

August 29, 2008

DOMESTIC PROGRAM AT LEAST 5 YEARS DOWN THE ROAD

The USDA has scrapped plans to align the US/ Canadian phase-in of ISPM 15 with a domestic state-to-state heat treatment program.

Despite increased occurrences of invasive pest detections, plans for a domestic program have been stalled due to the USDA's inability to implement a proactive invasive pest control program.

Currently, the USDA does not have the power to restrict movement of wood and wood products

in a federal quarantine area until after the invasive threat is found. Typically, the USDA imposes a federal quarantine only after a state implements its own county or statewide quarantine.

Interestingly, states do have the ability to be proactive.

North Carolina recently imposed an external quarantine designed to reduce the risk of introducing the Sirex Wood Wasp

from states found to be infested with the wasp (currently found in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Vermont).

Look for more states to take a proactive role in regulating interstate wood products.

For information pertaining to invasive pests, quarantine areas, and regulations, please feel free to speak with your inspector or contact the TP offices.

FUTURE BARK RESTRICTIONS

As you may already know, the IPPC is circulating a revised ISPM 15 that includes new restrictions on the amount of bark present on wood packaging material (SEE DRAFT BARK RULE BELOW).

This draft is entering its feedback period in September. If all

goes as expected, the bark restriction will have support and the draft will be adopted in March of 2009.

Afterwards, each country implementing ISPM 15 will likely adopt the revision (through a formal process which may take a month

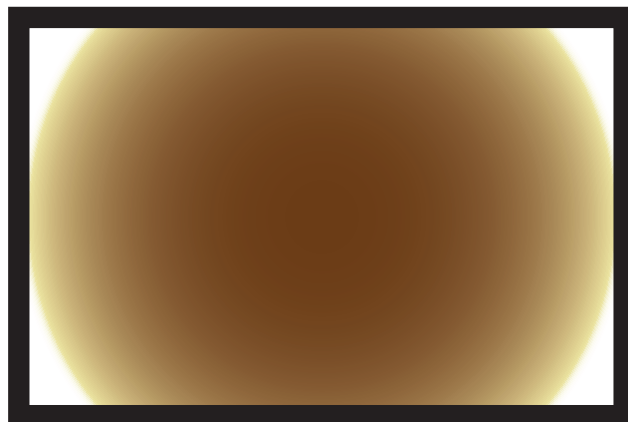
or two, if not longer).

If the feedback does not support the bark restriction, the European Union will likely adopt a "de-barking" requirement in January 2009. Details on a USDA program to oversee this (if necessary) are not known at this time.



DRAFT BARK RULE

Bark pieces less than 3 centimeters (about 1 inch) wide with no length restriction (SEE FIGURE ABOVE) will be allowed. If they are greater than 3 centimeters wide, then the total surface area of the piece of bark must be less than 50 square centimeters (about the size of a credit card--SEE FIGURE ON RIGHT).



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