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## ISPM 15 Solid Wood Packaging Update

As of August 5, 2008

**Countries with implementation changes since last update** (March 3, 2008):

**Cuba:** Proposed date of implementation is October 1, 2008

**Taiwan:** Will enforce ISPM 15 on January 1, 2009 (instead of July 2008)

**Canada:** Here is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) statement released July 24, 2008 regarding the termination of ISPM 15 exemption between Canada and the US:

### **Consultation on the Proposed Termination of the ISPM No. 15 Exemption for Wood Packaging Material (WPM) Moving Between Canada and the U.S.**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) are considering implementation of the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15 for wood packaging material (WPM) circulating between Canada and the U.S. in order to further prevent the introduction and spread of forest pests of quarantine concern associated with WPM.

Currently, wood packaging material arriving in Canada from countries other than the U.S. must be heat-treated or fumigated and then marked to indicate that it has been treated. Wood packaging may also be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate that specifies the treatment used. To date, the movement of wood packaging between Canada and the continental U.S. has been exempt from this international standard.

Due to the growing number of newly introduced pests of quarantine concern in both countries, it is necessary to terminate the exemption with respect to ISPM No. 15 for WPM. APHIS and CFIA are developing a strategy which would involve a multi-year phase-in period for an eventual full implementation of the ISPM No. 15 standard for WPM moving between the two countries. Ultimately, all wood packaging moving between Canada and the United States would require treatment in accordance to the ISPM No. 15 standard, marked with an officially approved mark, and meet the requirements which have already been set for WPM moving in international trade.

Industry, stakeholders, exporters, importers, brokers, wood packaging manufacturers and interest groups are encouraged to provide comments on the proposed phase-in approach within the next 90 days to CFIA <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/tools/feedback/consult/ispmsconsole.shtml>.

Following the consultation period CFIA will take into consideration all comments and concerns, and will cooperate with APHIS to ensure a joint approach before proceeding any further with announcing an official start date and before finalizing a phase-in approach.

### **Proposed phase-in approach:**

**Phase 1:** Will consist of a 12-month period to allow industry and stakeholders to adjust their operations to comply with the ISPM No. 15 standard for wood packaging material circulating between Canada and the U.S.

**Phase 2:** Following the first 12 months, there will be a one year period where industry will receive notices (informed compliance) to indicate that they will have to comply with the requirements in the future. Notices will be delivered to importers/brokers in connection with any cargo found to contain non-compliant wood packaging material (WPM).

**Phase 3:** A subsequent 8-month period of enforcement action on non-compliant pallets and crates will follow Phase 2. Shipments containing non-compliant WPM will not be allowed to enter Canada. Importers/exporters with cargo containing other types of non-compliant material (dunnage, spools, blocking and bracing) will receive notices (informed compliance) to indicate they will have to comply with the requirements in the future.

**Phase 4:** At the beginning of the fourth phase, full enforcement will commence on all articles of regulated WPM including dunnage moving between the United States of America and Canada. Shipments containing non-compliant WPM will be refused entry.

To the best of NWPCA's knowledge, NWPCA E-News: International Wood Packaging Requirements contains current information from government sources on International Wood Packaging Requirements as of the date of publication. NWPCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability for the accuracy or completeness of such information.

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