



REGULATORY UPDATE

January 12, 2005

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 and forwarded to your organization by Timber Products Inspection in order to give you the most up-to-date information regarding regulations that effect your wood packaging material.

Brazil

Brazil is planning to implement ISPM 15 in September 2005.

Colombia

Colombia changed their implementation date from December 31, 2004 to September 15, 2005.

European Union (EU)

The European Commission (EC) issued a 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.

The United States is contesting these requirements. They were discussed in the ISPM-15 working group when the standard was being developed and rejected on the basis of having no technical justification for quarantine pests. The EC is meeting on January 20 to make a final resolution on this matter. The international arm of the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will be at that meeting. It is their intention to listen to any legitimate scientific evidence; if the EC fails to present conclusive technical reasons for introducing these requirements, APHIS will insist the EC adhere to the ISPM-15 agreement.

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 Dec. 21, 2007.

North America

The United States, Canada and Mexico will strictly enforce ISPM 15 starting September 16, 2005. Until then, it is recommended to use ISPM 15-compliant wood packaging going to North America. There is an exemption agreement between the US and Canada.

Taiwan

Taiwan's new regulation only applies to lumber and other wood products and does not include wood packaging.

Turkey

Turkey has changed its implementation date from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006. Similar to the EU, Turkey's import requirements for regulated WPM requires debarking.

Current info for other countries that have begun implementation process:

Australia

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

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

- Heat treated at 56°C for at least 30 min 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 has a sample declaration; members will find it in the section: Resource Center, Legislation/Regulations, Australia.

The following are no longer needed 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.

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 an exemption.

Chile

Chile's Agriculture and Livestock Service has introduced import 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).

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 was January 1, 2005.

India

India's implementation date for ISPM-15 was November 1, 2004. India's Ministry of Agriculture 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.

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.

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.

Philippines

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

South Africa

The RSA Department of Agriculture began 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 implementation of EU nations.

United States

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) 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.

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