

CERTIFIED WOOD PACKAGING FOR EXPORT

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION-IPPC
International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures 15 – ISPM 15

Requirements for certified wood packaging used for export

Answers to frequently asked questions

The information contained in this brochure is as accurate as possible at the time of publication. Regulations may change. For the most recent information contact your licensed wood packaging professional:

The Canadian Wood Pallet and Container Association
Association Canadienne des Manufacturiers de Pallettes et Contenants

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International regulations

The International Plant Protection Convention mandates that wood packaging used in international trade must be treated to guard against the distribution of unwanted pests. For a Canadian exporter this means shipping product to any country other than the United States.

What is wood packaging?

Any type of packaging such as pallets, boxes, skids, crates, heavy/light packaging or supporting material (dunnage) made from raw wood materials

What is excluded from wood packaging materials?

Paper products, products manufactured using heat, glue and/or pressure (plywood, particle board, etc), sawdust, wood wool, shavings and raw wood 6mm or less in thickness

What is the requirement for wood packaging for export?

All wood packaging for export (except to the U.S.) must have been made from wood heat treated to a core temperature of 56°C for 30 minutes (either before or after manufacture)

What happens if I send product on wood packaging that is not ISPM 15 certified?

The importing country has three options to accept your product if shipped on non-certified ISPM 15 wood packaging.

1. quarantine and return to shipper on the next available transport ship – cost unknown but will include cost of dock space rental.
2. offer treatment of the non-certified wood packaging – estimated cost \$5000.00 USD – includes opening container and storage
3. cross-docking of your product from non-certified to certified ISPM 15 wood packaging. – cost unknown but considerable

ISPM 15 certification prior to shipping is the cheapest option if you export.

What is the difference between HT and KD?

Heat treating (HT) is a pasteurizing process. Kiln dried (KD) is moisture reduction. Your lumber can be HT or HT-KD. Lumber that is just KD is not eligible.

Who regulates this activity?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency represents the IPPC. The Forestry section of the CFIA licenses wood packaging suppliers.

Who can manufacture wood packaging eligible for export use?

Only companies licensed by the CFIA are eligible to manufacture ISPM 15 certified wood packaging. If your packaging supplier has a license he has demonstrated that he has a quality system in place to assure you and the CFIA that he can meet IPPC requirements. He will be subject to regular inspection by the CFIA.

How does your packaging professional certify the packaging?

Your supplier will provide their license number in the form of an approved IPPC stamp on at least two sides of the packaging. The stamp looks like this:

XX is the country of origin (Canada = CA)

000 is the license number

YY is the treatment

(Heat treated = HT)

(Heat treated dunnage = D-HT)

Who can heat treat wood packaging?

Companies licensed to manufacture wood packaging may also heat treat packaging using a heat treatment chamber or kiln (e.g. used or repaired packaging or packaging made from green or recycled lumber) and must stamp the packaging as above (previous stamps if any must be removed).

What about dunnage?

Dunnage is material used to support a package (e.g. in a container) and is not part of the package. It requires a separate stamp (D-HT) on two sides of each piece of dunnage.

What about used/repaired/recycled packaging?

Any used packaging bearing an approved IPPC stamp from any country may be considered heat treated and acceptable for reuse provided it is not repaired. If repaired, it must then be heat treated (no treatment required if shipped into U.S.A)

Packaging made from recycled lumber must be heat treated if used to ship product off shore. (no treatment required if shipped into U.S.A)

What are the special requirements for the United States?

The U.S. and Canada are considered one domestic market. A bilateral agreement between Canada and the United States allows packaging used between the countries to be exempt from the HT requirement.

When does all this take effect?

Twenty-three countries around the world including North America, Australia and New Zealand plus the European Union have implemented the IPPC-ISPM 15 control program for imports transported on wood packaging. Requirements and effective dates vary for other countries and continue to change. Consult your certified packaging professional for the latest information, or consult:



ACMPC™

The Canadian Wood Pallet and Container Association

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Or



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ISPM 15 Implementation Dates by country November 2005

Country *Implementation Date*

European Union	Adopted & Posted - no grace period
U.S.A.	Adopted and Posted – *extended phase-in compliance Feb. 1 st 2006
Canada	Adopted and Posted - *extended phase-in compliance Feb. 1 st 2006
Mexico	Adopted and Posted - *extended phase-in compliance Feb. 1 st 2006
Argentina	Adopted & Posted June 1, 2005
Australia	Adopted September 1, 2004 – Packing Certificate Required – bark-free issue
Bolivia	Adopted July 11, 2005
Brazil	Adopted July 11, 2005
Chile	Adopted June 1, 2005 – strict enforcement – requires debarked WPM
Colombia	Adopted September 16, 2005 – strict enforcement
Ecuador	Adopted September 30, 2005 – strict enforcement
Egypt	Adopted October 1, 2005
Guatemala	Adopted January 26, 2005 - strict enforcement Sept. 16, 2005
India	Adopted November 1, 2004
Nigeria	Adopted – requires ISPM 15
New Zealand	Adopted October 2003 – Packing Certificate Required – bark free issue
Peru	Adopted September 1, 2005
Philippines	Adopted January 2005, full June 1 st , 2005 – ISPM No. 15 after this date.
Panama	Adopted and Posted February 17, 2005
South Korea	Adopted and Posted – HT only from Canada/USA/Mexico
South Africa	Adopted January 1, 2005 – strict enforcement March 2005
Switzerland	Adopted March 1, 2005, ISPM 15, must be HT/MB, clearly marked
Turkey	Adopted & Implemented January 1 st , 2006, debarking required, ISPM 15
Venezuela	Adopted May 2, 2005 -

China	accepting ISPM 15, planning for January 1, 2006 implementation, Packing certificate required.
Costa Rica	Proposed to adopt March 19, 2006
Dominican Republic	Proposed to adopt March 1, 2006
Japan	conducting risk assessment, export certification system in place,
Hong Kong	Export certification in place – ISPM No. 15 accepted with Packing Certification
Indonesia	Not likely to comply in 2005, phytosanitary certificate required - MB is still accepted and preferred
Jamaica	Export certification system in place, will accept ISPM No. 15 mark
Mauritius	Not likely before end of 2005
Morocco	Export certification system in place, ISPM 15 accepted
Norway	not as yet posted
Peru	TBA
Singapore	Recommends acceptance ISPM 15, but do not enforce. Phytosanitary Certificates will meet Singaporean needs as an interim measure.
Sri Lanka	TBA
Taiwan	Fall 2005 – ISPM No. 15 requested – must be heat treated or fumigated, clearly marked
Thailand	TBA
Tonga	TBA
Uganda/Tanzania	TBA
United Arab Emirates	Fall 2005 – not as yet posted
Zimbabwe	Unknown

- **European Union countries include** – Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Channel Islands, Czech Rep., French Southern States, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, French Guiana, French Southern States, Germany, Gibraltar, Great Britain, Monaco, Greece, Guadeloupe, Hungary, Ireland, Ireland North, Isle of man, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Martinique, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Saint Pierre, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.