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Seaport Pest Contamination Trade Outreach



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1



Objectives

- Why is pest contamination at seaports a concern?
- Examples of sea container pest contamination.
- Ways to prevent it.



What is Pest 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 Cargo Transport Unit (i.e., container).

- IMO/ILO/UNECE. (2014, January). Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units (CTU Code).



What is Sea Container Pest Contamination?



Photo Credit: San Francisco Field Office



Photo Credit: San Diego Field Office



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4



Impact

- Agriculture is the **LARGEST** industry and employment sector in the United States, with more than \$1,000,000,000,000 (1 trillion) in economic activity annually.
- The greatest risk to the success of this industry are exotic plant pests and foreign animal diseases.
- Currently, invasive species cause an estimated \$136,000,000,000 (136 billion) in lost agriculture revenue annually.



How Does Pest Contamination Affect You?

COSTLY

- Demurrage, drayage, devanning fees
- Fumigation
- Cleaning
- Possible re-export charges



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How Does Pest Contamination Affect You?

TIME CONSUMING

- Delays
- Cancelled deliveries
- Loss of business



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How Do You Address the Risk?

- Store cargo away from vegetation.
- Avoid setting containers on grain, soil, or vegetation.
- Visually inspect cargo and containers for contaminants and pests before loading.
- Sweep, vacuum, or wash containers prior to loading.



Spilled Seed on Container Floor



Photo Credit: Baltimore Field Office



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Seeds - Container Undercarriage



Photo Credit: Port of Charleston



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10



Why are Seed Contaminants a Risk?

- They can carry plant pathogens.
- May harbor plant pests.
- Many foreign weed seeds are considered Federal Noxious Weeds in the United States.

What you can do about it...



Vacuum, Sweep or Blow Out Containers



Photo Credit: Ports of Buffalo and International Falls



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12



Snails



Photo Credit: Baltimore Field Office



Photo Credit: Seattle Field Office



Snails



Photo Credit: Port of Buffalo



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14



Why are Snails a Risk?

- Many snails are destructive agricultural pests, and are very difficult to eradicate if they become established.
- Snails typically found on containers are quite small – often less than an inch in diameter.
- Vectors for both human and animal diseases.



Soil - Container Undercarriage



Photo Credit: Baltimore Field Office



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16



Soil attached to Exterior of Container



Photo Credit: Seattle Field Office



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17



Soil Inside Intermodal Container



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18



Why is Soil Contamination a Risk?

- Soil can harbor insect pests and weed seeds.
- Nematodes (microscopic worms) may be present in soil. They can be very harmful to plants, and can be exceedingly difficult to eradicate.
- Soil also is a vector for foreign animal diseases.

What you can do about snails and soil....



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19



Spray Off Contaminated Containers



Photo Credit: Seattle



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20



Weed Seeds Stuck to Wood Packaging



Photo Credit: Seattle Field Office



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21



Why are Seeds with Wood Packaging a Risk?

- Not all seeds can be found on container floors.
- Some seeds blow around easily and attach to wood pallets and crates.

What can you do about seeds on wood packaging....



Vacuuuming Weed Seeds from Wood Packaging



Photo Credit: Port of International Falls



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23



Insect Eggs



Photo Credit: Baltimore Field Office



Insect Eggs



Photo Credit: Port of Oakland



Avoid Shipment Refusals

Scrape and remove all insect egg masses from cargo and containers before shipping.

Another option for removing insect eggs...



Steam Cleaning/Pressure Washing Container Exterior and Undercarriage



Photo Credit: Seattle



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27



Conclusion

- Store containers away from natural areas and/or reduce vegetation around cargo and container storage areas.
- Inspect cargo and container (interior and exterior) prior to loading.
- Store, cover, and clean pallets, dunnage, crates, etc. as needed.



Where Possible - Utilize Paved Lots to Avoid Contamination



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29



For More Information Contact:

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May 2018

30

