

ISPM 15

International Standards For Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM 15) is an International Phytosanitary Measure developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that directly addresses the need to treat wood materials of a thickness greater than 6mm, used to ship products between countries. Its main purpose is to prevent the international transport and spread of disease and insects that could negatively affect plants or ecosystems. ISPM 15 affects all wood packaging material (pallets, crates, dunnages, etc.) requiring that they be debarked and then heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and stamped or branded,^[1] with a mark of compliance. This mark of compliance is colloquially known as the "wheat stamp". Products exempt from the ISPM 15 are made from alternative material, like paper, plastic or wood panel products (i.e. OSB, hardboard, and plywood).

1 ISPM 15 revision

The Revision of ISPM No. 15 (2009) under Annex 1,^[2] requires that wood used to manufacture ISPM 15 compliant Wood Packaging must be made from debarked wood^[3] not to be confused with bark free wood. ISPM 15 was updated to adopt the bark restriction regulations proposed by the European Union in 2009. Australia held out for approximately one year with more stringent bark restrictions before conforming July 1, 2010

1.1 Debarked wood packaging

Wood packaging materials must be debarked prior to being heat treated or fumigated to meet ISPM 15 regulations. The debarking component of the regulation is to prevent the re-infestation of insects while lumber is sitting to be manufactured, or even after it has been manufactured. The official definition for debarked lumber according to the ISPM 15 Revision (2009) is:

"Irrespective of the type of treatment applied, wood packaging material must be made of debarked wood. For this standard, any number of visually separate and clearly distinct small pieces of bark may remain if they are: - less than 3 cm in width (regardless of the length) or - greater than 3 cm in width, with the total surface area of an individual piece of bark less than 50 square cm."

1.2 Argument for bark removal

What are the post treatment levels of infestation (with and without bark) compared with pre-treatment levels? Overall, from the studies presented there is either: a) no significant difference between infestation levels of treated and untreated wood; or b) differences identified are related to the species of insect which may prefer treated or untreated wood. Supporting information from a North American study (IFQRG 2005-27) is summarised in the Table below ^[5] (Data are numbers of beetles per cm²):

1.3 ISPM Marking

- IPPC certification symbol.
- XX: represents the two letter ISO country code or ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code (e.g. AU for Australia, US for United States, NZ for New Zealand, GB for United Kingdom).
- 00: represents the unique certification number issued to NPPOs (regulating agencies that oversee the individual wood packaging manufacturers). Inclusion of this certification number ensures that the wood packaging material can be traced back to the NPPO/auditing agency.
- 1111: represents the unique certification number issued to the treatment provider and/or manufacturer. Inclusion of this certification number ensures that the wood packaging material can be traced back to the treatment provider and/or the manufacturer.
- YY: represents the treatment applied to the wood packaging material:
 - HT is the code for heat treatment to a minimum of 56°C (133°F) for a minimum of 30 minutes
 - MB is the code for methyl bromide fumigation.
- DUN: represents the code for when the solid wood material is used for dunnage. The "DUN" Dunnage code is not applied to manufactured wood packaging, only loose lumber/timbers to help secure products being shipped.

The ISPM 15 compliant stamp may include further information as producers and suppliers may choose to include additional information for identification purposes.

2 Countries participating in ISPM 15

Although this is only a reference, confirmation with the export authority when exporting to another country is required. This is a complete list as of July 1, 2010.

Countries and their approximate ISPM 15 Adoption Date:

- Argentina: June 2006
- Australia: Sept 2004; Complete Adoption: July 2010
- Bolivia: July 2005
- Brazil: June 2005
- Bulgaria: Jan 2006
- Canada: Sept 2005 (US-Canada exemption)
- Chile: June 2005
- China: Jan 2006
- Colombia: Sept 2005
- Costa Rica: Mar 2006
- Cuba: Oct 2008
- Dominican Republic: July 2006
- Ecuador: Sept 2005
- Egypt: Oct 2005
- European Union: Mar 2005
 - Austria
 - Belgium
 - Bulgaria
 - Croatia
 - Cyprus
 - Czech Republic
 - Denmark
 - Estonia
 - Finland
 - France
 - Germany
 - Greece
 - Hungary

- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom.

- Guatemala: Sept 2005
- Honduras: Feb 2006
- India: Nov 2004
- Indonesia: Sept 2009
- Israel: June 2009
- Jamaica: January 2011
- Japan: Apr 2007
- Jordan: Nov 2005
- Kenya: Jan 2006
- Lebanon: Mar 2006
- Malaysia: Jan 2010
- Mexico: Sept 2005
- New Zealand: April 2003
- Nicaragua: Feb 2006
- Nigeria: Sept 2004
- Norway: July 2008
- Oman: Dec 2006
- Paraguay: June 2005

- Peru: Mar 2005
- Philippines: June 2005
- Seychelles: Mar 2006
- South Africa: Jan 2005
- South Korea: June 2005
- Sri Lanka: Mar 2004
- Switzerland: Mar 2005
- Syria: April 2006
- Thailand: February 2010
- Taiwan: Jan 2009
- Ethiopia 2006
- Trinidad & Tobago: July 2010
- Turkey: Jan 2006
- United States
- Ukraine: Oct 2005
- Venezuela: June 2005
- Vietnam: June 2005