

2009



TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

OVERVIEW OF WOOD PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR EU MARKET

(LEAFLET)

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AN OVERVIEW OF WOOD PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EU MARKET

Definitions

Wood Packaging Material in use: Wood or wood products (excluding paper products) used in the transport of objects of all kinds for supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity. This includes crates, drums, packing cases, load boards and pallets.

Dunnage for non-wood cargo: Wood used to wedge or support a non-wood commodity but which does not remain associated with the commodity.



Introduction

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC - <https://www.ippc.int/IPPC/En/default.jsp>) is an international treaty to secure action to prevent the spread/introduction of pests of plants/plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. It is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) which adopts International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Plant health is one of the responsibilities of the European Commission's Directorate- General for Health and Consumer Protection, as part of its overall role to ensure the safety of food and protection of consumers in the EU. Preventing organisms harmful to plants or plant products from being introduced into and spreading within the EU, and regulating imports from third countries in line with international plant health standards, are among the principle objectives of EU plant health legislation. In keeping with these objectives, new EU requirements for wood packaging material, designed to stop potentially harmful plant pests from entering the EU in wood packaging, entered into force in March 2005.

Approved phytosanitary measures that significantly reduce the risk of pest introduction and spread via wood packaging material consist of the use of debarked wood (with a specified tolerance for remaining bark) and the application of approved treatments (Heat treatment -treatment code for the mark: HT and Methyl bromide treatment -treatment code for the mark: MB). The application of the recognized mark (ISPM15 Mark) ensures that wood packaging material subjected to the approved treatments is readily identifiable.

Main aspects for Wood Packaging Materials entering the EU

The EU requirements for wood packaging material and dunnage are based on the 2002 FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) # 15, Directive 2004/102/EC (Revised in 2009), which entered into force on 1 March 2005, requires the following measures to be taken for wood packaging material and dunnage entering the EU from all third countries:

- the wood must be either heat treated/ fumigated with methyl bromide, in line with ISPM15 procedures;
- the wood must be officially marked with the ISPM15 stamp;
- All wood packaging material imported into the EU will have to be debarked.
- Dunnage must meet the same criteria as wood packaging material.

The following articles are of sufficiently low risk to be exempted from the provisions of this standard:

- wood packaging material made entirely from thin wood (6 mm or less in thickness)
- wood packaging made wholly of processed wood material, such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board or veneer that has been created using glue, heat or pressure, or a combination thereof
- barrels for wine and spirit that have been heated during manufacture
- gift boxes for wine, cigars and other commodities made from wood that has been processed and/or manufactured in a way that renders it free of pests
- sawdust, wood shavings and wood wool
- wood components permanently attached to freight vehicles and containers.

Note: Not all types of gift boxes or barrels are constructed in a manner that renders them pest free, and therefore certain types may be considered to be within the scope of this standard.

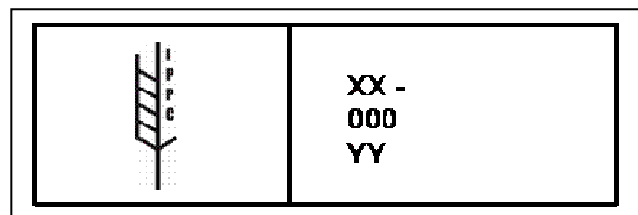
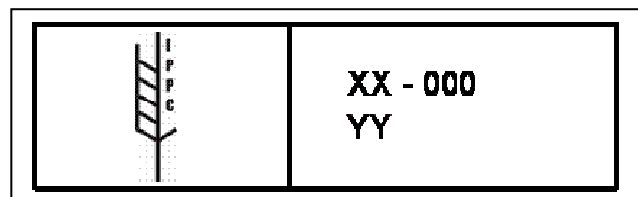
ISPM15 Mark

Wood packaging material entering the EU should carry the ISPM15 mark, which has the universally recognisable, non-language specific **IPPC logo** and **3 codes** (country, producer and treatment measure applied). For debarked wood, the letters “DB” should also be on the mark. The mark allows for easy verification that the wood meets the necessary requirements during inspection at the point of export or import. Markings should be legible, visible, permanent and non-transferable. The use of the mark also allows the import requirements for wood packaging material to remain a **paperless** system.

Approval for the use of the ISPM15 mark must be obtained from the National Plant Protection organization (Mr. Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, Director, Plant Protection and Agricultural Extension Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, P.O. Box 1509, Dubai-UAE; Telephone: (+971) 4 228 161; Fax: (+971) 4 232 781) or an organisation officially mandated by the NPPO.

An ISPM 15 (Regulation available with EDC) compliant mark must include:

- **IPPC** certification symbol
- **XX**: represents the two letter ISO country code, **AE** for UAE
- **000**: Represents the unique certification number issued to the treatment provider or wood packaging manufacturer. Inclusion of this certification number ensures that the wood packaging material can be traced back to the treatment provider and/or manufacturer.
- **YY**: is the treatment abbreviation where:
 - **HT** is the code for heat treatment to a minimum of 56o C for a minimum of 30 minutes
 - **MB** is the code for methyl bromide fumigation.



The letters ‘DB’ represent debarking. DB may be added to the abbreviation of the ISPM 15 approved treatment. For example, ‘HTDB’ represents heat treatment and debarking and ‘MBDB’ represents methyl bromide fumigation and debarking.

Dispute Settlement

Many parties have problems with some of the phytosanitary measures of their trade partners. These problems, generally involving issues associated with gaining market access or with new/revised phytosanitary measures being imposed, frequently go back many years and remain unresolved. Few contracting parties use international dispute settlement systems to resolve such problems. Those contracting parties that have done so have usually used the dispute settlement mechanism provided for by the World Trade Organization (WTO). This can be a relatively expensive and time-consuming procedure and, therefore, is usually reserved for the most important trade issues. There is a need for less expensive yet effective systems for the majority of smaller phytosanitary trade problems. In this respect, Article X of the IPPC establishes specific dispute settlement mechanisms which could be ideal to assist with resolving some of these issues. While these do not generally result in legally-binding solutions, they do provide a structure to identify and resolve phytosanitary issues before significant economic and political consequences arise.

For Further Details Contact:

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