Australian Government
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry (Update)   19/2003-04

Australian Implementation of the *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) # 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade* (ISPM 15).

On 1 September 2004, Australia will implement the new international standard for solid wood packing[1] and dunnage - the *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) # 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade* (ISPM 15).

Purpose

This notice is to provide information about facilitated clearance procedures for containerised solid wood packing compliant with ISPM 15.

CHANGES IN EFFECT FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2004

ISPM 15 Treated Wood Packaging

From 1 September 2004, AQIS will accept solid wood packaging and dunnage compliant with ISPM 15 but will also continue to accept packaging which meets existing AQIS requirements.

For AQIS purposes, ISPM 15 treated wood packaging:

- Will **not** require a treatment certificate (providing that the packing declaration indicates ISPM 15 compliance and freedom from bark).
- Will **not** need to satisfy the AQIS 21 day rule. There is no limitation on time between treatment and shipping (please note this rule is being reviewed for Australia's existing wood packaging import conditions).
- Will be considered acceptable under existing AQIS Compliance Agreement arrangements.

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[1] Solid wood packaging **excludes** packaging made **entirely** from composite boards, plywood, and medium density fibre board. Please see the AQIS Import Conditions database ICON (www.aqis.gov.au/icon) for import conditions for these products.

Packing Declaration

For AQIS, the packing declaration is an essential quarantine risk management tool. It identifies if ISPM 15 compliant wood packaging has been used within a consignment (Attachments 1 and 2).

In order for a packing declaration to be acceptable it must contain the following information:

- Letterhead or company stamp
- Date or vessel/voyage reference
- Consignment identifier or numerical link
- Straw declaration
- Timber declaration and bark declaration where required
- Signature

The revised packing declaration (refer Attachmnents 1 and 2) includes a new question relating to timber packing. Question 2b asks if all the timber packaging in the consignment has been marked with ISPM 15 compliant stamps.

- If **yes**, this means that an acceptable treatment has been performed on the packing.
- If **no**, consignments must be accompanied either by an acceptable treatment certificate or directed for AQIS inspection (a **no** response means that some or all of the packing is not marked with the ISPM 15 stamp).

The revised packing declaration is only a requirement where timber packing used within a consignment is ISPM 15 compliant and the importer wants the consignment to be cleared based on the packing declaration alone.

All other packaging is subject to existing AQIS requirements and approved treatments. Further information on these requirements can be found in the AQIS document 'Cargo Containers: Quarantine aspects and procedures' available at www.aqis.gov.au/cargoqap.

Please note: Annual packing declarations will not be accepted for consignments where ISPM 15 compliant timber packing has been used.

Changes to the Containerised Cargo Clearance Manual – 1 September 2004

On 1 September 2004, amendments to the Containerised Cargo Clearance Manual will be distributed to industry. Changes will be made to Section 4 of the manual that defines the requirements for Packing Declarations.

Further information

For further information regarding the changes to the Containerised Cargo Clearance Manual, please contact Rossana Simoncini on 02 6272 4139.

For further information regarding ISPM 15 compliant packaging clearance, please contact Import Clearance on telephone 02 6272 3999 or fax 02 6272 5888.