

KEY RULES FOR WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS ENTERING THE EUROPEAN UNION

In order to ensure the safety of food as well as protection of consumers, the European Commission gathered requirements for wood packaging material and this legislation entered into force in March 2005. These regulations were conducted in line with international plant health standards and were introduced especially to prevent potentially harmful plant pests from entering the European Union.

Scope

Wood packaging material in use: Wood or wood products (excluding paper products) used in the transport of objects of all kinds for supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity. This includes crates, drums, packing cases, load boards and pallets.

Dunnage for non-wood cargo: Wood is used to wedge or support a non-wood commodity but which does not remain associated with the commodity.

The following measures are required to be taken for wood packaging material and dunnage entering the EU from all third countries¹:

- The wood must be either **heat treated** or **fumigated with methyl bromide**, in line with ISPM15 procedures;
- The wood must be officially marked with the **ISPM15 stamp**;
- All wood packaging material imported into EU will be **debarked**.

¹ Except Switzerland

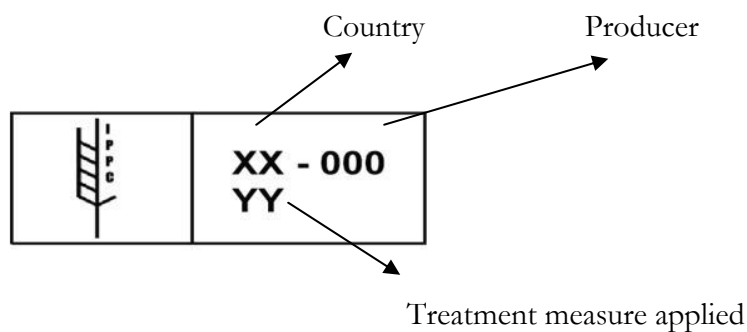
However, these requirements **do not apply to**:

- Wood of 6mm thickness or less;
- Wood packaging material made entirely from processed wood produced using glue, heat and pressure, such as plywood, oriented strand board and veneer;
- Wood packaging material used in intra-Community trade.

Importantly, dunnage must meet the same criteria as wood packaging material.

ISPM15 Mark

All wood packaging material entering the European Union is supposed to carry the ISPM15 mark that can be recognized by the IPPC logo and 3 codes including the country, producer and treatment measure applied code (see picture below).



In case of debarked wood, letters 'DB' should also be included. The main purpose of this mark is to easily verify if any wood fulfills the particular requirements. Moreover, the mark should be legible, visible, permanent and non-transferable. The use of the ISPM15 mark must be approved by the National Plant Protection Organization or an organization that is officially delegated by the NPPO.

For more information visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm - European Commission

<https://www.ippc.int/> - International Plant Protection Convention

<http://www.spc.int/pps/ispm.htm> - International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures

<http://eppo.org/> - European and Mediterranean Plant Protect Organization

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