

New import requirements for wood packaging material of the European Community

On the first of March 2005 new measures will be enforced by the European Community and its Member States for wood packaging material used for the import of objects of all kinds from all countries, with the exception of Switzerland. In particular, the relevant provisions of Directive 2000/29/EC on wood packaging material would be aligned with the provisions of the FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 (ISPM 15) on *Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade*. ISPM 15 has been adopted in 2002 and an increasing number of countries are putting in place import requirements in line with this phytosanitary standard. The measures of the European Community are to practically eliminate the risk for most quarantine pests and significantly reduce the risk from a number of other pests that may be associated with that material. The Netherlands' Plant Protection Service is responsible for enforcement of these new requirements of the European Community in the Netherlands.

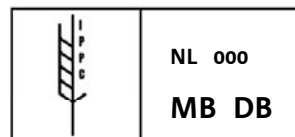
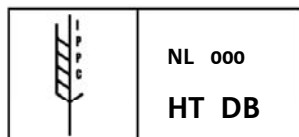
Specific requirements of the European Community

From the first of March 2005 wood packaging material (such as packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, pallets, box pallets and other load boards, palletcollars) can only be imported into the European Community if they meet the following requirements.

The wood packaging material shall:

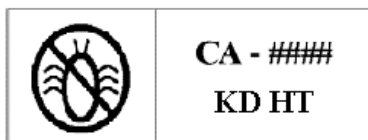
- be made from debarked round wood, and
- be subject to one of the approved measures as specified in ISPM 15, notably:
 - * heat treatment of the wood packaging material that achieves a minimum wood core temperature of 56 degrees Celsius for a minimum of 30 minutes, or
 - * the wood packaging material should be fumigated with methyl bromide in alignment with requirements described in ISPM 15.and
- display a mark with:
the two-letter ISO country code, a code identifying the producer and the code identifying the approved measure applied to the wood packaging material in the mark as specified in Annex II of ISPM 15. The letters "DB" shall be added to the abbreviation of the approved measure included in the said mark.
- and
in the case of wood packaging material manufactured, repaired or recycled as of 1 March 2005, also the logo as specified in Annex II to ISPM 15. However the requirement is not applicable on a temporary basis until 31 December 2007 in the case of wood packaging material manufactured, repaired or recycled before 28 February 2005.'

Examples of correct marks as applied by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service:



NL ISO landcode (NL)
000 unique number assigned by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service to the producer of the wood packaging material.
HT IPPC abbreviation for Heat Treatment.
MB IPPC abbreviation for Methyl Bromide Fumigation.
DB IPPC abbreviation for debarking.

Examples of marks on wood packaging material manufactured before 28 February 2005 (produced in Canada and the People's Republic of China)



It is important to note that these requirements do not apply to raw wood of 6 mm thickness or less, and processed wood produced by glue, heat and pressure, or a combination thereof.

For wood used to wedge or support non-wood cargo (also referred to as dunnage), specific requirements will also be in place from the 1st of March 2005. Dunnage should either be made from bark-free wood that is free from pests and signs of live pests OR should meet the aforementioned ISPM requirements for wood packaging material (i.e. made from debarked round wood, be subject to one of the approved measures and display a mark). From the 1st March 2008 onwards, only dunnage that meets the requirements of ISPM 15 will be allowed to enter the EU.

The new requirements of the European Community amending Council Directive 2000/29/EC will replace the current measures of the European Community for wood packaging material originating in the People's Republic of China, The United States, Canada and Japan (Decisions 2001/219/EC and 1999/355/EC) on the first of March 2005.

Additional Information

De full text of the new legislation can be downloaded from the following website <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html>, with reference to Official Journal of the European Union No. L309/9 date 6-10-2004, page numbers 8 and 11.

Specific requirements for treatment and marking are described in ISPM 15 and can be downloaded from the following website: <https://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.htm>.

Additional information on the phytosanitary export certification system of the Netherlands for wood packaging material destined for third countries is available on the following website: www.smhv.nl.

For specific questions or further information companies and organisations based outside the European Community are advised to contact importing companies in the Netherlands.

No liability with respect to the information provided in the information note shall attach to the Netherlands' Plant Protection Service or to any of its officers or representatives. For the Netherlands the principal source of official information is provided by the Official Journal of the European Union. In case of new changes of import requirements of the European Community for wood packaging material this will be communicated to relevant stakeholders in the Netherlands.