



## Exporter's Guideline for Wood Packaging Material: ISPM No.15

### 1. What is ISPM no 15?

ISPM No 15 (International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures no 15) is a standard developed and endorsed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) which serves as a guideline for regulating wood packaging material in the international trade.

### 2. Why is wood packaging material regulated?

Wood packaging material is made of raw wood which originates from living or dead trees that may be infested by pests. This raw wood may not have undergone sufficient processing or treatment to remove or kill pests and as such, remain a pathway for the introduction and spread of quarantine pests. Regulating this material would reduce significantly the risk of introduction and spread of most quarantine pests that may be associated with the particular material.

### 3. What are the regulated wood packaging materials?

All packaging material such as pallets, crates, boxes, packing cases, dunnage, cable drums and spools/reels made from wood.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



**Figure 3.**



**Figure 4.**

#### **4. What are the exempted wood packaging materials?**

The following articles are of sufficiently low risk to be exempted from the provisions of ISPM 15 standard:

- Wood packaging material made entirely from thin wood (6 mm or less in thickness).
- Wood packaging made wholly of processed wood material, such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board or veneer that has been created using glue, heat or pressure, or a combination thereof.
- Barrels for wine and spirit that have been heated during manufacturing.
- Gift boxes for wine, cigars and other commodities made from wood that has been processed and/or manufactured in a way that renders it free of pests.
- Sawdust, wood shavings and wood wool;
- Wood components permanently attached to freight vehicles and containers.

#### **5. What are the approved treatments associated with wood packaging material?**

Approved measures consist of phytosanitary procedures including debarking, treatment (Heat Treatment, Dielectric Heating or Methyl Bromide) and marking of the wood packaging material.

**Heat treatment (HT):** Wood packaging material should be heated in accordance with a specific time-temperature schedule that achieves a minimum wood core temperature of 56 °C for a minimum of 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood.

**Dielectric Heating (DH):** Where dielectric heating is used (e.g. microwave), wood packaging material composed of wood not exceeding 20 cm when measured across the smallest dimension of the piece or the stack must be heated to achieve a minimum temperature of 60 °C for 1 continuous minute throughout the entire profile of the wood including its surface. The prescribed temperature must be reached within 30 minutes from the start of the treatment.

**Methyl Bromide (MB):** Wood packaging material must be fumigated with methyl bromide in accordance with a schedule that achieves the minimum concentration-time product over 24 hours at the temperature and final residual concentration. The minimum temperature of the wood and its surrounding atmosphere must be not less than 10°C and the minimum exposure time must be not less than 24 hours.

## **6. What are the marking requirements associated with wood packaging material?**

An **IPPC mark** indicating that wood packaging material has been subjected to approved phytosanitary treatment in accordance with ISPM 15 standard comprises the following required components:

- IPPC symbol
- Country code e.g. ZA for South Africa
- Producer/treatment provider code
- Treatment code using the appropriate abbreviation (HT, DH or MB)

### **Mark should be:**

- Legible, permanent and not transferable.
- Placed in a visible location, preferably on at least two opposite sides of the article being certified.
- Rectangular or square in shape.
- Surrounded by border lines with vertical line separating IPPC logo from country information.

- No other information shall be contained within the borders of the mark.
- Must not be hand drawn.
- No variations in the symbol/mark should be accepted.

#### Examples of acceptable MB and HT mark

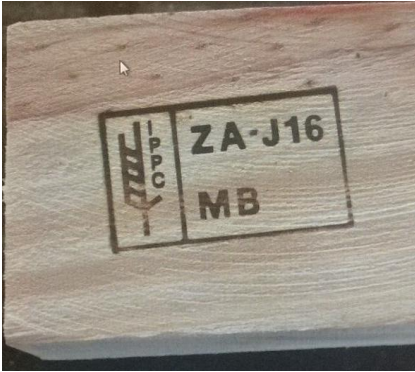


Figure 5.



Figure 6.

#### 7. Compliant wood packaging material should be:

- Treated and marked in accordance with ISPM No. 15 requirements by service providers registered with DAFF-DIS for ISPM No.15 compliance.
- Database of registered service providers is available on DAFF website, [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za). The database is regularly updated due to registration status changes as such Exporters are encouraged to regularly verify their service providers registration status to ensure compliance.
- Made of debarked wood and free from infestation.

#### 8. Consequences of non-compliances:

- Consignments will be rejected for export certification.
- Consignments will be intercepted by importing countries and returned to country of origin and/or treated at exporter's expense.
- Loss of export markets.

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