



ISPM 15 Update (April 15, 2004)



Countries with implementation changes since last update (March 25, 2004):

Australia

April 2, 2004, the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) released a quarantine alert in which they proposed inserting ISPM 15 into their current import requirements for solid wood packaging (similar to the way New Zealand handled the standard). However, AQIS seems to intend to introduce the following additional conditions that are not part of ISPM 15:

- Must be bark-free.
- More rigorous MB fumigation schedule.
- Mandatory packing declaration.

Proposed implementation date of these new requirements is 01 July 2004.

India

India's Ministry of Agriculture has notified WTO of their intention to adopt ISPM 15 and is currently working to finalize their implementation. Their proposed date of implementation is not yet determined. Right now, exporters are being encouraged to use ISPM 15-compliant wood packaging.

Mexico

According to Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) staff, Mexico is going to release its final rule before the end of the year. However, they say Mexico's import requirements for solid wood packaging will not be implemented until middle of 2005.

Other News

The International Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), the governing body of the IPPC, conducted its sixth session last week (Mar 29 – Apr 02, 2004). Among the ISPM 15 issues discussed were the emerging deviations from the requirements of the standard by some countries and the disparity in ability among participating countries to comply. There was no discussion about timelines in implementation of ISPM 15.

Current info for other countries that have begun implementation process:

Brazil

In March 2004, Brazil's Secretary for Plant and Animal Health Protection announced emergency requirements that began ISPM 15 implementation retroactively to January 2004.

Canada

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) started implementing their new regulation starting January 2004. Wood packaging imported from the U.S. is exempt from treatment and marking.

China

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSI) has not decided when it will implement their new regulation for imported solid wood packaging. In discussions with APHIS, they indicated there would be an advance notice for implementation and a phase-in period. For now heat treatment with certification through APHIS is the only recognized method for softwood; hardwood is exempt but still requires certification (we recommend use of the NC-US voluntary mark).

European Union

The European Commission announced it is delaying its implementation for ISPM 15 enforcement, but no date has yet been set. For now, its 2-year old emergency requirements for solid wood packaging are in effect. Softwood must be treated and marked (for details visit www.palletcentral.com, Legislation/Regulations, International Regulations, European Union). The NC-US mark is still acceptable for untreated hardwood.

Japan

Japan is no longer considering ISPM 15 in the foreseeable future.

Korea

The Korean National Plant Quarantine Service has published its rule adopting ISPM 15. They intend for their regulation to go into effect June 1, 2005. At this time, they will only accept heat treatment for coniferous wood; hardwood can be fumigated or heat treated.

Switzerland

Switzerland is the first non-EU member that has passed legislation adopting ISPM 15. They say implementation will start July 1, 2004.

United States

As of January 2004, APHIS began encouraging all importers to use ISPM 15-compliant wood packaging in anticipation of future implementation of the regulation. The final rule is expected to be released by the third quarter of 2004 with a one-year grace period before enforcement penalties are levied.

New Zealand

New Zealand has fully implemented and is enforcing ISPM 15.

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