

WOOD PACKAGING PROGRAM UPDATE

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Background

On October 1, 2001, the European Union implemented new import requirements on softwood packaging materials. This was in response to an increase in the number of interceptions of the pinewood nematode. The European Union recognized three different options that would mitigate the risk of pinewood nematode. These were heat treatment to a core temperature of 56 degrees for 30 minutes, fumigation with an approved chemical by a certified facility, and pressure treatment with an approved chemical in a certified facility. At that time, there were no International Standards for non manufactured wood packaging. The European Union was the first group of countries to initiate import requirements for non manufactured wood. A certification mark was developed (called the no bug logo) which would identify the wood packaging material as being treated according to EU requirements.

In March, 2002, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) adopted a packaging standard (ISPM No 15) which set international guidelines for the international movement of non manufactured wood. This standard recognizes plant health risks associated with wood packaging and outlines approved phytosanitary measures. The standard recommends that all wood packaging be treated and marked in a manner to identify the approved treatment and provide traceability to the country of origin and production facility.

The IPPC is an international treaty whose purpose is to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and to promote measures for their control. There are currently over 120 countries that are members of this organization.

To meet these new international standards, Canada has developed and implemented two policies, one for the export of wood packaging materials, which is contained in CFIA policy directives D-03-02 and D-01-05. The other is the CFIA import policy which can be found in D-98-08.

There are basic similarities in the new Canadian policy which is based on the international standard, and the former EU import requirements. These are mandatory treatment, a certification mark, paperless export, some is bark permitted, and heat treatment, with government oversight.

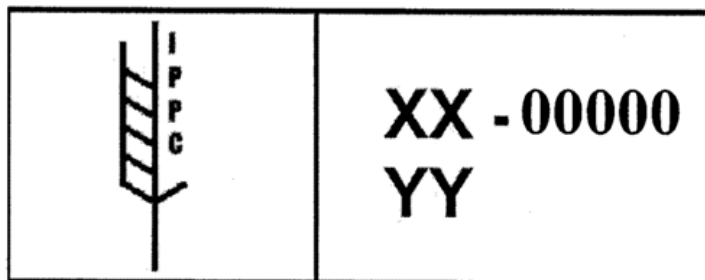
Differences between the two programs include: 1) Treatment requirements now apply to hardwood also; 2. Chemical impregnation is not currently considered an approved treatment; 3. The standards apply to all countries choosing to adopt these requirements; 4. The new standards now apply to dunnage; 5. The standard affects both Canadian import and export policies.

Update

The 3 NAPPO member countries (Mexico, Canada and the U.S) provided official notification to the World Trade Organization of their intentions to adopt the new standard, and enforce these new regulations starting on September 16, 2005. Many other countries, such as Brazil, India, South Africa, New Zealand and the European Union are already enforcing new import requirements based on ISPM No 15.

CFIA has recently updated policy D-01-05 to include provisions for hardwood lumber and dunnage, to provide for a new mark, and to address the bilateral agreements with the United States.

The currently recognized treatment mark, as per the new international guidelines, shows the following: symbol resembling a wheat sheaf (stack of pallets), XX = country code, 00000 = facility registration number, YY = type of treatment (HT or Mbr). The no bug mark is now discontinued.



An operational directive, PI-07, which outlines heat treatment schedules for kiln operators for both hardwood and softwood of various thicknesses has been developed.

The Canadian Wood Packaging Certification program currently has approximately 350 registered facilities nationally, with the following area breakdown: Western Canada 29%, Ontario 47%, Quebec 17%, Atlantic Canada 5%.

Canada's import policy, D-98-08 was updated June, 2005 and follows the international standards. It recognizes the approved treatments of Heat Treatment to a core temperature of 56 degrees celcius for 30 minutes, and Methyl Bromide. It provides the import requirements for both hardwood and softwood, and if the wood packaging is stamped with the IPPC stamp, there is no requirement for paper certification.

For more information on these policies, please visit the following web pages:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/dir/d-01-05e.shtml>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/dir/d-03-02e.shtml>

The international standard is willing to consider some CPI treatments. Certain CPI treatments are generally believed to be very effective but at present lack experimental data concerning efficacy which would allow them to be approved measures. This present lack of data is specifically in relation to the elimination of raw wood pests present at the time of application of the treatment.

Interested parties can get in touch with the **Forest Quarantine Research Group** of the IPPC to find out what is required specifically to evaluate the efficacy of this treatment to determine if it can be a recognized treatment under ISPM No 15. Please visit the following web site for more information. www.forestry-quarantine.org