



ISPM15. Where will it get me?

Over 90% of all packaging used in global transport is made from timber. It is the UK's most popular material for transport and packaging, giving you an unbeatable combination of strength and practicality, as well as a way of protecting your goods that's environmentally sound.

Timber pallets and packaging have been subject to plant health controls when crossing international borders, often resulting in costly and frustrating delays. This is where ISPM15 comes in. It is now the internationally agreed standard for the treatment of all forms of packaging made from solid wood. It helps protect the world's forests from disease and your trade from delays.



It's a passport for your packaging. Already recognised in the UK, EU, and North America, the scheme is now being implemented across the world, with China having become a signatory in January 2006.

What is the threat?

There are many wood-borne pests. Of particular concern are Pine Wood Nematode*, and the Asian Longhorn Beetle**, native to China and now found in Canada, the USA and Austria, France and Germany. Eradication is underway, but these pests pose a serious threat to forests and woodlands. Forest Health professionals are concerned about this non-native pest and over \$168 million dollars have already been spent combating the problem in the USA. ISPM15 provides a standard which, through heat treatment or fumigation, will minimise the risk that these pests are carried across borders by wooden pallets or packaging.

Plain sailing for your cargo

When exporting goods it's important to ensure your cargo conforms with ISPM15, as the freight forwarding industry regards goods for export as the shipper's responsibility.

Conforming to ISPM15 avoids delays and additional expenses for everyone involved and gives you full confidence that your goods comply with the country of destination's import regulations.

The unique number of the manufacturer, marked on all cases, pallets or dunnage, provides traceability and allows the booking clerk to verify that the number and the name of the sender and packer comply – which can prevent shipments being held up at the port of entry.

The ISPM15 standard achieves a smooth passage between you and your consignee and helps to maintain timber's dominant position in worldwide transport and packaging.

What if your shipper doesn't know about ISPM15?

If your cargo doesn't conform, or the shipper is unaware of what ISPM15 means, then the freight forwarder should put the shipper in touch with a local export packer who is a member of the UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme.

In the long term it's important that the freight forwarder or shipping line notify the client of import regulations that apply to the country of entry.

Imports into the UK and EEC countries

It's in everyone's interests that ISPM15 is communicated to and understood by all the links in the trading chain. It greatly reduces the chance of delays as Forestry Commission Plant Health Inspectors attempt to examine freight containers entering the country for compliant wood packaging.

If everyone met this standard the wood packaging industry could meet all environmental regulations and continue to facilitate the movement of goods with ease worldwide.

What are plant protection organisations?

Under a world trade agreement member countries have the right to impose phytosanitary measures to protect human, plant and animal health. As a result governments have established PPOs to implement effective controls, facilitating increased global trade. In the UK our PPO is the Forestry Commission.

This inter-country co-operation is helping to minimise the spread of new pests and diseases.

The Plant Health Service

A significant proportion of the UK's timber is imported from sustainably managed forests in Scandinavia, Russia, the Baltic States and Canada, and much of it will carry certification. ISPM15 provides the worldwide controls covering the timber's conversion into pallets and packaging.

Considerable work is underway on the harmonisation of standards and procedures within Europe. The Plant Health Service aims to protect the forests and the timber industry of Great Britain and the European Union by:

Establishing and implementing the rules governing the import and export of trees and forest products and their transportation within the EU

Inspecting the shipments of goods from outside the EU

Recording the companies, organisations

and traders moving timber products

within the FU

Conducting forest surveys to ensure any new pests are found, and controlling those already in existence

Restricting movement of timber and timber products from infested areas to non-infested areas.



For more information: www.forestry.gov.uk

The UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme (UKWPMMP)

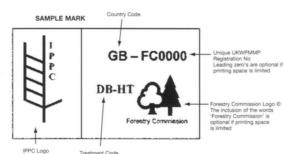
The wood marking programme ensures that ISPM15 wooden packaging is available to help the trouble-free movement of goods worldwide.

The programme is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission and The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, and is administered by Timcon (The Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation).

The IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) mark has to be on ISPM15 compliant packaging.

The ISPM15 standard allows wood packaging to be shipped to any country that recognises the standard without further certification.

The mark: Country code:
e.g. GB or NI plus a four digit
producer code
Appropriate treatment code:
DB/HT (debarked and heat treated)
or DB/MB debarked and fumigated
with Methyl Bromide)



Heat treatment

For plant health purposes, heat treatment involves heating the timber to a minimum

56°C at the core of the wood for a minimum period of 30 minutes.





Fumigation

Fumigation is treatment with a chemical that reaches the timber primarily in a gaseous state. Only treatment with Methyl Bromide is currently recognised as effective against harmful organisms at all stages of development.

The future development of ISPM15

The wood packaging industry is liaising closely with Plant Health professionals to develop alternative ISPM15 compliant measures. Fumigation with an environmentally friendly alternative to Methyl Bromide, microwaving and chemical pressure impregnation (CPI) are all currently being assessed for approval by the IPPC in 2007/2008.

The globalisation of ISPM15

The global adoption of ISPM15 is now well advanced, enhancing the reputation of wooden packaging as the main material for transporting and storing goods. The worldwide acceptance and support of ISPM15 was given a major boost by China's signing up to the standard in January 2006.

China

With its economy and population forecast to grow dramatically over the next 10 years, China's demand for wood and forest products will continue to increase. Although forestry is an important area of political and international commercial investment in China, the sector will rely heavily on imports for the foreseeable future.

The latest, up-to-the minute information on ISPM15 can be found at www.timcon.org

For more information visit www.ippc.int www.fefpeb.org www.forestry.gov/planthealth www.wood-food.com

^{*}Canada, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan and USA
**The Asian Longhorn Beetle was also discovered in the USA in 1996
and more than 7000 trees in New York City (Maple and Horse Chestnut)
had to be destroyed.



