

Informal meeting on Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units

at the request of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Geneva and virtual, 5-6 July 2023

Prevention of pest contamination

Submitted by Global Shippers Forum

I. Background

At the intersessional meeting of the informal group of experts on the CTU Code on 25 May, it was agreed that GSF, supported by other interested experts, would draft new text for inclusion in the CTU Code to give importance to the issues of prevention of pest contamination. Specifically, this would incorporate text proposed in paper *CTU-Code/2023/first-informal-meeting/6*, submitted by the Chair of the IPPC Focus Group's subgroup on revisions to the CTU Code.

The intersessional meeting agreed to consider text for a new section for inclusion in Chapter 1, to be placed between sections 1.3. and 1.4, to give importance to the issues of prevention of pest contamination that all personnel involved in packing, handling, transporting and processing of cargo should be made aware of.

Proposed New Sections

The new text proposed for this section is provided in section II below, and the following points are brought to the Informal Expert Group's attention:

1. It is noted that the language and intent of the text in *CTU-Code/2023/first-informal-meeting/6* applies exclusively to intermodal containers and not to other types of CTU. The Informal Working Group may wish to consider whether the application of these new sections should be extended to apply to other types of CTU. The text proposed for Section 1.3bis has been adapted to apply to all CTUs.
2. The wording of the proposed paragraph 1.3bis.2 is amended to show that 'all' parties in the supply chain can 'help' keep containers clean, not just those referred to in paragraph 1.3bis.1. This is consistent with the sentiment of the first sentence of 1.3bis.2 that minimizing pest contamination of containers is a "shared responsibility".

Proposed Action: The Informal Expert Group on CTU Code is asked to consider the proposed text shown below to this document for inclusion in the CTU Code, and to review the matters for further consideration raised in this document.

II. Proposed Text for Inclusion in the CTU Code

Add new Section 1.3bis in Chapter 1:

“1.3bis Prevention of Pest Contamination

1.3bis.1 There is international consensus among competent authorities that CTUs (especially containers) and their cargoes can carry and facilitate the introduction and spread of pests that may pose a serious risk to agriculture, forestry and natural resources. While the packing of CTUs with cargo is the most likely stage in the international container supply chains at which pest contamination can occur, the cleanliness of the CTUs is important. Shippers and packers, (those acting on behalf of shippers), should implement measures to minimize pest contamination prior to and during packing. Others in the international container supply chains should also implement measures to reduce the risk of pest contamination while the CTU is in their control. Such measures, or best practices, should be in accordance with the parties’ roles and responsibilities in the supply chains and should take into consideration all safety and operational constraints.

1.3bis.2 Minimizing pest contamination of CTUs and their cargoes is a shared responsibility and by applying practices set out in Chapter 10 bis and Annex 6 of this Code, all parties can help keep CTUs and their cargoes clean. This will help to prevent the introduction and spread of pests through international commerce. CTUs are also likely to move through ports and other international borders and reach their final destinations faster and with less expense if they are clean.”