

THE USE OF TRAPS TO MONITOR INSECT INFESTATIONS IN COCOA
CONTAINER SHIPMENTS.

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Cocoa beans are routinely fumigated with phosphine before shipment in containers to the UK. If, upon arrival, the containers are found to be infested they are re fumigated. During 1993 an increase in infestation rate was observed from containers originating from West Africa. To explore the potential of insect pheromone traps as a monitoring tool for infestations in such shipments as well as providing information on the effectiveness of the fumigations, traps were placed in containers prior to shipment and examined upon arrival. Initially 8 trap locations were used in each of 39 containers to evaluate 3 trap types; Window trap, Locator trap, (both from AgriSense -BCS) and a prototype Floor trap from CSL. Results showed the relative effectiveness of the trap types and the most effective placements of the traps. The results also determined that the infestations were as the result of a failure in the West African fumigations rather than from post-fumigation re-infestation. Recommendations are made on the number, placement and type of trap to use for monitoring infestations of moths and beetles within cocoa containers. The traps demonstrated their value to the cocoa trade not only for pin-pointing fumigation problems but also their use as an inexpensive, essential monitoring tool.