

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

FIELD OPERATIONS, NEW YORK

JFK AIRPORT | NEW YORK/NEWARK

INFORMATIONAL PIPELINE NO. 04-006

TO : All Brokers, Importers and Others Concerned

SUBJECT : New Export Requirements For Wood Packaging Materials

DATE : February 25, 2004

NEW EXPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS

A number of countries have begun to draft regulations for wood packaging materials in line with the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM15). APHIS has entered into a memorandum of understanding with both the American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC) and the National Wood Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) to oversee the official programs of heat treatment or fumigation and the marking of the materials. For information as well as details pertaining to heat treatment and marking requirements, contact ALSC at 301-972-1700. For details pertaining to fumigation and marking requirements, contact NWPCA at 703-519-6104.

US IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL

APHIS has published a Draft Rule for new requirements concerning the importation of wood packaging material. The comment period for the rule ended on July 21, 2003 (see below). APHIS is currently finalizing the Rule based on these comments. APHIS was targeting January 1, 2004, for implementation; however, this target implementation date is now being adjusted to April or May of 2004. In anticipation of finalization of the Rule, APHIS is encouraging all importers to meet the conditions of ISPM 15 and the Draft Rule which require that all wood packaging material be appropriately treated and marked under an official program developed and overseen by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) in the country of export. Even though APHIS is not anticipating the finalization of the Rule until later in 2004, they will start issuing notices to the NPPO's for material not appropriately treated and marked starting in January of 2004. These notices will clearly state their intention of implementation later in the year and will serve as an information dissemination tool. No additional action will be taken on non-compliant material at this time. APHIS will follow its current policy for wood packaging material until the new Rule goes into effect. (This Notice Posted: October 30, 2003.)

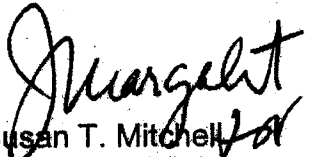
Vigilance ★ *Service* ★ *Integrity*

CHINA

As of September 24, 2003, please be advised that Solid Wood Packing Regulations for US SWPM to Peoples Republic of China have NOT changed. There is no new requirement or authorization at this time for the fumigation of either softwood or hardwood packing materials destined to China. For current certification information of solid wood packing materials destined to China either follow the link to China or visit <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/chinaswp/chinarule.html>. The China web page will be updated with new information as official information is received.

To gain access to a copy of the proposed rule change by USDA, please go to their WEB site at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp/ and double click on the heading "USDA Proposed Rule" listed as the second bullet under the title IMPORT.

To gain access to a copy of ISPM 15 (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures – Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade), please access the International Phytosanitary Portal site at www.ippc.int/IPP/En/Isprm.isp.


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