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# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

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## Thailand

**Post:** Bangkok

### **New WPM Import Regulation Notified**

**Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

TH9128 New import regulation on wood packaging material (WPM) is notified to WTO. Importation will require both a phytosanitary certificate and a certified mark on all WPM, effective likely in May 2010.

## **WPM regulation notified WTO**

On August 24, 2009 the RTG notified WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary committee regarding the determination of wood packaging material (WPM) as a restricted article ([G/SPS/N/THA/180](#)) and the new import regulation on WPM ([G/SPS/N/TH/181](#)), as attached (Appendix 1 and 2). The notification reflects that WPM is categorized as a restricted article under the Plant Quarantine Act. B.E. 2507 (1964), 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment by Plant Quarantine Act B.E. 2551 (2008).

## **Import with WPM requires both PC and mark**

The import of any goods and commodities which are covered by WPM as packages or containers must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the conditions that WPM must be free from pests (Anobiidae, Bostrichidae, Buprestidae, Cerambycidae, Isopetera, Lyctidae, Dedemeridae, Scolytidae, Siricidae, and Bursaphelenchus), and must be debarked. In addition, it must be treated with approved methods of treatment recommended in the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM). The WPM that is treated must be officially endorsed with a certified mark by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of that country.

## **Effective likely in May 2010**

The regulation will likely be effective in May 2010 as it will take sixty days of circulation of the notification for comments from WTO members, and six months when published in the Royal Gazette.

## **Impact of new WPM regulation**

Despite increasing trend of non-wood packaging materials, WPM still involve 60 percent of total import of goods and commodities. In 2008, total U.S. exports to Thailand were valued at \$9.1 billion (\$1.1 billion agriculture, and \$8.0 billion non-agriculture). Implementation of the new regulation is expected to affect trade due to the PC requirement.

## **Appendix 1: Notification on the Determination of WPM as Restricted Articles**



### **Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives On the Determination of Wood Packaging Materials as Restricted Articles**

**B.E.....**

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By virtue of the power vested in accordance with the provisions referred to in Section 6 of the Plant Quarantine Act B.E. 2507, amended by the Plant Quarantine Act (No.3) B.E. 2551 whereas this Act contains certain provisions in relation to the restriction of rights and liberties of persons in respect of which section 32, Section 33, Section 41 and Section 43 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand so permit by virtue of law, the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives by the recommendations of the Plant Quarantine Committee hereby promulgates the determination of wood packaging materials as restricted articles as follows :

1. Wood packaging materials mean articles or materials constructed from wood associated, in use as packages or equipment and materials, with being in part of the movement in international trade. The following articles or materials are not included as wood packaging materials :

1.1 Wood packaging materials made of wood of less than 6 mm in thickness.

1.2 Wood packaging materials which have been created using heat, pressure and glue or a combination thereof. For example, plywood, particle board, oriented strand board and veneer.

1.3 Barrels for spirit or wine which have been heated during manufacture.

1.4 Gift boxes for wine, cigars or other commodities made from wood that has been processed in a way that renders it free of pests.

1.5 Wood components permanently attached to freight vehicles and containers.

2. Provide that wood packaging materials shall be restricted articles.

3. The importation of wood packaging materials must be in compliance with the rules, procedure and conditions as stipulated by the Director General.

This Notification shall be effective six months after its publication in the Royal Gazette.

Promulgated on .....B.E. 2552

**Appendix 2: Notification for the Importation of WPM**



**Notification of the Department of Agriculture  
On the Determination of Rules, Procedures and Conditions  
For the Importation of Wood Packaging Materials  
B.E. 2552**

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In accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Notification on the Determination of Wood Packaging Materials as Restricted Articles B.E.....dated....., prescribing that the importation of wood packaging materials must be in compliance with the requirements stipulated by the Director General. By the virtue of power vested in accordance with Section 3 of such Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Notification, the Director General then lays down the rules, procedures and conditions to control the importation of wood packaging materials as follows :

1. Procedures for importation of wood packaging materials

1.1 The imported commodity that is covered by wood packaging materials as packages or containers shall be notified of such import to the Officer at the plant quarantine point of entry.

1.2 Such imported commodity described in item 1.1 shall be subject to be inspected by the Officer for detecting pests from the imported wood packaging materials.

1.3 Wood packaging materials must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Part of disinfestation and /or disinfection treatment must be specified in accordance with item 2.3.

2. Conditions for the importation of wood packaging materials

2.1 Must be free from pests as annexed to this Notification.

2.2 Must be debarked wood.

2.3 Must be treated with any approved methods of treatment as recommended in the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) as follows :

2.3.1 Fumigation

Wood must be fumigated with methyl bromide in accordance with a schedule specified at the

following rates. The gas concentrations must be carried out at any specific exposure times and such concentrations must be measured not less than that of specified.

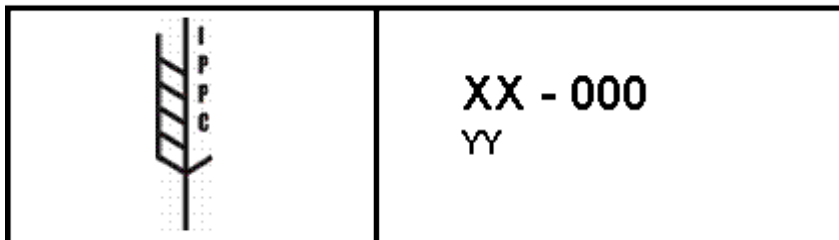
Temperature ( ° C)	Dosage ( g/m <sup>3</sup> )	Minimum concentration ( g/m <sup>3</sup> ) at time (hour)			
		2 hours	4 hours	12 hours	24 hours
21 ° C or above	48	36	31	28	24
16 ° C or above	56	42	36	32	28
10 ° C or above	64	48	42	36	32

### 2.3.2 Heat treatment

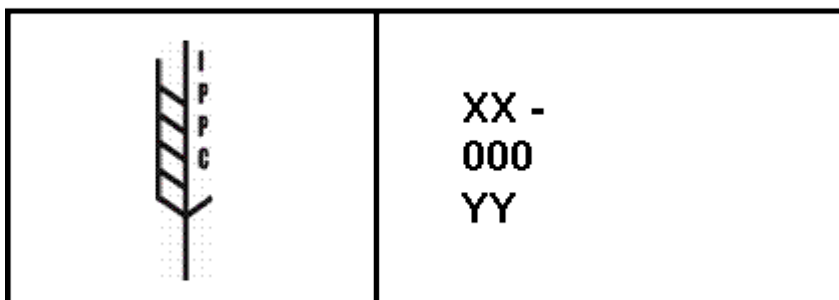
Wood packaging materials must be heated to a minimum internal wood core temperature of 56 ° C for a minimum of 30 continuous minutes.

2.3.3 Wood packaging materials that have been treated by one of the methods already specified must be officially endorsed with a certified mark by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of that country from which the wood packaging materials originates. The marks must be depicted by one of the shown examples as follows;

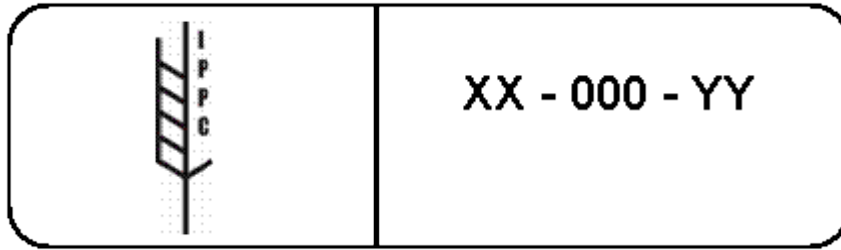
Mark 1



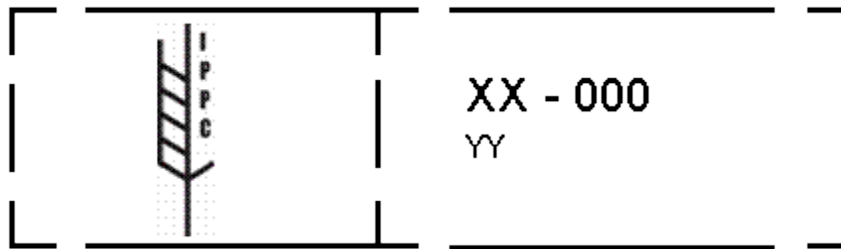
Mark 2



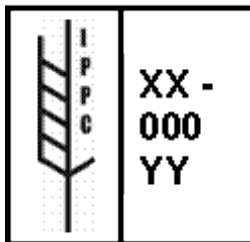
Mark 3



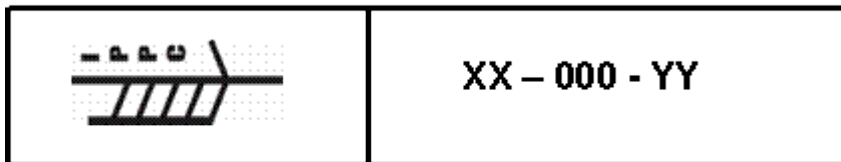
Mark 4



Mark 5



Mark 6



- The certified mark must have the following details:

- a) IPPC logo
- b) ISO two-letter country code (shown as “XX”) i.e. TH for Thailand.
- c) Official certification number code issued to the producer or treatment provider (shown as “000”)
- d) Treatment code (shown as “yy”) i.e. MB for methyl bromide ; HT for heat treatment

3. In case where the result of inspection is deemed by the Officer that it is in compliance with the rules, procedures and conditions of this Notification, the Officer shall issue Form P.Q. 6 to the importer for customs formalities clearance.

4. In case where the imported wood packaging materials are not in compliance with the requirements prescribed by the Director General, such commodity and wood packaging materials shall be subject to one of the following enforcement measures :

4.1 Refuse entry of imported commodity, in the case where wood packaging materials cannot be removed from the commodity or the treatment may cause damage to the commodity.

4.2 Order treatment with methyl Bromide according to the rates specified in item 2.3.1, when the segregation of commodity and wood packaging materials is permitted to do so and the treatment may not cause any damage to the commodity.

4.3 Destroy such commodity and wood packaging materials when serious pest occurrence is found or it is not made possible for re-export.

5. The importer shall be liable for all incurred expenses in relation to treatment, destruction or other means of actions.

Promulgated on dated..... B.E. 2552

End of report