Wood Packaging Material Program

ISPM 15 Certification Program

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Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau (PLIB) is accredited to provide ISPM 15 certification to manufacturers of export wood packaging material. We offer this service in the Western U.S. states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. We also provide service in the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta Canada. Our U.S. office is located in Federal Way, WA and we have a Canadian division office is located in Vancouver, B.C.

If you have questions about how to become a certified producer of ISPM 15 wood packaging or if you simply have questions about how the process works, please give us a call.

U.S. Program

In the United States, the governing body for this regulation is the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) which is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture. APHIS has authorized the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC) to execute and monitor the American program for heat treatment, which is named the Wood

Packaging Material (WPM) Program. ALSC accredits quality control agencies, of which Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau is one, to offer service to producers of wood packaging material.

Canadian Program

In Canada, the governing body for this regulation is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The CFIA has authorized the Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board (CLSAB) and the Canadian Wooden Pallet and Container Association to execute and monitor the Canadian program. CLSAB accredits quality control agencies, of which Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau is one, to offer this service to producers of wood packaging material.

About
ISPM 15

The International Standard for Phytosanitary Measure No. 15 (ISPM 15) Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade is an international standard that was developed to help reduce the spread of wood born pests in solid wood packaging materials. Quarantine pests found in wood packaging present a significant threat to forest health. Pests which are native to the forests in one region of the world may not be native to the forests in another region of the world. When pests are introduced into a forest ecosystem where they are non-native, it can have a significant effect on forest health and biodiversity.

WPM items produced entirely of reconstituted wood products (i.e. plywood, oriented strand board) are exempt from this standard. Only the raw lumber present in the WPM is required to meet the requirements of ISPM 15.

Examples of WPM products commonly certified under ISPM 15 include: pallets, boxes, crates and dunnage. However, WPM can take many shapes and forms when used to support or transport a commodity to its final destination.

ISPM 15 is a regulation that is written and controlled by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The IPPC is a part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Treatment Methods

At this time there are two allowable treatment methods under ISPM 15 which are heat treatment (HT) and methyl bromide (MB) fumigation.

Heat Treatment

The most common treatment method used by manufacturers of ISPM 15 WPM. Lumber is considered heat treated when core temperature of 133 °F (56 °C) has been maintained for 30 consecutive minutes.
An “HT” on the lumber grade stamp is a common way for mills to indicate the lumber has been through the HT process.

Fumigation

Less common than heat treatment, methyl bromide fumigation is another accepted ISPM 15 treatment. WPM treated by this method will bear an IPPC mark containing “MB” rather than “HT”. Examples where fumigation might be a good option include: last minute treatments (in the country of origin, in-transit on the ship, or in the port of the destination country) and treatments of especially large or complex WPM which cannot easily or practically be heated in a chamber to the required temperature.

Does ISPM 15 Apply to Your Operation?

If you can answer “yes” to the following questions, you should consider our ISPM 15 Certification Program...

- Your company manufactures its own solid wood pallets, crates, boxes or dunnage.

- Your company exports to countries enforcing ISPM 15.
Click here for a list of ISPM 15 countries

- Your company wants to ensure that your WPM is compliant and will not be quarantined in a foreign port.

How Does the Program Work?

Each subscriber in the PLIB ISPM 15 Certification Program is issued an IPPC mark with a unique identification number. When an IPPC mark is applied to the WPM, it indicates the WPM complies with ISPM 15. The IPPC mark is the only certification or documentation required to show compliance with the standard. Each country has its own system for issuing IPPC marks and monitoring their usage, however, the appearance of the IPPC mark from country to country is nearly identical.
The main difference is the ISO country code found on the mark. For example, IPPC marks issued in the U.S. will contain a “US”, in Canada a “CA”, in China a “CN” and so on. At this time, there are approximately 75 countries that require imported wood packaging to be ISPM 15 compliant and more countries are expected to adopt this measure in the future.

Whether your company has onsite heat treating capabilities or you simply purchase HT

stamped lumber to construct your wood packaging, PLIB can provide you with an IPPC HT mark to certify your international shipment.

Still have questions?
Please give us a call or send us an email.