CTU code, cleaning guidelines

• Participate - spread the word that container cleanliness counts

• Share ideas - how we can all better protect global plant resources
Working Together We Can

- Better understand challenges and opportunities for risk identification and risk mitigation.
- Minimize risk while maintaining trade flow
- Conduct outreach and education to our respective industries and stakeholders

shared risk = shared responsibility
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Contacts

Canada:  Wendy Asbil  
National Manager, Invasive Alien Species Program  
Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
613-773-7236  
wendy.asbil@inspection.gc.ca

United States:  Wendy Beltz  
PPQ Field Operations Director  
2150 Centre Blvd., Bldg. B  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
970-494-7564 Office  
970-215-1048 Cell  
wendolyn.beltz@usda.gov
Resources

Joint Bulletin


International Plant Protection Convention

CTU Code
https://www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingctus/intro.html

Joint Industry Guidelines For Cleaning of Containers
http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/joint-industry-guidelines-for-cleaning-of-containers
Biosecurity: Shared Risk – Shared Responsibility