

Bundesverband Holzpackmittel - Paletten - Exportverpackung e.V.
[German Association for Wood Packaging – Pallets – Export Packaging
(Registered Association)]

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Present state of the import regulations for wood packaging

Within the scope of the IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention), a suborganization of the FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization), phyto-sanitary regulations have been issued for international trade with solid wood packaging (**ISPM 15**). According to these regulations treatment is required using a recognized procedure. Such procedures include **heat treatment** at a core temperature of 56° C for at least 30 minutes or **Gassing** with methyl-bromide.

Moreover, the wood packaging is to be marked on **two opposing sides** with the **identification** shown below so that the identification is visible, legible as well as durable. Here it is necessary to observe the sequence, starting with the country code **DE** for **Germany** as two digit ISO country code, as well as the designation **YY** for the **region** (e.g. BY for Bavaria). This is to be followed by a number in the format **XXXX** assigned by the national plant health authorities to the **packaging manufacturer** or **producer of the wood packing material** responsible for using and marking suitable wood. As an abbreviation for the method of treatment used only **HT** for **Heat Treated** or **MB** for Methyl-bromide gassing are correct, where applicable followed by **DB** for Debarked. Wood materials are not subject to any requirements whatsoever in this context.

The whole system in Germany is being monitored by the phytosanitary protection services of the German federal states.

IPPC

DE-YY-49XXXX
HT or MB DB

The following pages provide a list of countries which will implement the IPPC Standard within the near future or have already done so. The significant requirements are listed in brief as well as the time of implementation.

| Country | Present requirements for packaging materials made of solid wood | Requirements according to IPPC, as of 15/06/04 | Effective date ^{*)} |
|--------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| New Zealand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bark-free - Free of infestation - Methods of treatment: heat, gassing or pressure impregnation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bark-free - Free of infestation - No leaves, soil, etc. - Treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Zealand regulations mentioned left apply (e.g. heat treatment for more than 4 hours at a core temperature of 70°C) or - assumption of IPPC Standard | Since 16/04/03 |
| Canada | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bark-free wood - Free of infestation or signs of infestation - 1:1 adoption of the IPPC Standard | 02/01/04 |
| China | <p>↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debarked wood - Heat treatment (56°C core temperature for 30 minutes) - Technical drying (if the heat treatment's values are achieved). - Gassing with methyl bromide - Approved marking - Official phytosanitary certificate - A non-wood declaration must be included in the case of utilisation of derived timber products and packaging made from alternative materials | |
| India | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the IPPC Standard - As an alternative: phytosanitary certificate including the treatment used - No requirements for derived timber products | Starting 01/11/04 |
| EU | <p>Softwood packaging from the USA, Canada, Japan: Optionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heat treatment (56°C core temperature for 30 minutes) - Impregnation - Gassing <p>Additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved marking <p>Softwood packaging from China: - Same as USA, Canada and Japan plus - Official phytosanitary certificate</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1:1 adoption of the IPPC Standard + debarked wood - There are no requirements for solid wood packaging imported as goods (not in use) from non-member European countries - Transitory regulations until 31/12/07 for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dunnage (free of bark and infestation) - Packaging materials produced before 31/12/04 (no marking) - The standard does not apply inside the EU or in the case of packaging materials with Switzerland as their origin | |

^{*)} The deadlines specified refer to arrival in the receiving country

| Country | Present requirements for packaging materials made of solid wood | Requirements according to IPPC, as of 15/06/04 | Effective date^{*)} |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Republic of South Korea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bark-free - Free of infestation - Free of signs of infestation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1:1 adoption of the IPPC Standard | 01/06/05 |
| USA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bark-free - Evidently free of infestation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debarked wood - 1:1 adoption of the IPPC Standard | 02/01/04 desired; officially probably only 2005, written statement is yet not on hand |
| Mexico | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bark-free - Free of any harmful organisms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debarked wood - Adoption of the IPPC Standard | Probably in line with the USA, written statement is not yet on hand |
| Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bark-free - Heat treatment, gassing or pressure impregnation - In the case of heat treatment or gassing despatch within 21 days - Packing Declaration and confirmation of treatment used | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the IPPC Standard only permitted for companies certified according to the Canadian, British or American system - Abolition of the 21-day time limit unclear for HT - Application of ISPM 15 not yet advisable at present | |

For the rest, the presently known regulations continue to be applicable for other countries. Short-term implementations in further countries seem likely.

The introduction of ISPM 15 is a positive signal. The international movement of goods is simplified as in the near future globally consistent requirements will be applicable to a large extent.

^{*)}The deadlines specified refer to arrival in the receiving country