

WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL (WPM) INFORMATION FOR EXPORT (ISPM 15)

The ISPM 15 is a standard of guidelines for regulating Wood Packaging Material (WPM) in international trade. This standard describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging material (including dunnage), made of coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood, in use in international trade. The U.S. and other countries have committed to enforce the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15. Please refer to the link provided below for the "Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade" (ISPM15)

https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/16259_ISPM_15_E.pdf?filename=1146658720389_ISPM_15.pdf&refID=16259

OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

Wood packaging material made of unprocessed raw wood is a pathway for the introduction and spread of pests. Because the origin of wood packaging material is often difficult to determine, globally approved measures that significantly reduce the risk of pest spread are described. NPPOs are encouraged to accept wood packaging material that has been subjected to an approved measure without further requirements. Such wood packaging material includes dunnage, but excludes processed wood packaging material.

Procedures to verify that an approved measure, including the application of a globally recognized mark, has been applied should be in place in both exporting and importing countries. Other measures agreed to under a bilateral arrangement are also considered in this standard. Wood packaging material that does not comply with the requirements of this standard should be disposed of in an approved manner.

- ◆ International standards for phytosanitary measures are prepared by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention as part of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's global program of policy and technical assistance in plant quarantine. This program makes available to FAO Members and other interested parties these standards, guidelines and recommendations to achieve international harmonization of phytosanitary measures, with the aim to facilitate trade and avoid the use of unjustifiable measures as barriers to trade.
- ◆ International standards for phytosanitary measures are subject to periodic review and amendment. The next review date for this standard is 2007, or such other date as may be agreed upon by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures.
- ◆ It is against APHIS policy (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to issue phytosanitary certificates for the movement of wood packaging materials used in the transport of commodities. Contact the [American Lumber Standards Committee](#) (ALSC) or [National Wood Pallet and Container Association](#) (NWPCA) for further information pertaining to treatment and marking of wood packaging material from the US.
- ◆ ISPM 15 calls for regulated WPM to be either heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and marked in a certain way certifying treatment. Only accredited agencies can perform these functions.

- ◆ For a list of USDA-APHIS Contacts for Assistance with Export Certification, please refer to the USDA website at:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/es_certification_specialist.html

ISPM 15 ENFORCEMENT FOR EU AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Please note that various countries may not have adopted the exact same recommendations as the U.S. It is prudent to check the specific country regulations prior to export. The link to the list of countries provided below is expected to change as other countries implement the ISPM 15 or similar measures. Please be sure to confirm all requirements prior to export of your shipment.

Here is the link to a list of countries that are now or will be implementing ISPM 15. This list below can be found on the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) website located at: <http://www.palletcentral.com/ExportTreatment/ProgramOverview.htm#accredited>.
http://www.nwpc.com/INTLRegulations/ISPM_15CountryUpdate.htm

Countries with current regulations regarding ISPM-15 can be found at:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/export/requirements.html>

These countries listed on the APHIS website have already started implementation and will only accept properly treated and marked WPM under a marking system of the exporting country. To make your WPM suitable for international shipment, it must be marked with the HT or MB treatment mark. To apply the mark, your facility (i.e. pallet manufacturing or recycling, pest control, cargo forwarding, export brokerage) must be certified by an inspection agency. These agencies provide inspection and auditing services to certified facilities that use the MB treatment mark.

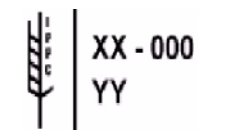
Please refer to this link for certified fumigators and a list of accredited inspection agencies from the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association:

<http://www.palletcentral.com/ExportTreatment/ProgramOverview.htm#accredited>

The American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) website has a list of untreated lumber accredited agencies, treated wood accredited agencies, and wood packing material accredited agencies that can be found at:

http://www.alsc.org/contacts_untreatedlist_mod.htm
http://www.alsc.org/contacts_treatedlist_mod.htm
http://www.alsc.org/contacts_WPMlist_mod.htm

All wood which has been treated will carry the official trademarked symbol of the IPPC, as illustrated below:



Decoding:

XX = Country of manufacture:
000 = Code traceable to the source (pallet manufacturer)
YY = Treatment Measure (HT or MB)

*Unauthorized use of the IPPC logo and MB treatment mark is a violation of trademark laws.
Licensed fumigators not registered in this program can still fumigate wood packaging and certify*

these products on their own but they are not authorized to apply the MB treatment mark or any mark similar to it.

Provided below is a recap of the implementing regulations into the United States. All countries adopting the ISPM 15 recommendations will have similar regulations. This can be used as a guideline for what other countries are putting into operation. Again, specific regulations are required in each country and it is prudent to check the country you are exporting to prior to loading your shipment.

IMPORTATION OF WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL (WPM) INTO THE UNITED STATES FACTS SHEET

When: The final rule is **effective 16 September 2005.**

Why: Logs, lumber, and other unmanufactured wood articles imported into the United States pose a significant hazard of introducing plant pests, including pathogens, detrimental to agriculture and to natural, cultivated, and urban forest resources.

What: Wood packing material including dunnage, crating, pallets, packing blocks, drums, cases and skids imported into the United States. WPM need not be bark free as long as it is treated.

Excludes: Pieces of wood less than 6 mm (0.24 inches) in any dimension
Manufactured wood, e.g., plywood, veneer, fiberboard, particle board, corrugated board, oriented strand board
Loose wood materials, e.g., shavings, excelsior
Whisky and wine barrels
Paper products
WPM from Canada

How: Fumigate WPM with methyl bromide
Heat treatment of WPM (minimum wood core temperature of 56° C/133° F for a minimum of 30 minutes)
Use alternative packing materials (metal, plastic, manufactured wood)

Marking: WPM must be marked in a visible location, preferably on at least 2 opposite sides of the article.
Mark must be legible and permanent.
Mark must be approved by IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention).
Mark will include IPPC graphic symbol, ISO country code for the country that treated the WPM, unique number assigned by the national plant protection agency of that country to the producer of the wood packaging material, and an abbreviation showing the type of treatment (e.g., HT for heat treatment; MB for methyl bromide).
See above for an example of the WPM mark.

Verification: Inspection by APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) officers to verify marking of treated WPM.
Registration, monitoring and auditing of treatment facilities by national governments.
A statement on shipping documents will not be required.

Phase In: Importers will be given official notice by APHIS inspectors for imported WPM shipments that do not meet the new requirements. The notice will explain what

importers must do to comply for future shipments (i.e., those arriving after 09/16/05).

Consequences of non-compliance after 09/15/05:

Reexportation. Post-entry treatment or incineration will **not** be allowed.

Useful Links and Additional Information:

ISPM 15 dated March 2002

https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/16259_ISPM_15_E.pdf?filename=1146658720389_ISPM_15.pdf&refID=16259

APHIS Alert and general information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/>

The U.S. final rule from the Federal Register dated September 2004

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-20763.pdf>

Official site for the International Plant Protection Convention

[International Plant Protection Convention \(I PPC\) https://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.jsp](https://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.jsp)

For information pertaining to locating accredited agencies approved to oversee the heat treatment and marking of wood packaging material or for information on how to obtain heat treated wood go to the ALSC web site: [American Lumber Standards Committee \(ALSC\)](#)

For information pertaining to locating accredited agencies and fumigation companies approved to conduct Methyl Bromide treatments go to the NWPCA web site: [National Wood Pallet and Container Association \(NWPCA\)](#)

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (WTO SPS/TBT Notifications) can be found at:

http://www.fas.usda.gov/ffpd/wood_publications.htm

USDA-APHIS Contacts for Assistance with Export Certification can be found at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/es_certification_specialist.html

EKG/JLT Rev 12/06/06EKG