

PACKAGING REGULATIONS — November 1, 2004

Listed below you will find proposed implementation dates by country for the adoption of IPPC's ISPM 15 Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade. This information has been provided by the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association.

European Union (EU)

Last September, we informed you about the European Commissions release of its draft directive on imported plant or plant products including WPM. The draft is now a commission directive that all 25 EU Nations will be implementing.

In the directive, regulated WPM shall be made from debarked round wood and subject to heat treatment or methyl bromide fumigation and marked accordingly with the ISPM 15 mark. Dunnage must be made from bark-free round wood, free from pests and signs of live pests, and ISPM 15 compliant.

Regarding implementation date(s), EU will require ISPM 15 compliance on new WPM starting March 1, 2005. WPM already in circulation or in storage is not required to be treated and marked until December 21, 2007.

Mexico

Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) released its final rule on import and export WPM. The rule states that imported WPM must be ISPM 15 compliant starting July 1, 2005, however, it was presented during the recent North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) meeting that it will be enforced in September 2005.

*The debarking and bark-free requirements are not consistent with ISPM 15 and the implementation date(s) of the EU and Mexico are confusing. NWPCA is working to get the bark-related requirements dropped and will also clarify the implementation dates.

Nigeria

Nigeria Plant Quarantine Service is now enforcing their import requirements for imported WPM. Nigeria will accept the ISPM 15 mark in lieu of the phytosanitary certificate as stated in their regulation which took effect September 30, 2004.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has notified WTO of its intent to adopt ISPM 15 in their regulations for imported WPM. Implementation date is January 1, 2005.

Turkey

The General Directorate of Protection and Control of Turkey is proposing to implement ISPM 15 starting January 1, 2005. Similar to the EU, Turkey's import requirements for regulated WPM requires debarking.

Australia

As posted last month, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) has announced its amended import requirements for solid wood packaging; those requirements took effect September 1, 2004.

ISPM 15 compliant wood packaging is accepted for shipment to Australia under the following conditions:

- Heat treated at 56°C for at least 30 minutes OR fumigated with methyl bromide and marked with the ISPM 15 stamp.
- Bark-free
- Include a packing declaration (Note: declaration for ISPM 15 compliant solid wood packaging must be submitted per consignment, an annual declaration is not acceptable). The NWPCA website will be posting a sample declaration next week, look for it in the section: Resource Center, Legislation/Regulations, Australia.

The following are no longer necessary for wood packaging to be compliant under ISPM 15 in Australia:

- Treatment certificate (provided that the packing declaration indicates ISPM 15 compliance).
- Satisfy the 21-day requirement (no more time limit between treatment and packing)

If wood packaging is not marked as ISPM 15 compliant:

- The 21-day rule for non-permanent treatment methods (e.g. heat sterilization, fumigation) does apply, and
- A treatment certificate AND packing declaration are required.

Brazil

Brazil is not yet requiring ISPM 15 compliant WPM originating from the U.S. Their import requirement based on ISPM 15 only applies to countries that have notified WTO and the Brazilian government of their adoption of ISPM 15.

Canada

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has set April 1, 2005 as its target date for strict enforcement of ISPM 15. Non-compliant wood packaging will be rejected and the cost involved is the responsibility of the shipper. All countries must comply and only the U.S. has been granted and exemption.

Chile

Chiles Agriculture and Livestock Service has introduced important requirements for WPM based on ISPM 15. Their proposed date of implementation is June 1, 2005.

China

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSI) has not decided when it will implement their new regulation for imported solid wood packaging. In discussions with APHIS, they indicated there would be an advance notice for implementation and a phase-in period. For now, heat treatment with certification through APHIS is the only recognized method for softwood; hardwood is exempt but still requires certification (we recommend use of the NC-US voluntary mark).

Colombia

Colombia will require ISPM 15 compliant WPM starting December 31, 2004 (not June 2004 as previously thought).

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has notified WTO of its intent to adopt ISPM 15 in their regulations for imported WPM. Implementation date is January 1, 2005.

India

India's Ministry of Agriculture has changed its implementation date of ISPM 15 from June 1, 2004 to November 1, 2004. They also made it clear that a phytosanitary certificate is not required as long as the wood packaging is ISPM 15 treated and marked.

Korea

The Korean National Plant Quarantine Service has published its rule adopting ISPM 15. They intend for their regulation to go into effect June 1, 2005. At this time, they will only accept heat treatment for coniferous wood; hardwood can be fumigated or heat treated.

Philippines

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture has changed their implementation date for ISPM 15. It will be partially enforced (must be treated but marking is not required) starting January 1, 2005. Full implementation starts on June 1, 2005.

South Africa

Based on their WTO notification, the RSA Department of Agriculture will start implementing ISPM 15 on January 1, 2005.

Switzerland

According to the Swiss Shippers' Council, Switzerland is delaying enforcement of ISPM 15 until March 1, 2005 to coincide with the implementation of EU nations.

Taiwan

Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine has announced that October 1, 2004 will be the implementation date for new import regulations for wood packaging based on IPPC standards.

Brazil

Brazil is not yet requiring ISPM 15 compliant WPM originating from the U.S. Their import requirement based on ISPM 15 only applies to countries that have notified WTO and the Brazilian government of their adoption of ISPM 15.

United States

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) just released its final rule "Importation of wood packaging material." Starting September 16, 2005, all imported WPM except those coming from Canada must be treated and marked according to ISPM 15. Non-compliant WPM will be re-exported, treatment at the port of entry will not be an option. In some cases compliant WPM with signs of pests may be fumigated at the port. APHIS will use risk management techniques and statistical sampling for inspection targets. Shipment from countries with high levels of interception will face more inspection whereas, highly compliant importers will be subject to fewer inspection. (Note: The United States regulations control imports into America. They do not have authority over export wood packaging. For exports, be sure to be guided by the rules of the destination country.)

New Zealand

New Zealand has fully implemented and is enforcing ISPM 15.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to give us a call. We certainly appreciate your business.