

TO: Importers, Carriers, Brokers, Warehouse Operators, Manufacturers and Others Concerned

RE: Export Requirements on Wood Packaging Materials

DATE: April 7, 2004

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On February 25, 2004, U.S. Customs Director of Field Operations, Susan T. Mitchell, announced new requirements to the exportation of wood packaging materials. According to Customs, a number of countries have started to draft regulations similar to that of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM 15). Moreover, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have joined with the American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC) and the National Wood Pallet and Container Association (NWPCA) to oversee official programs for treatment or marking of said materials. For information pertaining to heat treatment and marking requirements, Customs urges you to contact ALSC at (301)972-1700. In addition, please contact NWPCA at (703) 519-6104 regarding fumigation and marking requirements

With respect to U.S. import requirements for wood packaging material, APHIS has published a Draft Rule (targeted implementation date is April or May of 2004). Until implementation of said rule, APHIS encourages 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.

Since January of 2004, although APHIS's final rule has yet to be implemented, they have begun issuing notices to the NPPO's for material not appropriately treated and marked. Accordingly, these notices will act as information tools.

Please note, at this time there exists no new requirement or authorization for the fumigation of either softwood or hardwood packing materials destined to China. For up to date information please go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/chinarule.html>.

For purposes of obtaining either a copy of the proposed rule change by USDA or a copy of ISPM 15 (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures) please go to [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppg/swp/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppg/swp/) and [www.ippc.int/IPP/En/ispm.jsp](http://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/ispm.jsp).