

ISPM 15 Solid Wood Packaging Update

The following are, now or soon will be, enforcing ISPM 15:

US, Mexico and Canada have revised their implementation of ISPM 15 with a 3-phase approach:

<u>Phase 1</u> 9/16/05 – 1/31/06	<u>Phase 2</u> 2/1/06 – 7/3/06	<u>Phase 3</u> Starting 7/4/06
No action will be taken but notification will be issued to importers that are not using ISPM 15-compliant wood packaging.	Rejection of non-compliant wood packaging will be enforced. Quarantine expenses will be billed to the importer.	Full enforcement, all imported wood packaging must be ISPM 15-compliant.

Wood packaging from Canada going to the US remains exempt from treatment and marking if Canadian lumber is used. However, an import declaration (Wood packaging in this shipment is derived from trees harvested in Canada or US) is required on the invoice (not on a letterhead). A “Made in Canada” stamp is not acceptable.

Canadian pallets made from imported lumber: APHIS tells us that a Canadian pallet made from imported lumber must be treated by ISPM-15 guidelines with treatment and marking. They are no longer exempt. NWPCA is assured by Trevor Yu, Forestry Program Officer with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (Canada’s counterpart to the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) that Canada will not retaliate at this time; they say U.S. pallets are still exempt from treatment and marking. NWPCA will notify you if this situation changes.

Countries that have begun, or announced plans, to implement ISPM-15:

Argentina: June 1, 2005

Australia: September 1, 2004 (Variations to ISPM-15: Bark-free + packing declaration for ISPM-15 compliant WPM, 21-day rule does not apply); January 1, 2006 will add wood packaging used in break bulk and air cargo to their ISPM-15 enforcement.

Bolivia: July 23, 2005 (Variation: Debarked WPM)

Brazil: No date -- awaiting publication of date in Official Journal.

Canada: September 16, 2005 (Note: Phase-in implementation; exemption granted to U.S.)

Chile: June 1, 2005 (Variation: Debarked WPM)

China: January 1, 2006 (Variation: MB fumigation for softwood packaging must use the 24-hour treatment schedule.)

Colombia: September 16, 2005

Costa Rica: January 1, 2005

Ecuador: September 20, 2005 (Date change: previously April 26, 2004)

Egypt: October 1, 2005

European Union: March 1, 2005 (See special conditions below)

Guatemala: September 16, 2005

India: November 1, 2004 (Variation: Phytosanitary certificate required only for WPM not ISPM-15 compliant)

Mexico: September 16, 2005 (Note: Phase-in implementation since January 1, 2004)

New Zealand: April 16, 2003 (Variation: Bark-free WPM)

Nigeria: September 30, 2004

Panama: February 17, 2005

Peru: March 1, 2005

Philippines: June 1, 2005

South Africa: January 1, 2005 (Variation: 24-MB schedule for softwood packaging)

South Korea: June 1, 2005 (Variation: MB fumigation for softwood packaging must use the 24-hour treatment schedule.)

Switzerland: March 1, 2005

Turkey: January 1, 2006 (Variation: Debarked WPM)

U.S.: September 16, 2005 (Note: Phase-in implementation; exemption granted to Canada -- must provide import declaration that shipment derived from trees harvested in U.S. or Canada -- import lumber must be ISPM-15)

Venezuela: June 1, 2005

European Union (EU)

The European Union began enforcement of ISPM-15 March 1, 2005. The E.U. deferred for a year their debarking and bark-free specifications (see dunnage exception below), but claim they will present technical justification for the additional requirements and begin enforcement March 2006. The E.U. has some variations that need to be clarified:

Marking: Until December 31, 2007 the E.U. will accept all previously recognized marks for heat treatment (HT, “no-bug” logo, and ISPM 15 mark). For fumigation, however, they will only accept the ISPM 15 mark; if you have wood packaging with the previous fumigation mark you must re-treat and re-mark.

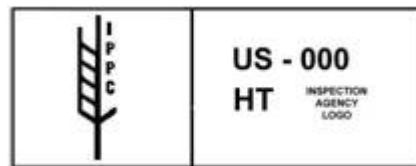
Dunnage: If dunnage is treated and marked it need not be bark-free. If dunnage is not marked it must be bark-free and devoid of pests and signs of live pests.

If the E.U. implements debark and bark-free requirements in March 2006 as they plan, dunnage must comply with the same treatment, marking and debarking as all other wood packaging.

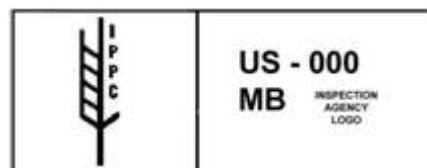
ISPM-15 Requirements

Compliance with ISPM-15 for wood packaging materials allows for two treatment options:

1. Heat Treatment (HT): Wood packaging material should be heated in a schedule that achieves a minimum core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes. The American Lumber Standards Committee administers the U.S. certification program for heat treatment.



2. Methyl Bromide (MB) Fumigation: The wood packaging material should be fumigated with methyl bromide. NWPCA has been tasked by the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to administer the fumigation program.



NOTE: ISPM 15 requirements apply to all species of coniferous (softwood) and non-coniferous (hardwood) packaging materials.