

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, 29-30 September 2021 (second meeting)

Pest contamination

Submitted by ETS Consulting

This document suggests changes to Annex 6 as well as proposes some consequential changes to cover the aspect of pest contamination in a more comprehensive way.

Annex 6. Minimizing the risk of pest recontamination

1 Introduction¹

1.1 The delivery of a clean CTU to the packer is of little use if the CTU becomes recontaminated by pests during its movement within the supply chain. Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure recontamination does not occur. This should include:

- Storing the CTU an appropriate distance away from pest habitats or resident pest populations (the distance will depend on the pest);
- Storing the clean CTU in areas free of risk from recontamination by vegetation, soil, free standing water or unclean CTUs;
- Taking species' specific measures where quarantine pests are nominated by importing countries;
- Fully paved/sealed storage and handling areas;
- Safeguards should be applied in specific situations to prevent attracting pests such as when using artificial lights, or during seasonal pest emergence periods and occasional pest outbreaks.

3 Pests, insects, animals etc. that can cause recontamination

3.1.2 ReeContamination of the CTU will generally result from positioning the CTU on mud, or a soft surface. Care should be taken to prevent the CTU from scraping across the ground surface.

4.2 If a CTU is found to have a minor recontamination, cleaning can be effected using one of the following methods:

4.4 Intermodal operators may have contracts with pest control organizations who may be employed to remove serious recontaminationpest contamination.

Add new clause

4 Inspecting CTUs for Pest Contamination at interchange points

4.1 The risk for pests to contaminate containers and cargo is greatest at the packing location. Shippers or packers, acting on behalf of shippers, can put some simple 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 CTU is in their control.

4.2 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.

Measures may include:

4.2.1 Visually inspecting the outside and inside of the CTU for contaminants such as plants, seeds, insects, egg masses, snails, and soil using guides such as the Joint Industry Guidelines for Cleaning of Containers¹.

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

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

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

4.2.5 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, check them regularly for signs of insects and egg masses and clean containers as needed to remove these contaminants.

4.2.6 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.

4.2.7 Where applicable, sweep, vacuum, or wash containers to remove contaminants, such as soil or animal droppings.

What to look for



Figure 1

Renumber following clauses

Consequential changes

- 1 amend definitions

Clean CTU	A CTU free from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any previous cargo residues; • Any securing materials used from previous consignments; • Any marks, placards or signs associated with previous consignments; • Any detritus (waste) that may have accumulated in the CTU; • Visible pests and other living or dead organismsAny pest contamination, including any part, gametes, seeds, eggs or propagules of such species that may survive and subsequently reproduce; soil; organic matter;
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¹ These guidelines are not intended to replace individual container operators’ cleaning guidelines. Nor do they replace applicable local regulatory pest contamination measures and requirements. Also, these guidelines are additional to industry guidelines regarding container cleanliness for non-pest contamination such as paint, oil etc.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other items covered by contamination, infestation and invasive alien species that can be discovered upon visible inspection.
Contamination	Visible forms of animals, insects or other invertebrates (alive or dead, in any lifecycle stage, including egg casings or rafts), or any organic material of animal origin (including blood, bones, hair, flesh, secretions, excretions); viable or non-viable plants or plant products (including fruit, seeds, leaves, twigs, roots, bark); or other organic material, including fungi; or soil, or water; where such products are not the manifested cargo within the CTU.
Recontamination	The result of pests and other living organisms (including their nests, eggs, egg sacks, and body parts) being found in or on a clean CTU.

1. New definitions	
Pest contamination	Visible ² forms of animals, insects or other invertebrates (alive or dead, in any lifecycle stage, including egg casings or rafts), or any organic material of animal origin (including blood, bones, hair, flesh, secretions, excretions); viable or non-viable plants or plant products (including fruit, seeds, leaves, twigs, roots, bark); or other organic material, including fungi; or soil, or water, where such products are not the manifested cargo within the CTU
Pest contamination competent authority	Any body or authority designated or otherwise recognized by a Member Government as being responsible for pest contamination matters in connection with these Guidelines

amendments to CTU Code text:

Replace recontamination by “pest contamination” in 1.4.6 (two times), Table 1 (two times), 4.2.11 (two times), 8.2.2.9, 8.2.44 (two times), 8.3.2.4

8.2.3 Contamination of the CTU can be found in many different guises:

- Damage to the interior paint work where the surface finish becomes cracked, flaky or softened by contact with a substance;
- Stains and wet patches to any part of the CTU, especially the flooring, which can be transferred to a cloth by light wiping. Small dry stains that do not transfer to the cloth are considered as non-transferrable and may not be considered as contamination;
- ~~Visible forms of animals~~ **Pest contamination; including** insects or other invertebrates (alive or dead, in any lifecycle stage, including egg casings or rafts), or any organic material of animal origin (including blood, bones, hair, flesh, secretions, excretions); viable or non-viable plants or plant products (including fruit, seeds, leaves, twigs, roots, bark); or other organic material, including fungi; or soil, or water; where such products are not the manifested cargo within the CTU.

² Detectable by the human eye without the aid of any supporting instruments or aids such as magnifying glasses and microscopes.