

FAQ on ISPM 15

1. What is ISPM 15?

ISPM 15 refers to the 'International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No. 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade'.

2. Why was ISPM 15 developed?

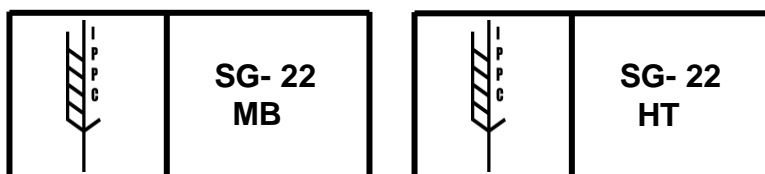
ISPM 15 was developed to address the global spread of timber pests by regulating the movement of timber packing and dunnage in international trade. ISPM 15 describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with solid timber packing material.

3. Who developed and endorsed ISPM 15?

The United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) addresses plant quarantine through the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The IPPC is an international treaty administered by the FAO and implemented through the cooperation of member governments.

ISPMs are recognised as the basis for phytosanitary measures applied by members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention)Marking:



SG - refers to the Country code

22 - refers to the Treatment provider's ID No.

MB - refers to Methyl Bromide Gas

HT - refers to Heat Treatment

4. What is timber packing and dunnage?

- Packing is used to support, protect or carry a commodity.
- Packing includes dunnage, pallets, crating, packing blocks, drums, cases, load boards, pallet collars and skids.
- Packing can be constructed of any material including timber.
- Dunnage is used to secure or support a commodity but does not remain associated with the commodity.

Packing materials that must be stamped and fumigated according to ISPM 15

Standards

5. Which countries need ISPM 15 fumigation?

Many countries have implemented systems to accept ISPM 15 compliant imports. Singapore has implemented ISPM 15 for exports too. Countries are not obliged to advise trading partners of their ISPM 15 export readiness so it is difficult to determine the ISPM 15 implementation status of various countries. The National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the importing country is the authority to give you the correct information.

6. How effective is ISPM 15 fumigation? Does the ISPM 15 approved measures of heat treatment and methyl bromide fumigation offer permanent protection to timber packing against timber and non-timber pests?

Neither of the ISPM 15 approved measures offer permanent protection against post-treatment infestation of timber packing by timber and non-timber pests. The treatment only controls pests present at the time of treatment. Often, post-treatment infestation of solid timber packing is an important quarantine issue.

7. Should recycle wood packing material be re-fumigated? Should repaired, re-manufactured and recycled wood packaging material (WPM) be subject to re-treatment in addition to being re-certified and re-marked?

Yes. In order to establish a chain of custody and maintain accountability, repaired, re-manufactured and recycled WPM should be subjected to re-treatment. All previous ISPM15 markings shall be removed or obliterated and the product re-certified and re-marked by an authorised agency.

8. Why timber packing has to be free of bark? Why do many countries require imported timber packing (including dunnage) to be free of bark?

Bark has the potential to contain numerous pathogens of quarantine concern. It also acts as a shelter site for insect pests and encourages post treatment infestation by both insect and pathogen pests. The presence of bark also hampers inspection procedures and may reduce the effectiveness of methyl bromide fumigation. For these reasons, countries require imported timber packing to be free of bark.

9. Where should ISPM 15 marks be located on timber packing?

To aid in validation inspections ISPM 15 compliant marks should be clearly visible and they should appear on at least two opposite sides of the article being certified. The marks must be permanent and not transferable. Hence metal plates and stickers are not acceptable.