



International Phytosanitary Standards

Wooden packaging for international transport

(In particular pallets)

Standard ISPM 15

To limit the transmission of parasites when goods are exchanged, Directive **ISPM 15** of the IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) requires that an insecticide treatment be applied to wood originating from a country infested by xylophages. This means that the following treatment and special marking are required for wooden pallets:



- Heat treatment (**HT**) at 56 °C at the centre of the wood for at least 30 minutes or,
- CH₃Br (Methyl bromide **MB**) fumigation, complying with the concentrations, duration and temperatures.
- The marking must comply with the specifications laid down in Appendix II of ISPM 15: the IPPC logo, the 2-letter ISO country code, the manufacturer's ID number, the ID number for the approved measure used, HT or MB, and if removal of the bark is required, **DB** (Debarked).

Wooden chocker must also be stamped with this information. In any event, they must at least be manufactured from debarked wood.

Please note :

Packaging materials made entirely of wooden products, such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board (OSB) or veneer made using glue, heat and pressure or a combination of these techniques, are considered to have been sufficiently treated to eliminate the risk associated with rough timber.

For China, Australia and New Zealand

China : adoption of ISPM 15 since January 2006, abolition of the phytosanitary certificate

Australia and New Zealand : a specific certificate of treatment against "Sirex" could be requested

Marking reliability ?

If we set aside false markings, can markings alone be trusted?

Although heat treatment and fumigation procedures have no residual or persistent insecticide effect, a pallet treated and marked in accordance with the standard is deemed to have been treated with no time limit. Furthermore, the markings do not specify the date the wood was treated.

A pallet that has been treated and stored may be contaminated afterwards by wood parasites, either in the country of origin, or in one of the many countries where this wood will circulate during the life of the pallet.

However, a marking assuring that the pallet has been treated does, in itself, give a free hand for pallets. It reduces the mistrust of international organisations, particularly if the pallets have been little used.

Affixing an expiry date for the treatment would be effective in limiting the risks associated with the spread of parasites. At present, nothing has been done, but we hope that the contributors to these standards will look into the problem.

→ Heat treatment trail:

This system involves paint that changes colour as soon as the temperature exceeds 70 °C. To heat the centre of the wood to 56 °C, the air temperature must be at least 70 °C. Reaching 70 °C changes the colour of the paint from white to a bright red-pink.

Pallet furnace
(Source <http://planetpal.net>)



Other wooden packaging

