



22 January 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

**International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures - Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging in International Trade and the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme for Exports**

I am writing to you to provide information on the international standard that applies to wood packaging material used in export consignments. The plant health risk associated with wooden packaging has been an on-going concern for many countries. Packaging is often made from unprocessed raw wood, which is a known high risk pathway for the introduction and spread of pests and diseases. As a consequence in 2002 the International Plant Protection Convention adopted a wood packaging standard: *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures - Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging in International Trade (ISPM15)*.

ISPM 15 applies to wooden packaging such as pallets, dunnage, crating and cases used in the transport of commodities during export. The purpose of the standard is to reduce the plant health risk associated with the use of unprocessed raw wood packaging in international trade. Many of Australia's trade partners have adopted ISPM 15 and wood packaging material exported to these countries must be compliant with the standard.

Failure to meet importing country requirements can have costly consequences for exporters. Consignments containing non-compliant wood packaging may be treated on arrival or the entire consignment may be rejected.

To be recognised as ISPM 15 compliant wood packaging must be treated by an approved method and bear an internationally recognised certification mark. Figures 1 and 2 below are examples of the basic elements that must be included in the certification mark.

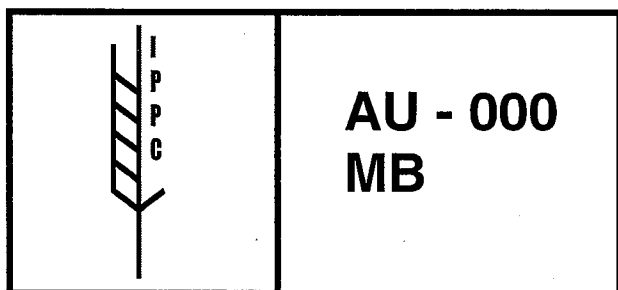


Figure 1. Certification mark applied to wood packaging fumigated with methyl bromide

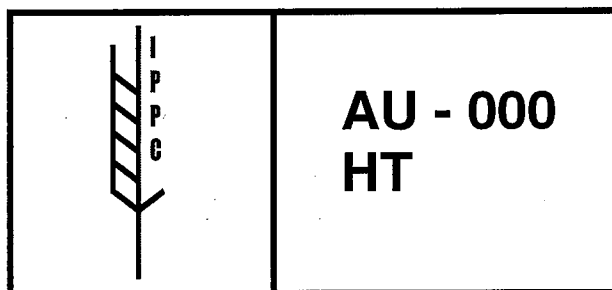


Figure 1. Certification mark applied to wood packaging that has been heat treated.

The two approved treatment methods listed in the standard are:

1. heat treatment (achieving a core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes) **or**
2. fumigation with methyl bromide.

In response to the adoption of ISPM15 and to enable Australian exporters to have access to compliant wooden packaging AQIS developed a wood packaging certification scheme: the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme for Exports (AWPCS).

Under the AWPCS wood packaging manufacturers and treatment providers (heat or methyl bromide fumigators) who meet the requirements of ISPM15, are authorised by AQIS to apply the internationally recognised certification mark to wood packaging produced for use in the export trade.

The mark may **only** be used by companies that are certified under the AWPCS and authorised by AQIS. A list of certified companies that are authorised by AQIS to use the mark is accessible on the AQIS website at:

<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/export/timber/register>

Exporters are advised to check this register to ensure that the material they are purchasing is ISPM 15 compliant.

If you are a manufacturer or treatment provider who is interested in becoming certified you can apply by contacting a JAS-ANZ accredited certification body. Contact details are available on the AQIS website at the following link:

<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/export/timber/applying>

AQIS also maintains an email contact list through which updates regarding ISPM15 and the AWPCS are provided to clients. If you wish to be included on this list please forward your contact details including your company name, a contact name, phone/fax numbers, postal address and email address to [grain.export@aqis.gov.au](mailto:grain.export@aqis.gov.au). This generic email for the Grain & Plant Products Export Program is checked on a daily basis.

Further information regarding the AWPCS including a copy of the scheme and a list of country implementation dates can be accessed via the AQIS website at:

<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/export/timber>

I hope this information is of assistance. If you have any additional questions you can e-mail AQIS at [grain.export@aqis.gov.au](mailto:grain.export@aqis.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



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