

Does the country of destination accept your wooden packaging?

Important information for purchasers and users of wooden packaging.

More and more countries require treatment in compliance with ISPM 15. You can find more information in this brochure and at www.smhv.nl.

Does your wooden packaging comply with international requirements?

Possible spread of pests by worldwide transport

During the last decade transport of all possible products has increased enormously worldwide. Containers travel the entire world. Often wooden packaging material is being used for transport such as pallets, industrial packaging, packing cases and cable reels. Living pests can be spread with the movement in international trade of wooden packaging. In recent years this has unfortunately occurred frequently. This is how the Pine Wood Nematode – a pine wood nematode which previously only existed in Canada and the United States - attacked forests in China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The nematode was discovered in Europe for the first time in 1999 in forests in Portugal, causing considerable damage. Another unwelcome visitor, the Asian Longhorned Beetle, has caused major damage to deciduous trees in North America. In Europe the Asian Longhorned Beetle is found in Germany, Austria and France. In case wooden packaging is handled in the correct manner, spread of these organisms can be prevented.

Measures against the spread of pests: ISPM 15

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) issued in 2002 standardised measures which must be applied to wooden packaging. These measures prevent the spread of living pests and are laid down in the heading *Guidelines for regulating Wood Packaging material in International Trade - ISPM no. 15*, or ISPM 15 for short. Many countries now require ISPM 15 for wooden packaging which is imported into their country. ISPM 15 underwent a revision in 2009.

When does wooden packaging comply with ISPM 15?

The treatment of wooden packaging must take place exclusively using Heat Treatment (HT). As of 18 March 2010, fumigation with methyl bromide (MB) as an alternative treatment is prohibited within Europe, due to a ban on the use of methyl bromide. Furthermore, ISPM 15 requires the use of debarked wood. As a purchaser or user you cannot tell whether or not wooden packaging has been treated correctly. That is to say, the outward appearance of a crate or pallet does not change. An internationally applicable marking system, the IPPC mark, has therefore been adopted to indicate that packaging has been treated correctly.

How do you recognise correctly treated wooden packaging?

Wooden packaging comes in many forms: pallets (pallet collars, pallet boxes etc.), industrial packaging (export packaging, boxes), crates and reels. In the Netherlands, accredited certification institutions assess whether the operating procedure of a manufacturer, repair company or treatment facility complies with the guidelines and may be registered.

The central registration of companies which comply with the requirements according to ISPM 15 in the Netherlands occurs at Stichting Markering Houten Verpakkingen (SMHV, the Foundation implementing the Dutch Wood Marking Program). As a purchaser of wooden packaging material you need to verify whether your supplier has been registered via www.smhv.nl.

Don't take any risks - select a registered supplier. Take a look at www.smhv.nl

Manufacturers which comply with the requirements of ISPM 15 receive a unique registration number which must be applied and be recognisable in the IPPC mark on the wood. This mark is internationally recognised.

To ensure that your supplier is allowed to use the mark, you need to verify that this company has been registered at SMHV. Therefore control the number of the supplier on the website of SMHV. Moreover on the invoice must be specifically mentioned that, for the supply of treated products that meet the requirements of ISPM 15, the company is registered at SMHV with reference to the registration number. Consequently this guarantees that your supplier is indeed registered in the central register of SMHV. Simply the statement that the wooden packaging has undergone a heat treatment, is not sufficient.

What risks are you taking if you use non-approved packaging?

More and more countries demand that the packaging of imported goods comply with ISPM 15. A shipment with wooden packaging which is not marked in accordance with the marking system can be retained, sent back or destroyed by the country involved, in the case that the wooden packaging is acquired from a non-registered company, the number cannot be traced to a registered supplier, the wooden packaging does not contain a mark or the wooden packaging has not been marked in compliance with the marking system.

You can find the current overview of countries which impose requirements on wooden packaging on the website of SMHV, www.smhv.nl. As the ISPM 15-requirement is imposed more and more often, it is recommended to ALWAYS make use of marked wooden packaging, unless the packaging is to be used solely within Europe. ISPM 15 is not compulsory for packaging that do not leave Europe.

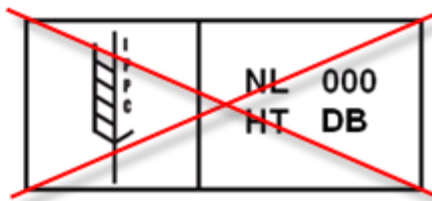
The new IPPC-mark for ISPM 15 on wooden packaging

The mark has undergone a number of changes based on the revision of ISPM 15. With effect from 1 January 2010 the mark must have the following appearance:

Example of the new mark



Example of the old mark

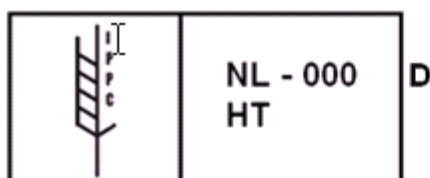


NL	ISO-country code for the Netherlands
000	Registration number of the treatment facility
HT	Treatment applied; Heat Treatment
DB	DB as a sign that the wooden packaging has been debarked

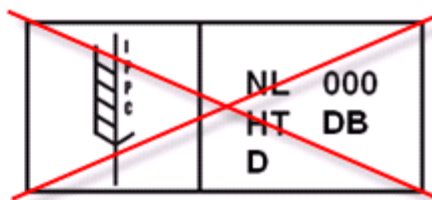
The new mark depicted above comes into effect from 1 January 2010. The principal changes:

- The letters 'DB' (Debarked) do not appear in the new mark. It is however compulsory to use debarked wood for products and dunnage.
- The mark must have a border. Within the border the IPPC logo and the code components are distinguished from each other by a vertical line.
- The ISO-country code must be distinguished from the unique registration number of the registered business by a hyphen.
- In addition, for loose wood / dunnage the letter 'D' (Dunnage) must henceforth be added outside the mark (see example below).

Example of new mark



Example of old mark



All of the changes relating to the mark are to be found on the website of SMHV.

A transition period of 2 years applies to the new mark; this means that the transition period will apply until 1 January 2012. After this date the new mark may only be applied to newly-treated wooden packaging. Since wooden packaging can last for 10 years, wooden packaging bearing the old mark may remain in circulation temporarily.

- Avoid risks as a purchaser / user of wooden packaging and obtain your wooden packaging from a registered supplier;
- Verify the number of the supplier on the website of SMHV;
- In the case that:
 - you acquire wooden packaging from a non-registered company;

- the number cannot be traced to a registered supplier;
 - on the invoice not specifically is mentioned that, related to the supply of treated products that meet the requirements of ISPM 15, the company is registered at SMHV referring to the registration number;
 - on your wooden packaging no mark is indicated;
 - your wooden packaging have not been marked in compliance with the marking system, you risk that the wooden packaging are being held, returned or destroyed by the country concerned;
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- Living pests can be spread with the movement in international trade of untreated wooden packaging;
 - The spread of these organisms can lead to major damage internationally;
 - An international agreement has been made regarding the treatment of wooden packaging;
 - Packaging must comply with the ISPM 15 treatment: Heat Treatment (HT);
 - Registered suppliers apply an internationally approved mark to their products;
 - No separate certificate is needed for products which comply with ISPM 15. The mark is the key to admittance to the country to which you are exporting.

Make use of a registered supplier so that you can be sure you are not taking any risks.

SMHV can be contacted by using the information below:

E-mail smhv@wispa.nl

Internet www.smhv.nl