ISPM 15 Solid Wood Packaging Update (March 3, 2008)

Countries with implementation changes since last update (October 23, 2006):

Taiwan: Will enforce ISPM 15 on July 2008.

United States: Has incorporated the 24-hr methyl bromide fumigation schedule in their requirements for imported packaging effective February 7, 2008.

Proposed change between US and Canada (information relayed to NWPCA by the USDA APHIS Forestry Products Trade Director)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service APHIS) and Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have determined the ISPM 15 wood packaging exemption between the two countries has become disadvantageous to controlling the introduction and spread of invasive species.

The growing number of invasive species establishing in the two countries mandates the removal of the ISPM No. 15 exemption to further insure the safety of our groves, orchards, forests and nurseries. The USDA and CFIA are developing an action plan which involves a 2 year phase-in period. The three phases of implementation will take part in four steps:

1. One year for industry preparations to comply with the standard.
2. Phase 1: Six months of informed compliance. Notices will be posted in connection with cargo that contains noncompliant WPM.
3. Phase 2: Six months of rejection of violative noncompliant wood crates and wood pallets through re-exportation. Informed compliance and notices posted in cargo with other types of noncompliant WPM (dunnage, blocking and bracing).
4. Phase 3: Full Enforcement on all articles of regulated WPM entering United States of America and North America. Shipments containing noncompliant regulated WPM will not be allowed to enter United States of America.

An official start dates will be announced after further discussions with CFIA, Customs and Border Protection and Canada Border Services Agency.

Summary information for countries that have begun implementation or announced plans to implement ISPM-15:

Argentina: June 1, 2006

Australia: September 1, 2004 (Variations to ISPM-15: Bark-free + packing declaration for ISPM-15 compliant WPM, 21-day rule does not apply); January 1, 2006 will add wood packaging used in break bulk and air cargo to their ISPM-15 enforcement.

Bulgaria: January 24, 2006

Bolivia: July 23, 2005 (Variation: Debarked WPM)

Brazil: June 1, 2005

Canada: September 16, 2005 (Exemption granted to U.S.)

Chile: June 1, 2005 (Variation: Debarked WPM)

China: January 1, 2006

Colombia: September 16, 2005

Costa Rica: March 19, 2006

Dominican Republic: July 1, 2006

Ecuador: September 20, 2005

Egypt: October 1, 2005

European Union: March 1, 2005

Guatemala: September 16, 2005

Honduras: February 25, 2006

India: November 1, 2004 (Variation: Phytosanitary certificate required only for WPM not ISPM-15 compliant)

Indonesia: No published date of implementation (based on their draft regulation, WPM must be debarked and a packing declaration will be required)

Japan: April 1, 2007

Jordan: November 17, 2005

Lebanon: March 26, 2006

Mexico: September 16, 2005

New Zealand: April 16, 2003 (Variation: Bark-free WPM)

Nicaragua: No published date of implementation

Nigeria: September 30, 2004

Oman: December 2006

Panama: Not yet enforcing ISPM 15

Paraguay: June 28, 2005

Peru: March 1, 2005

Philippines: June 1, 2005

Seychelles: March 1, 2006

South Africa: January 1, 2005

South Korea: June 1, 2005

Switzerland: March 1, 2005

Syria: April 1, 2006

Taiwan: July 2008

Trinidad & Tobago: September 15, 2005

Turkey: January 1, 2006 (Variation: Debarked WPM)

Ukraine: October 1, 2005

U.S.: September 16, 2005 (Exemption granted to Canada -- must provide import declaration that shipment derived from trees harvested in U.S. or Canada -- import lumber must be ISPM-15; 24-hr methyl bromide fumigation schedule in their requirements for imported packaging effective February 7, 2008)

Venezuela: June 1, 2005

Vietnam: June 5, 2005

ISPM-15 Requirements

Compliance with ISPM-15 for wood packaging materials allows for two treatment options:

Heat Treatment (HT): Wood packaging material should be heated in a schedule that achieves a minimum core temperature of 56ºC for a minimum of 30 minutes. The American Lumber Standards Committee administers the U.S. certification program for heat treatment.

Methyl Bromide (MB) Fumigation: The wood packaging material should be fumigated with methyl bromide. NWPCA has been tasked by the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to administer the fumigation program.

NOTE: ISPM 15 requirements apply to all species of coniferous (softwood) and non-coniferous (hardwood) packaging materials.

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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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