



Notice to Industry

19/2003-04

Proposed changes to AQIS import requirements for wood packaging material and dunnage compliant with ISPM 15: *Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade*.

Update:

AQIS has revised the implementation date for ISPM 15 from 1 July 2004 to 1 September 2004.

Background:

The Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), operating under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), has endorsed the international standard: *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No. 15 - Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15)*. As a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Australia has agreed to implement ISPM 15.

ISPM 15 describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging material (including dunnage) made of coniferous and non-coniferous wood that is in use in international trade.

The full text of ISPM 15 is available in English at:

www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/ISPM_15_English.pdf?filename=1055161712885/ISPM15_e.pdf

Proposed Australian import conditions after implementation of ISPM 15:

Australia has regulated wood packaging material and dunnage for many years, and intends to incorporate the provisions of ISPM 15 into Australia's existing measures for wood packaging and dunnage. In addition to ISPM 15 measures, Australia will maintain the following existing requirements:

- **Nil tolerance for bark; and**
- **Where treated with methyl bromide:**
 - **methyl bromide must be applied at 48 grams per cubic metre for 24 hours (not 16 hours as per ISPM 15); and**
 - **the timber at time of treatment must be no greater than 200mm diameter in the smallest plane.**

Australia's existing import conditions and co-regulatory barrier clearance arrangements for solid wood packaging material and dunnage will continue to be offered in parallel with the proposed import conditions incorporating ISPM 15. Importers will be able to elect which option to use. This approach will ensure continued market access to Australia for countries that are not in a position to implement ISPM 15.

To assist importers, AQIS intends to develop and publish an information package on the proposed changes to the documentation requirements and barrier clearance mechanisms for wood packaging material and dunnage.

Non-compliant solid wood packaging material and dunnage:

Solid wood packaging material and dunnage that does not meet Australian import requirements may be treated on arrival, destroyed or re-exported at the importer's expense. In addition, from 1 September 2004, all solid wood packaging material and dunnage imported into Australia, whether ISPM 15 compliant or imported under the existing arrangements, will be subject to surveillance.

Further information:

For general inquiries relating to AQIS implementation of ISPM 15, contact Ms Heidi Mathews, AQIS Import Clearance, Ph (02) 6272 5574, Fax (02) 6272 5888.

For technical inquiries relating to the standard, contact Mr Doug Walsh, AQIS Import Clearance, Ph (02) 6272 4989.