



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry (Update)

19/2003-04

Australian Implementation of the *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) # 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15)*.

On 1 September 2004, Australia will implement the new international standard for solid wood packing¹ and dunnage - the *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) # 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15)*.

Purpose

This notice is to provide information about facilitated clearance procedures for containerised solid wood packing compliant with ISPM 15.

CHANGES IN EFFECT FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2004

ISPM 15 Treated Wood Packaging

From 1 September 2004, AQIS will accept solid wood packaging and dunnage compliant with ISPM 15 but will also continue to accept packaging which meets existing AQIS requirements.

For AQIS purposes, ISPM 15 treated wood packaging:

- Will **not** require a treatment certificate (providing that the packing declaration indicates ISPM 15 compliance and freedom from bark).
- Will **not** need to satisfy the AQIS 21 day rule. There is no limitation on time between treatment and shipping (please note this rule is being reviewed for Australia's existing wood packaging import conditions).
- Will be considered acceptable under existing AQIS Compliance Agreement arrangements.

¹ Solid wood packaging **excludes** packaging made **entirely** from composite boards, plywood, and medium density fibre board. Please see the AQIS Import Conditions database ICON (www.aqis.gov.au/icon) for import conditions for these products.

PACKING DECLARATIONS

For AQIS, the packing declaration is an essential quarantine risk management tool as it identifies what has been used as packing within a consignment.

The general requirements for packing declarations have not changed; in order for any packing declaration to be acceptable it must contain the following information (as taken from the Containerised Cargo Clearance Manual):

- Letterhead or company stamp
- Date or vessel/voyage reference
- Consignment identifier or numerical ink
- Straw declaration
- Timber declaration and bark declaration where required
- Signature

In regards to ISPM 15, a packing declaration identifies if ISPM 15 compliant timber packing has been used within a consignment. Attachments 1 and 2 show the revised packing declarations.

The revised packing declarations include a new question relating to timber packing. Question 2b asks if all timber packing in the consignment has been marked with ISPM 15 compliant stamps.

- If a **yes** answer is given, this means that an acceptable treatment has been performed on the timber packing and no further treatment certification is required for the timber packing used in the consignment.
- If a **no** answer is given, consignments must be accompanied either by an acceptable treatment certificate or directed for AQIS inspection (a **no** response means that some or all of the packing is not marked with the ISPM15 stamp).

The revised packing declaration is **only** mandatory where timber packing used within a consignment is ISPM 15 compliant.

Please note that annual packing declarations will not be accepted for consignments where ISPM 15 compliant timber packing has been used.

All other packing is subject to existing AQIS requirements and approved treatments. Further information on these requirements can be found on the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/cargoqap.

For further information regarding ISPM 15 compliant packing, please contact Doug Walsh on 02 6272 4989.