

A call for compliant wood-packaging material in international trade

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is making a strong call to exporters, importers and all other role players involved in the international trading of products involving wood-packaging material, to comply with ISPM No. 15 (International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures—Guidelines for regulating wood-packaging material in international trade).

Untreated wood-packaging material can be a pathway for the introduction of pests of economic concern, which may negatively affect the country's natural resources, agriculture and forestry in particular.

Regulated wood-packaging material includes coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood-packaging material. This covers wood-packaging material such as pallets, dunnage, crating, packing blocks, drums, cases, loading boards, pallet collars and skids, which can be present in any imported/exported consignments.

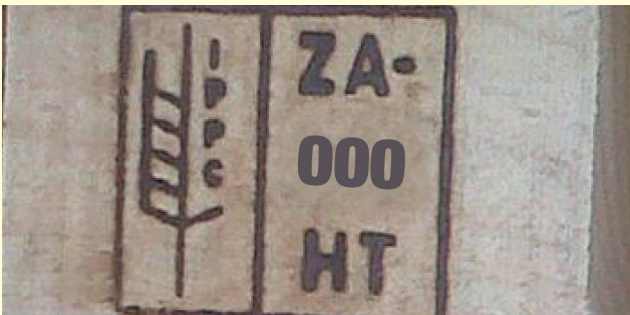
Currently Heat Treatment (HT), Dielectric Heating (DH) and fumigation with Methyl Bromide (MB) are the only approved treatments for wood-packaging material. These treatments are considered to be significantly effective against most pests of living trees associated with wood-packaging material. Irrespective of the type of treatment applied, wood packaging must be made of debarked wood.

Treated wood-packaging material should bear the appropriate International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) mark to certify that the wood-packaging material has been subjected to the approved phytosanitary measure. Marking should be rectangular or square in shape, surrounded by border lines with a vertical line separating IPPC logo from country information, legible, permanent, not transferable, no additional information within borders of the mark and must not be hand drawn. Markings should be placed in a visible location, on two opposite sides of the article being certified. The use of the red or orange colour must be avoided because these are used only for hazardous goods.

Service providers are required to mark wood-packaging material with treatment date as a traceability and control measure. The date must consist of a day, month and year and strictly be placed outside the borders of IPPC mark.

Wood-packaging material can only be treated and marked by service providers that are registered with Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in terms of ISPM No. 15 regulation.

NB: Non-complying wood-packaging material may be subjected to treatment, destruction or refused entry.



Example of HT mark



Example of MB mark

A list of registered service providers and further information on the regulation is available on DAFF website, www.daff.gov.za > Branches > Agricultural Production Health & Food Safety > Inspection Services > Wood Packaging.

For further information contact:

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
The National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa (NPPOZA)
Directorate: Inspection Services
Tel.: 011 9715117 / 012 309 8753
Email: AdamD@daff.gov.za / PetuniaS@daff.gov.za



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA