

Exporting and Wood Packaging Material (WPM)

Wood packaging material made of unprocessed raw wood is recognized as a pathway for the introduction and spread of pests. The so-called ISPM15 standards concerning wood packaging material have been introduced to limit the entry and spread of quarantine pest through international trade.

Global trading partners are adopting the ISPM15 in their import regulations. The United States Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the wood packaging material industry, has developed an export program to guarantee compliance with the import requirements of trading countries. The program insures certified treatment and marking of wood packaging material for international trade, while maintaining traceability of the packaging material. The integrity of the program is dependant upon industries compliance.

What does ISPM15 stand for?

The International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM15) is one of several International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures adopted by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The IPPC is an international treaty to secure action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. ISPM15 is a standard on which many countries WPM regulations are based upon.

What is wood packaging material?

Wood packaging material or WPM is also called Non-Manufactured Wood Packing (NMWP) or Solid Wood Packing Material (SWPM) defined as "hardwood and softwood packaging *other than that comprised wholly of wood-based products* such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board, veneer, wood wool, etc., *which has been created using glue, heat, and pressure or a combination thereof used in supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity (includes dunnage)*". Examples of WPM includes but not limited to pallets, skids, pallet collars, containers, cratings/crates, boxes, cases, bins, reels, drums, load boards, dunnage. Wood packaging made of exempt materials but combined with solid wood components must still be treated and marked.

What is a quality/treatment mark?

For both heat treatment (HT) and methyl bromide (MB) fumigation programs , the quality/treatment Mark consists of the a) agency trademark which is the identifying symbol, logo or name of the accredited agency, b) the Facility Identification which is the WPM product manufacturer name, brand or assigned facility number, c) the HT or MB mark, d) the country code which is the two letter ISO country abbreviation, e) the IPPC Approved international symbol for compliant wood packaging material and f) DUN when indication is used for dunnage.

Can WPM be reused?

Once the WPM is treated and officially marked the treatment does not expire. You can reuse WPM without requiring re-treatment and remarking. WPM that has been repaired or recycled is required to be either fumigated or heat treated again. The old mark is required to be obliterated with a new mark applied by one of the inspection agencies.

Where can I find information pertaining to what countries have or may adopt regulations based on the ISPM15 standard?

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

Are exports of WPM to Hawaii, Puerto Rico and other U.S. Trust Territories required to be treated and given the ISPM15 mark?

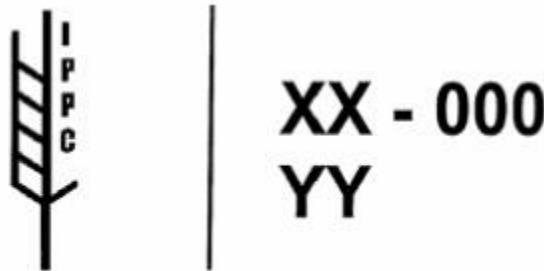
No.

Some countries are asking for phytosanitary certificates to be issued for WPM. Does the U.S. issue a phytosanitary (plant health) certificate for WPM?

No, it is against APHIS policy to issue a phytosanitary certificate for WPM used in the transport of commodities.

How can I ensure that my dunnage is compliant with the importing countries requirements?

Contact one of the inspection agencies under either the Heat Treatment or Fumigation Programs to obtain information on obtaining treated and officially marked dunnage.



XX represents the ISO country code.
000 represents the unique number assigned by the national plant protection organization.
YY represents either HT for heat treatment or MB for methyl bromide fumigation.