

IPPC International Standard for Wood Packaging
ISPM 15
Summary of Requirements by Country
for Wood Packaging Materials
October 1, 2009

Although every effort has been made to include current and accurate information, the table is subject to unknown errors and omissions. AAPHIS recommends that exporters contact the proper agency of authority, within the country of destination, or contact USDA AAPHIS for further details and shipping requirements.

Country or Region	IPPC ISPM 15 Enforcement Date	Current Requirements for Wood Packaging
	January 1, 2006	Originally announced intentions to WTO 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." A subsequent WTO announcement addendum on 11/16/05 stated that the original Resolution was adopted and the measure entered into full force on January 1, 2006.
	9/1/2004 (See critical notes)	In addition to ISPM 15 requirements, Australia has additional requirements that must be met for entry, as follows: (1) packaging must be "free of bark", and (2) A declaration form must accompany the shipment regarding "free of bark" status and noting items have been IPPC stamped. Samples of both declaration forms may be viewed and printed from the AQIS website as noted below or under the Useful Links section located at the end of the table. Regarding Dunnage material used in the shipment, it must be appropriately stamped with the IPPC DUNNAGE stamp. In addition, Australia's Notice to Industry 23/2009 changes the requirements for the use of plywood and veneer in wood packaging, stating that "the newly-manufactured plywood/veneer products declaration is no longer acceptable for packaging and dunnage. Packaging and dunnage made from plywood/veneer must be declared as timber packaging and is subject to mandatory treatment." These requirements are set to be implemented August 1, 2009.
	July 24, 2005	Official announcement forwarded to USDA AAPHIS and WTO on July 4, 2005 regarding their intentions for implementation of ISPM 15. At this point, they are requiring the wood packaging to be constructed from debarked wood.
	June 1, 2005	According to USDA AAPHIS, effective immediately Brazil will accept wood packaging material from the U.S. treated and marked under ISPM 15. In addition, wood packaging material must be free from signs of live pest infestation.
	June 1, 2006	An official notice of adoption and implementation of ISPM 15 requirements by Bulgaria was released by WTO on 2/22/06. It states, "wood packaging entering Bulgaria must be treated and certified in accordance with the standards established in IPPC ISPM 15." As of 1/1/07, Bulgaria is now a member of the European Union, which requires IPPC ISPM compliant wood packaging materials for incoming shipments.
	Final Phase-in July 5, 2006	U.S., 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 at the bottom of this table under "Useful Website Links" to view important NAPPO Importation information OR see the phase-in details section, also at the bottom of this table. Wood Packaging Materials of the U.S. and Canadian origin moving between the two countries is currently exempt from the ISPM 15 compliance requirements. However, the U.S. and Canada are working towards elimination of this exemption by 2011.
	June 1, 2005	Chile has notified the WTO of their intent to implement and enforce ISPM 15 regulations for wood packaging.
	January 1, 2006	Enforcement of ISPM 15 began January 1, 2006, meaning all wood packaging entering China must be stamped with the IPPC ISPM 15 mark. The availability of the USDA AAPHIS heat treatment Form 553, in addition to heat treatment, fumigation with methyl bromide is acceptable for shipments from countries that have the phyto wood nematode (the U.S. is one), at specific dosage and exposure rate USDA AAPHIS website for details). Please note that wood packaging that meets either treatment method (treatment or fumigation) must be stamped with the IPPC stamp of a certified facility or provider.
	September 15, 2005	Columbia 1/4/05 communication to WTO announced revised implementation of ISPM 15 to September 15, 2005.
	March 19, 2006	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.
	October 1, 2008	Cuba has notified WTO of its intent to implement the ISPM 15 regulations for wood packaging for entering the country, effective October 1, 2008. Note: In 1996, Congress passed the Helms-Burton Act which further restricted United States citizens from doing business in or with Cuba, and mandated restrictions on giving public or private assistance to any successor regime in Havana unless and until certain claims against the Cuban government are met. In 1999, U.S. President Bill Clinton expanded the trade embargo even further by ending the practice of foreign subsidiaries of the U.S. companies trading with Cuba. At present, the embargo, which limits American businesses from conducting business with Cuban interests, is still in effect.
	July 1, 2006	The Dominican Republic made an announcement to the WTO on July 7 regarding their implementation of IPPC ISPM 15, with a proposed date of enforcement backdated to July 1, 2006.
	July 21, 2006	Ecuador corresponded with WTO on July 5 regarding specifics of their implementation of ISPM 15. They state, "any packaging entering the country that falls short of international and national standard (IPPC ISPM 15) will be placed in the official custody of the Ecuadorian Customs Corporation (CAE) and SESA for re-embarkation, both the packaging and the product." It also requires that the importer must cover the cost of storage and re-embarkation or will be forced to suspect importation to the country.
	October 1, 2005	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".
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
	March 1, 2005	The EU implemented the full ISPM 15 regulations on January 1, 2005, with enforcement March 1, 2005. The European Union will implement the bark limitation requirement for all wood packaging materials on January 1, 2009 with a transitional period until July 1, 2009. This new requirement will follow the revised bark restrictive language that has been included in the latest draft version of ISPM 15 Standard, now under review by IPPC. The wood packaging materials should be free from bark with exceptions for presence of any number of individual pieces of bark as follows: (1) permitted if they are less than 3 centimeters (1.315") in width, regardless of length, or (2) if greater than 3 centimeters in width, the total surface area of an individual piece of bark must be less than 50 square centimeters (about credit card size).
	September 16, 2005	According to USDA AAPHIS, 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 ISPM requirement for wood packaging received from Guatemala.
	February 25, 2006 (adoption)	Notification was received by WTO on 2/3/06 regarding Honduras' adoption of ISPM 15 for wood packaging. The regulations were adopted on 2/25/06, with implementation set upon publication in the Official Journal, La Gaceta. No specific date given for implementation but it is recommended to use ISPM 15 compliant and stamped wood packaging destined for Honduras as this time.
	To Be Announced	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 AAPHIS at this time regarding implementation of ISPM 15 separately by Hong Kong. However, USDA AAPHIS 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. 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.
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
	November 1, 2004	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 AAPHIS for India.
	September 1, 2009	Indonesia has announced a follow up to their 2006 notification to WTO regarding their intentions to adopt ISPM 15 and have implemented requirements for wood packaging to meet the Standard, effective September 2009.
	October 1, 2009	Israel's Ministry of Agriculture has officially notified the WTO of its adoption and implementation plans for ISPM 15. Their proposed date of implementation is October 1, 2009.
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
	April 1, 2007	Japan notified WTO on 10/27/06 regarding its intentions to require IPPC ISPM 15 compliant and stamped wood packaging entering the country, effective April 1, 2007.
	November 17, 2005	On January 12, 2006, the WTO circulated an announcement from Jordan regarding a directive now in effect titled, "Instructions on Treatment of the Wood Packaging Materials used in Preparation of Consignments". It is unclear at this point if the implementation is directed towards export wood packaging manufacturers in Jordan or for ISPM 15 requirements of wood packaging shipments to Jordan. To be covered, NELMA recommends that shippers go ahead and stamp wood packaging with the IPPC mark destined for Jordan.
	Currently in effect	Listed within the current import regulations for agriculture products from Kenya's Plant Health Inspectorate Service under Item #14, "Sanitary Ware - Wood for Wrapping", are the statements, "the wood should be treated/fumigated (ISPM 15)", "the wood should be free of insects especially beetle; no damage on wood" and "infested material should be burnt at interception point." The actual date of implementation is thought to be January 2006 according to AAPHIS and this listing should be taken as notice by exporters to Kenya to only send ISPM 15 certified and stamped wood packaging. No official WTO notice has been made by Kenya at this time.
	March 9, 2006	No official announcement to WTO has been received, however, the Agriculture Import & Export Department of the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture has advised that the Lebanese Ministerial Decree No. 19/1, dated January 9, 2006, requires all wood packaging material entering the Lebanon to be ISPM15 compliant, effective March 9, 2006.
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
	Final Phase-In July 5, 2006	U.S., 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 at the bottom of this table under "Useful Website Links" to view important NAPPO Importation information OR see the phase-in details section, also at the bottom of this table. There is no exemption for full compliance with standard for wood packaging materials used in shipments between Mexico and the US or Mexico and Canada. All wood packaging materials from Mexico must be ISPM 15 compliant and stamped.
	July 5, 2006**	**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.
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
	August 1, 2009	New Caledonia has been added to the list of countries that have implemented ISPM 15 requirements for inbound wood packaging. New Caledonia is a territory of France located in the South Pacific.
	May 1, 2006 with phase-in to June 30, 2006 with revisions to be implemented on November 1, 2009	New Zealand's September 16, 2005 correspondence to WTO announced their intention to fully implement the bark provisions allowed in the 2009 revised ISPM 15 Standard. Currently, New Zealand requires all WPM imported into the country to be free of bark. The new provision mirrors the 2009 Standard which provides allowances of bark with certain sizes. All WPM must be IPPC stamped to utilize this provision. The 9/15/09 correspondence further states that New Zealand will be marking ISPM 15 compliant stamp, at the importer's expense. The expected implementation date is November 1, 2009.
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
	September 30, 2004	Nigeria has indicated through official correspondence with USDA AAPHIS of the acceptance of official treatment and marking of wood packaging in line with ISPM 15. There is no requirement for a phytosanitary certificate for wood packaging treated and marked under the standard.
	January 1, 2008	Norway has notified WTO of their intentions to implement IPPC ISPM 15 requirements for wood packaging with an enforcement date of January 1, 2008. Norway is not a member of the European Union.
	December 1, 2006	According to Oman's 8/2/06 announcement to WTO, "the Sultanate of Oman will apply to IPPC ISPM 15 standard which defines the processes of treatment of wood packaging materials entering Oman at ports by approved measures and recognized with specific mark to facilitate verifications during inspection at the point of entry."
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
	No Implementation Date Announced	An official notice was published by WTO from Panama on 4/15/05 that set up a domestic program for the official registration of heat treatment facilities for wood packaging to be shipped FROM Panama. Panama has not published any notification for a requirement of IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country.
	June 28, 2005	Paraguay notified WTO on 11/16/05 regarding their Resolution to implement and enforce ISPM 15 to "regulate wood packaging material in international trade" that affects "all trading partners of Paraguay". The announced date of enforcement precedes the official declaration to WTO by almost 5 months.
	January 1, 2006	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 officials notified USDA AAPHIS on 9/12/05 that they will allow wood packaging that is not compliant with ISPM 15 until January 1, 2006. However, USDA AAPHIS recommends that ISPM 15 stamped wood packaging be used as soon as possible.
	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.
	Final Phase-in July 5, 2006	See details under "United States Territories"
	January 1, 2007	Romania became an official member of the European Union, effective January 1, 2007. As an EU member state, wood packaging materials would fall under the requirements of IPPC ISPM 15 for compliance.
	No Implementation Date Announced	No Requirement for IPPC-stamped wood packaging entering the country has been announced.
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	March 1, 2006	A 3/7/06 announcement by the Plant Quarantine Unit of the Government of Seychelles has been globally distributed regarding their implementation of ISPM 15. The announcement was not made through the WTO. It states, "As of March 1, 2006, exporters to Seychelles will be required to treat all wood packaging material used in the shipping of both agricultural and non-agricultural commodities....The treated wood packaging (fumigated or heat-treated) material must bear a stamp with a mark approved by IPPC." For geographic purposes, the Seychelles is a collection of islands off the eastern coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean.
	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 AAPHIS reports that South Africa has indicated that Methyl Bromide fumigation is not acceptable for treatments of contaminated wood packaging materials for export. See important DUNNAGE marking requirements under the "Dunnage Information" section below.
	June 1, 2005	Implementation of ISPM 15 is being delayed from originally announced start date of June 1, 2004 to June 1, 2005.
	March 1, 2005	ISPM 15 implemented and enforcement date coordinated with EU's March 1, 2005 date.
	April 1, 2006	According to USDA AAPHIS, the local US FAS office in the region has learned that Syria is requiring all wood packaging entering the country to meet the requirements of ISPM 15. Syria is not a member of the World Trade Organization.
	November 1, 2005	In November of 2005, Taiwan notified WTO of intentions of IPPC for "wood and articles of wood" that enter the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu; an announcement to WTO on May 28, 2008 officially set the date of January 1, 2009 for enforcement of the Standard. NELMA highly recommends that current shipments to Taiwan meet the ISPM 15 regulations.
	October 23, 2009	Thailand notified WTO on August 24, 2009 of their intention to adopt ISPM 15 regulations for incoming packaging with a planned effective date of October 23, 2009. In addition, their draft "Rules, Procedures, and Conditions for the Importation of Wood Packaging Materials (B.E. 2552) states that "Wood packaging must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate." No USDA certificate exists at this time and hopefully that requirement will be rescinded before implementation date, or the acceptance of a "self-declaration" by the importer will be acceptable, in conjunction with the official IPPC stamp.
	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 as a date to be notified."
	January 1, 2006	Notified WTO of their intent to adopt and implement ISPM 15 for all wood packaging materials entering the country. Please note that Turkey has added the requirement for debarked wood to be used. USDA AAPHIS has approved this additional requirement in correspondence to Turkey, 12/2/04. According to USDA AAPHIS, the enforcement date has changed from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006.
	November 1, 2005 (tentatively)	No official announcement to WTO has been received, however, the General State Inspectorate for Quarantine and Plant Health (Ukrainian Ukrainskyy Karantyn) issued an announcement on 8/31/05 to the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) advising that "From 10/1/05, Ukrplovdzshkarantyn implements an obligatory marking on wood packaging material (IPPC ISPM No. 15) which will be imported into the territory of Ukraine from abroad" and "...it will come into force in the immediate future tentatively from November 1, 2005."
	Final Phase-In July 5, 2006	According to USDA AAPHIS, these territories are under the jurisdiction of the United States, therefore ISPM 15 standard and requirements for the US would apply. Shipments to these territories FROM 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. Refer to the link at the bottom of this table under "Useful Website Links" to view important NAPPO Importation information OR see the phase-in details section, also at the bottom of this table.
	Final Phase-In July 5, 2006	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 AAPHIS in coordination with the other NAPPO countries (Canada and Mexico). Refer to the website link below for details: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/report.html 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.
	June 1, 2005	According to USDA AAPHIS, Venezuela has published requirements adopting International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM15). The regulation goes into effect June 1, 2005.
	June 5, 2005	According to USDA AAPHIS, Vietnam has published requirements adopting International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM15).

Dunnage Requirements:

Effective immediately, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa are requiring materials used specifically as **dunnage** to be stamped with an IPPC-stamp logo instead of the previous method of using the HT stamp on each dunnage piece. As a result, USDA AAPHIS and ALSA have approved an IPPC-stamp 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/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

EU Countries (10 added 5/1/04): Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia

EU Countries 2 added 1/1/07: Bulgaria, Romania

U.S., Canada and Mexico - "Phase-In" Details For Wood Packaging Imported from Other Countries

NAPPO countries (U.S., Mexico, and Canada) have completed a phased-in approach to implement the ISPM15 Standard that has allowed additional time for the development of treatment and marking systems in countries that export products to North America.

Enforcement of the ISPM15 Standard for regulated wood packaging material entering North America began on September 16, 2005, with enforcement procedures conducted in three phases:

1. Wood packaging material (WPM) regulation began on July 5, 2006. All WPM must meet the import requirements and be free of timber pests before entering or transiting through the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. Importers and Suppliers of Imports are strongly encouraged to have all regulated WPM meet the ISPM 15 standard to avoid delays or rejection of WPM in cargo shipments at U.S., Canada, or Mexico ports of entry due to non-compliance of the ISPM 15 Standard.

2. 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.

Glossary of Acronyms:

ALSC - American Lumber Standard Committee

APHIS - Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA Agency)

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

NELMA - Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association

OSB - Oriented Strand Board

USDA - US Department of Agriculture

WPM - Wood Packaging Materials

WTO - World Trade Organization