

Title	IMDG Code 2016 / SUPPLEMENT / Recommendations on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Ships applicable to the Fumigation of Cargo Transport Units / 2
Effective Date	1-1-2012
Invalid from	1-1-2014
Note	Incorporating Amendment 35-10

2 Reasons for fumigation

2.1

The presence of insects and rodents on ships is clearly undesirable for various reasons, and in addition to aesthetic and nuisance aspects, they may damage equipment and spread disease and infection, contaminate food in galleys and food stores, and cause damage to cargoes that will result in commercial or other losses.

2.2

The same highly toxic chemicals are used in containers as on board bulk ships. However, when a container that contains fumigant chemicals leaves the place at which it was fumigated, no one can practically supervise the hazard unless they are aware of the presence of the fumigant. Any person who later enters the container can therefore be unknowingly exposed to dangerous levels of highly toxic chemicals.

2.3

Insects in containers

2.3.1

Grubs and larvae of insects and other species can infest cargo, as well as packaging, dunnage, etc., associated with the cargo, at any stage during harvesting, manufacture, processing, storage, packing or transport. These can spoil foodstuffs, textiles, leather goods, furniture, art and antiques, affect electronic equipment, contaminate sterile goods or deface consumer packaging or labelling, making the goods unfit for sale and therefore valueless.

2.3.2

Insect and mite pests of plant and animal products may be carried into the containers with goods (introduced infestation); they may move from one kind of product to another (cross infestation) and may remain to attack subsequent cargoes (residual infestation). Their control may be required to comply with phyto-sanitary requirements to prevent spread of pests and for commercial reasons to prevent infestation and contamination of, or damage to, cargoes of human and animal food.

2.4

Rodents

2.4.1

Rodents should be controlled not only because of the damage they may do to cargo or the ship's equipment, but also, as required by the International Health Regulations, to prevent the spread of disease. Importers, particularly those that operate food processing plants, make great efforts to eliminate infestation in order to prevent the invasion of the importer's local storage or processing plant from infestation carried in incoming cargo. Consequently, they regularly fumigate their premises and may insist that goods delivered to their premises are certified free of infestation by means of fumigation.