

ISPM15 Wooden Packaging

There are certain rules and regulations that must be followed when you export timber packaging outside of the European Community. Many countries are now performing random inspection of import cargo any found not to comply may result in the cargo being rejected or sent for decontamination. If this is part of a consolidation then all the cargo in that consolidation may have to be returned to the country of origin, and the costs incurred would be the responsibility of the shipper who's cargo did not meet the requirement.

What is ISPM15?

In order to protect worldwide stocks of trees and forests, the International Plant Protection Committee (IPPC) has taken regulatory action to control the global movement of wooden packaging in the form of ISPM15. The Forestry Commission is the UK's representative on the IPPC.

ISPM15 stands for International Phytosanitary Standard for Wood Packaging (ISPM15) Regulations, which is regulatory action to help prevent the spread of destructive pests

Wooden packaging material is often made of unprocessed raw wood, which can provide a pathway for the introduction and spread of such pests if left untreated.

Will it affect me?

If you don't export outside of the European Union countries then you will not need to do anything as the regulations only apply when exporting outside of the EU.

However, if you export using wooden packaging that contains any sawn timber, such as new or second-hand pallets, boxes, crates, cable drums or warehouse containers outside of the EU you will be bound, in most instances, by these regulations and must comply. Please refer to the TIMCON website for a country-by-country compliance list. http://www.timcon.org/ISPM15/ISPM15GlobalGuide.asp

Any packaging that is made solely from manufactured board such as plywood, OSB, or chipboard and uses no sawn timber at all, is exempt.

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In all participating countries where the regulations apply, Customs and Border Control will inspect your packaging on arrival to find the ISPM15 mark. If your packaging isn't stamped, or the stamp is illegible, it could be rejected and returned or impounded for treatment by Customs and Border Control locally, for which you will be charged (charges have been known to be in the region of several thousand pounds per container).

What you have to look for to comply

Firstly, any packaging supplier you consider should be complicit with the regulations and is registered with the Forestry Commission.

Intercargo can Pack your goods to fully comply with the regulations and use only either ISPM15 compliant packaging or a timber substitute not subject to ISPM regulations.

Secondly, the timber that your chosen supplier uses must undergo one of two treatments:

1. Heat treatment (of wood packaging), which requires heating of the timber to a minimum core temperature of 56C for a minimum of 30 minutes (HT).

OR

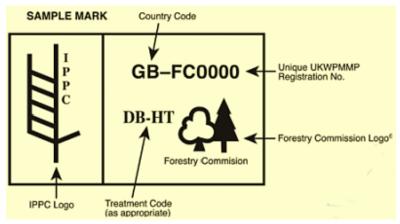
2. Fumigation, to the relevant specification.

Finally, in order to join the scheme, packaging manufacturers need to demonstrate to a third party assessor that they meet the requirements.

Once registered, your chose supplier is then authorised to use to ISPM15 mark, which includes the country of origin and a unique manufacturer's registration number (see below).

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Need more information, where can I find it?

There are two main websites that you can visit to find out more:

TIMCON http://www.timcon.org/ISPM15/ISPM15GlobalGuide.asp
Forestry Commission http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-6ablsn

How can Intercargo help me?

Intercargo Services Ltd can pack your goods with a range of ISPM15 compliant packaging including:

- ISMP15 Pallets
- ISPM15 Wooden Crates
- ISPM15 Wooden Boxes
- ISPM15 Export Packaging
- ISPM15 Wooden cases

Or to discuss your packing requirements contact us

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