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New Regulation for Wood Packaging Material - ISPM 15

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On October 1, 2009 Israel will implement the international standards criterion for importing and exporting wood packaging, known as **ISPM 15**. This rule states that on October 1, 2009 all regulated Wood Packaging Material (WPM) entering Israel must be appropriately treated and marked under the official program. With this, Israel joins an extensive and emerging list of 65 countries, requiring adherence to the **ISPM 15** Standards.

General Information:

The Israeli Ministry of Agriculture (MOAG) decided recently to adopt a new regulation regarding imported wood packing material (WPM).

While in the past, just a few countries, like New Zealand and Australia imposed limitations on imports of WPM, nowadays new regulations are common in almost 65 countries, like the United States, the EU, Canada, China and more.

The new regulation requires a special treatment, by fumigation or by heat treatment to all wood that is part of an

imported shipment.

Compliance with **ISPM 15** allows for two wood treatment options:

- Methyl Bromide (MB) Fumigation or Heat Treatment. With the MB treatment, the wood packaging material is fumigated with methyl bromide. The MB treatment will be applied as follows:

Temperature (C°)	Concentration (1gr/1m ³)	Treatment Duration (hrs)
+21	48	16
+16	56	16
+11	64	16

- Heat Treatment (HT) of wood packaging material must be heated so that the wood reaches a minimum core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Israel's official gazette published the rule on March 25, 2009, and announced it will be enforced as from **October 1st 2009**. On this date, all imported wood packaging material as described below must be subject to the **ISPM 15** regulation.

- Wood packaging material: in the form of packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, pallets, box pallets and other load boards, pallet collars, actually in use in the transport of objects of all kinds, except raw wood of 6 mm thickness or less, and processed wood produced by glue, heat and pressure, or a combination thereof.
- Wood used to wedge or support non-wood cargo, including that which has not kept its natural round surface, except raw wood of 6 mm thickness or less and processed wood produced by glue, heat and pressure, or a combination thereof.

Under the regulations, foreign exporters must use wood packaging certified by an authorized agency.

To certify treatment, the WPM must be marked with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) logo. Paper certificates of treatment will no longer be required or accepted.

ISPM 15 compliant stamp

Timber packing and dunnage bearing the mark below is certified as having been subjected to an **ISPM 15** approved treatment.

ISPM 15 mark

An **ISPM 15** compliant mark must include:

- **IPPC** certification symbol.
- **XX**: represents the two letter ISO country code (e.g. IL for Israel, AU for Australia, US for United States, NZ for New Zealand, GB for United Kingdom).
- **000**: represents the unique certification number issued by AQIS to the treatment provider or wood packaging manufacturer. Inclusion of this certification number ensures that the wood packaging material can be traced back to the treatment provider and/or manufacturer.

- **YY**: is the treatment abbreviation where:
 - **HT** is the code for heat treatment to a minimum of 56° C for a minimum of 30 minutes
 - **MB** is the code for methyl bromide fumigation.

The letters 'DB' represent debarking. DB may be added to the abbreviation of the **ISPM 15** approved treatment. For example, 'HT DB' represents heat treatment and debarking and 'MB DB' represents methyl bromide fumigation and debarking.

Note

WPM that does not meet these requirements will be delayed at the port of entry. Importers whose consignments do not meet these requirements will have the option to have the shipment re-exported.

Shipments containing WPM that violate the rule may be allowed entry only if the Israeli Customs Authority or The Plant Protection and Inspection Services (**PPIS**) (www.ppis.moag.gov.il/ppis) determines that it is possible to separate the approved material from the noncompliant portion of the shipment.

Arrangements to have the noncompliant WPM exported from Israel or treated would be required before the approved cargo can be released to the consignee.

All costs associated with this process are the responsibility of the importer.