

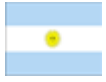








*The following information is provided as a specific service to the customers of the  
Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association's ISPM 15 Compliance Inspection Program*








## IPPC International Standard for Wood Packaging ISPM 15






### Summary of Requirements by Country for Wood Packaging Materials









**December 5, 2005**



Country or Region	IPPC ISPM 15 Enforcement Date	Current Requirements for Wood Packaging
Argentina 	June 1, 2005	Official announcement of intentions to WTO were made on 4/27/05, stating "All wood packaging and/or support material and dunnage entering or in transit through Argentina must be treated and certified by means of the corresponding mark in accordance with ISPM 15.
Australia 	September 1, 2004	Dual system of regulations in place for wood packaging, (a) ISPM 15 compliant and stamped, or (b) regulations in place prior to implementation of ISPM 15 on September 1, 2004. Parallel standards offered to ensure continued market access for wood packaging from countries not in position to comply with ISPM 15. <b>IPPC-stamped wood packaging <u>must also be "free of bark" and accompanied by a declaration form from the supplier attesting to these requirements (sample given on pages 51-53 of the AQIS Procedures). See important DUNNAGE marking requirements under the "Dunnage Information" section below.</u></b> To view the entire regulations, revised August 15, 2005, and download a copy of the necessary declaration forms, refer to the "Useful Website Links" section located at bottom of this table.
Bolivia 	July 24, 2005	Official announcement forwarded to USDA APHIS and WTO on July 4, 2005 regarding their intentions for implementation of ISPM 15. <b>At this point, they are requiring the wood packaging to be constructed from debarked wood.</b>

<p>Brazil</p> 	<p>June 1, 2005</p>	<p>According to USDA APHIS, Brazil has adopted ISPM 15 regulations, effective June 1, 2005. <b>In addition, wood packaging material must be free from signs of live pest infestation.</b></p>
<p>Canada</p> 	<p><b>September 16, 2005 with phase-in period</b></p>	<p>US, Canada, and Mexico will coordinate implementation of ISPM 15 through a phase-in period beginning September 16, 2005 for all wood packaging entering North America. Refer to the link below under "Useful Website Links" to view important NAPPO Importation information. <b>Wood Packaging Materials of US and Canadian origin moving between the two countries is exempt from the ISPM 15 compliance requirements, through a unilateral agreement. While ISPM 15 compliant and marked Wood Packaging Materials from the US to Canada is acceptable, there are no requirements for treatments, marking or declarations in the case of shipments imported <u>into</u> Canada. The current policy that the wood packaging must be free of living pests/diseases or signs thereof is still in effect for both countries.</b></p>
<p>Chile</p> 	<p>June 1, 2005</p>	<p>Chile has notified the WTO of their intent to implement and enforce ISPM 15 regulations for wood packaging.</p>
<p>China</p> 	<p><b>January 1, 2006</b></p>	<p>China has notified WTO that enforcement of ISPM 15 will begin January 1, 2006, meaning all wood packaging destined for China must have the IPPC-logo stamp at that time, ending the current USDA APHIS paper certificate requirement. Please note that the China announcement also includes a requirement that <b>wood packaging made from coniferous wood (softwoods) from countries that have the pinewood nematode (the U.S. is one), <u>only heat treatment will be accepted, not fumigation.</u></b></p> <p>USDA APHIS also announced that China has begun to accept ISPM 15 compliant and stamped wood packaging from the US without the heat treatment certificate, HOWEVER, <b>NELMA does not recommend shipping to China without the Certificate due to a number of shipments being stopped in China without it, as of August.</b> Until January 1, 2006, NELMA recommends the use of the current <u>Certificate of Heat Treatment</u> even if the wood packaging is stamped. As per the current China regulations, packaging manufactured from 100% hardwoods are exempt from heat treatment but must be accompanied with a <u>Declaration of Non-Coniferous Packing Material</u>. Composite materials such as plywood and OSB are also exempt from heat treatment. Certificate information and downloads (Form 553) may be obtained at the USDA APHIS website link listed under "Useful Website Links" located at the bottom of this table.</p>

<p>Columbia</p> 	<p>September 15, 2005</p>	<p>Columbia 1/4/05 communication to WTO announced revised implementation of ISPM 15 to September 15, 2005.</p>
<p>Costa Rica</p> 	<p><b>March 19, 2006</b></p>	<p>Costa Rica notified the WTO of their intent to implement ISPM 15 regulations for wood packaging, with a date of September 16, 2005 set for wood packaging materials to be exported FROM Costa Rica, and March 19, 2006 (6 months later) for imports to the country.</p>
<p>Ecuador</p> 	<p>September 30, 2005</p>	<p>Notified WTO on 7/21/05 regarding their intentions to implement ISPM 15 for enforcement on 9/30/05.</p>
<p>Egypt</p> 	<p>October 1, 2005</p>	<p>As stated in their announcement to WTO, "Wood packaging materials entering Egypt from all countries must be treated and certified in accordance with the standards established in ISPM 15".</p>
<p>European Union</p> 	<p>March 1, 2005</p>	<p>The EU implemented the full ISPM 15 regulations on January 1, with enforcement March 1. <b>The EU has notified WTO and USDA APHIS that their additional requirement for wood packaging materials to be "free of bark" will <u>NOT BE</u> required at this time until further studies are conducted (March 1, 2006). APHIS has posted a notification on their website that states the "DB" reference on the IPPC stamp WILL NOT be available for US stamps.</b> Please refer to the APHIS website (link at end of table) and also refer to the list of European countries <u>added</u> to the EU list on 5/1/04, under the "Additional Information" section located at end of this table.</p>
<p>Guatemala</p> 	<p>September 16, 2005</p>	<p>According to USDA APHIS, Guatemala will accept wood packaging treated and marked in compliance with ISPM 15. The enforcement date is dependent upon the exporting country's requirement, meaning that for shipments from the US, the enforcement date would be September 16, 2005 since that will be the US requirement for wood packaging received from Guatemala.</p>
<p>Hong Kong</p> 	<p>To Be Announced</p>	<p>While technically now "owned" by China, Hong Kong still maintains some administrative autonomy which at this time includes import/export requirements of wood packaging. No announcement has been made to WTO or USDA APHIS at this time regarding implementation of ISPM 15 separately by Hong Kong. However, USDA APHIS does recommend using ISPM 15 compliant and stamped wood packaging for shipments to Hong Kong at this time. No certificate of heat treatment is available <b>(Form 553 for China should NOT be used for Hong Kong)</b>. Interestingly, China in their implementation correspondence will be requiring ISPM 15 compliant and stamped wood packaging for shipments to them from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.</p>

<p>India</p> 	<p>November 1, 2004</p>	<p>India requires wood packaging materials to be treated and marked per ISPM 15, OR shipment must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Please note that an official phytosanitary certificate is not available from USDA APHIS for India.</p>
<p>Mexico</p> 	<p><b>September 16, 2005 with phase-in period</b></p>	<p>US, Canada, and Mexico will coordinate enforcement of ISPM 15, with a phase-in implementation beginning September 16, 2005 for all wood packaging entering North America. Refer to the link below under "Useful Website Links" to view important NAPPO Importation information. <b>At this time, there is no exemption for wood packaging imported or exported between Mexico and the US/Canada.</b> All wood packaging materials from/to Mexico must be ISPM 15 compliant and stamped.</p>
	<p><b>July 5, 2006**</b></p>	<p>** Mexico alerted WTO on October 24, 2005 amended their ISPM 15 compliance rule in regards to "dunnage and wedges" specifically. These wood packaging items are used to protect imported goods during shipment. Solid wood dunnage and wedge material will have until July 5, 2006 to comply with ISPM 15. However, NELMA suggests that ALL wood packaging items be compliant with ISPM 15 regulations at this time to reduce the potential for border inspection confusion and stoppage.</p>
<p>New Zealand</p> 	<p>Dual system enforced.</p>	<p>New Zealand added the ISPM 15 wood packaging standard as an option to their existing wood packaging requirements. Either must be used for wood packaging, with the ISPM 15 regulations easier to meet than the higher heat treatment requirements of the existing regulation. <b>See important DUNNAGE marking requirements under the "Dunnage Information" section below.</b></p>
<p>Nigeria</p> 	<p>September 30, 2004</p>	<p>Nigeria has indicated through official correspondence with USDA APHIS of the acceptance of official treatment and marking of wood packaging in line with ISPM15. There is no requirement for a phytosanitary certificate for wood packaging treated and marked under the standard.</p>
<p>Peru</p> 	<p><b>Country Dependent Now or January 1, 2006 at the latest</b></p>	<p>Peru originally notified WTO of their intentions to adopt and enforce IPPC ISPM 15 for "entry into and exit from Peru of wood packaging material in international trade" with an original implementation date of March 1, 2005. Peru has since altered their enforcement and USDA APHIS has clarified the official implementation rules set by Peru as follows: "For countries enforcing ISPM 15 now, shipments must have ISPM 15 compliant wood packing now. For other countries, shipments must have ISPM 15 compliant wood packing as of January 1, 2006." USDA APHIS recommends that ISPM 15 stamped wood packaging be used as soon as possible.</p>

 <p>Philippines</p>	June 1, 2005	The Philippines has fully implemented ISPM 15, effective June 1, 2005, requiring that all wood packaging material entering the country should be treated and marked in accordance with ISPM 15.
 <p>Puerto Rico</p>	<b>September 16, 2005 with phase-in period</b>	See details under "United States Territories"
 <p>South Africa</p>	March 1, 2005	Notified WTO regarding implementation of ISPM 15 on April 27, 2004. Amended notice to WTO on November 26, 2004 stating that "ISPM 15 will be fully implemented on January 1, 2005, requiring that all wood packaging material entering South Africa should be treated and marked in accordance with ISPM 15. Enforcement of ISPM 15 will be from March 1, 2005." In addition, USDA APHIS reports that South Africa has indicated that <b>Methyl Bromide fumigation is not acceptable for treatments of coniferous wood packaging materials for export. See important DUNNAGE marking requirements under the "Dunnage Information" section below.</b>
 <p>South Korea</p>	June 1, 2005	Implementation of ISPM 15 has been delayed from originally announced start date of June 1, 2004 to June 1, 2005.
 <p>Switzerland</p>	March 1, 2005	ISPM 15 implemented and enforcement date coordinated with EU's March 1, 2005 date.
 <p>Taiwan</p>	October 1, 2004	Notified WTO of Implementation of IPPC for "wood and articles of wood" that enter the Territory of Taiwan; IPPC-stamped wood packaging is not specifically named but <u>recommended</u> by NELMA for shipments to Taiwan.
 <p>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</p>	To Be Announced	Notified WTO of Implementation of IPPC on 9/21/05, but correspondence pertains to organization and requirements of their domestic program. Their notification states, "Imports to be implemented at a date to be notified".
 <p>Turkey</p>	<b>January 1, 2006</b>	Notified WTO of their intent to adopt and implement ISPM 15 for all wood packing materials entering the country. <b>Please note that Turkey has added the requirement for debarked wood to be used.</b> USDA APHIS has appealed this additional requirement in correspondence to Turkey, 12/2/04. According to USDA APHIS, the enforcement date has changed from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006.

<p>United States Territories (primary) <i>American Samoa</i> <i>Guam</i> <i>Puerto Rico</i> <i>US Virgin Islands</i></p>	<p><b>September 16, 2005 with phase-in period</b></p>	<p>According to USDA APHIS, these territories are under the jurisdiction of the United States, therefore the same requirements for the US would apply. Shipments to these territories <u>FROM</u> the United States would be exempt from the ISPM 15 requirement. However, imports into these locations from other countries using wood packaging materials must be ISPM 15 compliant, same as shipping to the US.</p>
<p>United States</p> 	<p><b>September 16, 2005 with phase-in period</b></p>	<p>The US will begin enforcement of the requirement for ISPM 15 compliant wood packaging beginning September 16, 2005 through a "phase-in" period established by APHIS in coordination with the other NAPPO countries (Canada and Mexico). Refer to the website link below for details:</p> <p><a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/import.html">http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/import.html</a></p> <p>Wood Packaging Materials of US and Canadian origin moving between the two countries is exempt from the ISPM 15 compliance and marking requirements, through a unilateral agreement. WPM made entirely of Canadian origin wood or U.S. origin wood are exempt from the treatment and marking requirements in trade between the two countries. The exception only pertains to WPM coming directly to the U.S. from Canada or directly to Canada from the U.S. For purposes of enforcement of the USDA WPM rule, the country of origin of the commodity is the country of origin of the WPM on all shipments coming from Canada absent an indication to the contrary. In other words, WPM in shipments of Chinese-made goods coming from Canada will be considered Chinese and must be treated and marked unless there is documentation to prove the WPM is Canadian. WPM in shipments of Canadian-made goods coming from Canada will be considered Canadian and need not be marked.</p> <p>Paper certifications of treatment will no longer be required or accepted. Invoice statements are no longer required for importation into the U.S. The only exception is noted above, where non-Canadian merchandise entering directly from Canada on Canadian-origin WPM will experience fewer delays at the U.S.-Canada border if the entry documents contain a statement as to the origin of the WPM. Refer to the link below under "Useful Website Links" to view important US WPM Importation information from the US Customs and Border Protection Agency.</p>
<p>Venezuela</p> 	<p>June 1, 2005</p>	<p>According to USDA APHIS, Venezuela has published requirements adopting International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM15). The regulation goes into effect June 1, 2005.</p>

**Dunnage Requirements**

Effective immediately, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa are requiring materials used specifically as **dunnage** to be stamped with an IPPC-logo stamp instead of the previous method of using the HT stamp on each dunnage piece. As a result, USDA APHIS and ALSC have approved an IPPC-logo heat treatment stamp specific for dunnage. This stamp has the same required ISPM 15 components as the existing IPPC stamp but with the word “DUNNAGE” added to reflect its use in export shipments.

In addition to these three countries, the stamp should be acceptable for shipments to all countries that have implemented the IPPC ISPM 15 standard. To determine if you or your customer requires this type of material, first consider the official definition, as listed in IPPC ISPM 15:

***“Dunnage - wood packaging materials used to secure or support a commodity, but which does not remain associated with the commodity”.***

In other words, dunnage is solid lumber material, typically individual pieces, used by shippers in the loading of a container, ship, or airplane for transit, but these items do not typically continue on with the shipment beyond the port of entry. Examples of where the stamp may be used:

- (1)** At a certified wood packaging facility or heat treatment facility that may wish to stamp heat-treated lumber for dunnage for sale to a shipper/freight forwarder. The lumber **MUST BE** stamped the full length of each piece at a minimum of every 2 feet with the IPPC DUNNAGE stamp. This ensures that when it is cut to size by the shipper, at least one stamp facsimile will be present on each piece of dunnage.
- (2)** At a certified freight forwarder or wood packaging facility that loads shipping containers at their site and dunnage material is needed to secure or separate the cargo. In this example, certified heat treated lumber stamped HT may be cut to desired sizes for use as dunnage and each piece then stamped once with the IPPC DUNNAGE stamp.
- (3)** At a certified seaport/airport facility. Certified heat treated lumber stamped HT may be purchased and cut to desired sizes on site, and then each piece stamped once with the IPPC DUNNAGE stamp.

Please note that blocking and bracing of goods inside a certified IPPC-stamped box or crate would NOT be considered dunnage, as these wood packaging materials typically go with the shipment beyond the port of entry. Contact us with your questions or stamp needs regarding this new requirement or any additional circumstances not covered within this alert.

#### **Additional Notes:**

EU Countries (original 15)	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom ( <i>England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales</i> )
EU Countries (10 added)	Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia

#### **Useful Website Links:**

The ISPM 15 document may be viewed and downloaded from this website:

[https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/ISPM\\_15\\_English.pdf?filename=1055161712885\\_ISPM15\\_e.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/ISPM_15_English.pdf?filename=1055161712885_ISPM15_e.pdf)

For the Australia (AQIS) document “Cargo Containers: Quarantine Aspects and Procedures”:

<http://www.aqis.gov.au/cargogap>

For China Information, Q&A, and Heat Certificate (Form 553) Documents:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/export/china.html>

For the USDA APHIS Wood Packaging Materials website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/>

For USDA APHIS contacts:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/CPOs\\_exp.htm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pim/exports/CPOs_exp.htm)

For US IMPORT Information from the Customs and Border Protection Agency:

<http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/home.xml>

For NAPPO (North American Plant Protection Organization) Information:

<http://www.nappo.org/Standards/Woodpacking-bil1.htm>

## NEELMA Information

**For Wood Packaging Repair Facilities:** All IPPC ISPM 15 stamped wood packaging materials (pallets, skids, crates, boxes, etc.) that undergo any repair must be re-treated (the entire unit) in order to comply with the ISPM 15 Standard. In addition, any existing IPPC marks on the repaired wood packaging must be obliterated and re-stamped (on a minimum of 2 opposite sides) with the mark of the certified facility that re-treated the wood packaging item. NEELMA and ALSC's inspection staff will be closely monitoring this process to ensure compliance with these strict regulations.

**For Wood Packaging Facilities and HT Lumber Remanufacturers:** Inspect your HT lumber purchases **before** you use in packaging to be certain that **(a)** all the lumber within the purchased unit has an **HT stamp on each piece** (unless minimum-sized items that allow 25% stamping), **and (b)** a mill number/name and logo of an accredited agency of ALSC. NEELMA's Inspectors have found bundles with only a few pieces marked with HT, in addition to HT lumber purchased that was stamped HT but without the required agency logo, particularly from lumber produced in Eastern Europe. For a view of accredited lumber agency logos, refer to the ALSC website:

[http://www.alsc.org/greenbook%20collection/UntreatedProgram\\_Facsimile.pdf](http://www.alsc.org/greenbook%20collection/UntreatedProgram_Facsimile.pdf)

As always, contact **NEELMA** for any questions or assistance:

Phone: 207-829-6901

Fax: 207-829-4293

Email: [jeff@nelma.org](mailto:jeff@nelma.org) (regulations & **NEELMA** program information)

[donna@nelma.org](mailto:donna@nelma.org) (stamp inquiries)

[barbara@nelma.org](mailto:barbara@nelma.org) (Inspector contacts)

[paula@nelma.org](mailto:paula@nelma.org) (fees and billing inquiries)

## Glossary of Acronyms:

ALSC	American Lumber Standard Committee
APHIS	USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
EU	European Union
HT	Heat Treatment
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM 15	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15
<b>NELMA</b>	Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
OSB	Oriented-Strand Board
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WPM	Wood Packaging Materials
WTO	World Trade Organization