

# PALLET PHYTOSANITARY PROJECT NEWSLETTER



## A Cooperative Effort of the Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation and Development Area And The Wood Education and Resource Center

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### REGULATORY UPDATE

#### IPPC Wood Packaging Mark

During early March 2004 the IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) Wood Packaging Mark was formally released to the various inspection agencies for immediate use by those heat-treating WPM (Wood Packaging Material). At the time this newsletter was being prepared, the mark had not been formally released to those inspection agencies involved with methyl bromide treated WPM.

The mark, as released for heat-treating is illustrated below:



The mark indicates that the WPM's country of origin is the US. The "000" is a unique number assigned by the NPPO (National Plant Pest Organization), which is USDA APHIS in the US, to a producer of WPM. This identifies the source of the WPM and that the producer is certified to treat and mark WPM.

The "HT" designation indicates that the WPM was heat-treated. "LOGO" is the identifying symbol, logo, or name of the inspecting agency accredited by the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC).

This is an important step in the process to standardize the use of WPM in international trade, by reaffirming the intent of the entire process and helping to minimize the confusion and problems that currently exist.

#### Korea

Korea has notified USDA APHIS that their regulations covering WPM will not be enforced until June 1, 2005. More specifically, this applies to shipment dates beginning June 1, 2005.

Effective immediately, India will accept WPM that has been appropriately treated and marked accordingly to the provision of ISPM 15.

#### India

India's Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation published a new regulation for wood packaging material on November 18, 2003. The regulation required WPM to be treated to ISPM 15 standards, but did not

require ISPM 15 compliant marking. Instead, the regulation required shipments containing WPM to carry Phytosanitation Certificates that confirm the type of treatment. At the time, the Indian Ministry of Agriculture did not follow existing protocol by notifying the WTO (World Trade Organization) of the regulation.

During March of this year, APHIS officials and representatives of India's Department of Agriculture discussed India's approach to ISPM 15. The Indian officials indicated that they realized the WPM regulations were unclear and require further clarification. As a result, they will not enforce the new rule until after WTO comments are received and addressed within the official comment period, which closes April 30, 2004. Following review and response to the comments received, India will adopt ISPM 15.

More specifically, adoption will mean that India will enforce ISPM 15 for those countries requiring ISPM 15 compliance for WPM. Those countries not requiring compliant WPM for their imports will have the option of using phytosanitary certificates to certify compliant treatment.

APHIS has indicated at least a several month delay in implementing India's new regulation. During that time, India will not require compliance to their published requirements for WPM. However, APHIS urges US exporters to use ISPM 15 compliant WPM for shipments to India.

### **Australia**

Australia has developed new import conditions to implement the requirements of ISPM 15 and is proposing to implement them on July 1, 2004. More specifically, WPM and

dunnage will be granted quarantine clearance where it is:

- Treated and marked in accordance with the provisions of ISPM 15.
- Is free of bark.
- Where Methyl Bromide fumigation is used as a treatment, fumigation has been at the rate of 48 grams per cubic meter for 24 hours, in accordance with AQIS Quarantine Treatment Aspects and Procedures, and at the time of treatment, the timber is no greater than 200mm in diameter in the smallest plane; **AND,**
- Is accompanied by an appropriate packing declaration that the containerized wood packing is compliant with Australian ISPM 15 requirements.

The net effect of these changes is to revise Australia's existing heat treatment requirements from a core temperature of 74°C for time periods based on piece thickness to the requirements of ISPM 15 (56°C at the core for 30 minutes).

However, the new methyl bromide requirements exceed ISPM 15 specifications by requiring treatment for a minimum of 24 hours rather than 16 hrs.

### **Accredited Heat Treatment Agencies**

The American Lumber Standards Committee, Inc., is authorized to accredit and monitor organizations engaged in the inspection of facilities producing heat-treated WPM. The most recent addition to the list of accredited organizations is:

Renewable Resource Associates, Inc.  
3091 Chaparral Place  
Lithonia, GA 30038  
(770) 482-9385  
(770) 484-2541 Fax  
[rra.inc@mindspring.com](mailto:rra.inc@mindspring.com)

### **Problems in International Shipments Using Wood Packaging Material (WPM)**

Problems with shipments to China continue to dominate the problems being shared with the Pallet Phytosanitary Project. Two companies have provided the following examples:

- Pallets made entirely of OSB (oriented strandboard) are being stopped even though they have the self-declaration that “This Shipment Contains No Solid Wood Packaging Material”. The inspectors are apparently confused because the pallets clearly look like wood, even though it is obviously a processed wood product and not subject to the phytosanitary regulations. Further, all accompanying documentation was correct and therefore not a source of ambiguity. The company representative suggests that a reasonable solution to this particular problem is to have the capability of applying the IPPC mark to processed WPM.
- A shipment of WPM with the appropriate self-declaration had some additional marks added while in route. These additional marks were Notary Public type stamps that appear to have been added while in the US by a state level organization. Chinese inspectors did not know who these people were and their role in international shipments, so it caused some consternation and delays for the shipment in question.

- Another company encountered a situation where their self-declaration that the shipment contained no coniferous wood packaging material was not accepted. The Chinese officials instead required Phytosanitary Certificates and Fumigation Certificates. Since the company could not provide the certificates, management decided to make all shipments on plastic pallets to avoid additional problems. This change has proven quite costly to the company.

### **PHYTOSANITARY WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT**

Penn State University is sponsoring a workshop entitled “Heat Treatment of Hardwood Pallets with Minimal Structural Degrade” on April 27, 2004 at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College, PA.

A registration fee of \$125 is required and includes all instruction, instructional materials, parking, refreshment breaks and lunch. Questions about registration should be directed to Michael Powell at (814) 863-1113 or via email at [mjp175@psu.edu](mailto:mjp175@psu.edu). Online registration is available at [www.sfr.cas.psu.edu](http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu) under “Workshops and Short Courses”. Registrations must be received by April 13, 2004.

Topics and speakers for the workshop are:

- Physical Properties of Wood Important in Sanitation (Lee Stover – Penn State)
- Anatomical Properties of Wood (Lee Stover and John Pletcher – Penn State)

- Wood and Moisture Relations Important in Sanitation (Paul Blankenhorn – Penn State)
- Degrade Associated with Heating Wood (Paul Blankenhorn – Penn State)
- System Features, Pros/Cons, What to Look For (Speaker To Be Announced)
- Phytosanitation Regulations and Explanations (Curt Hassler – BalkenTier Consulting)

For more information about workshop content, contact John Pletcher at (814) 863-6393 or via email at [jep13@psu.edu](mailto:jep13@psu.edu).

## ONGOING REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Those receiving this newsletter represent a rich source of information regarding the issues, problems, and successes that the wood packaging industry is experiencing. Likewise, you are no doubt providing information, solutions, and support to your clients. The Project Team would like to continue compiling these issues and any solution you have developed and share them with your colleagues and the industry through this newsletter. We would much appreciate you forwarding your experiences to the Project Manager (via email at [curth@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:curth@mail.wvnet.edu) or by phone at (304) 282-5417) so that we can compile the information and continue to share it in future newsletters.

## PINEWOOD NEMATODE PUBLICATION

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private

Forestry has recently published a brochure entitled, “*How to Identify and Manage Wilt Disease and Treat Wood Products Infested by the Pinewood Nematode*”, NA-FR-01-01, authored by Michelle Cram and Jim Hanson. The brochure is full color and covers the History, Life Cycle and Biology, Taxonomy, Economic and Ecological Impact and Management of the Pinewood Nematode. The brochure can be obtained online at: [www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howto.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howto.htm).

A limited number of hard copies are available through the Pallet Phytosanitary Project by contacting the Project Manager at (304) 282-5417 or via email at: [curth@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:curth@mail.wvnet.edu).

## HEAT STERILIZATION PUBLICATION

The Pallet Phytosanitary Project recently published a Technical Paper authored by Joseph Denig and Brian Bond, entitled “Heat Sterilization of Hardwood Pallets and Pallet Material”. Copies of the publication are available by contacting the Project Manager at (304) 282-5417 or via email at [curth@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:curth@mail.wvnet.edu).

## MISCELLANEOUS

Please feel free to distribute this newsletter via email or hard copy to all interested parties.

This issue of the newsletter and all subsequent issues will be posted on the following USDA Forest Service website:

[www.na.fs.fed.us/econaction/palletnews](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/econaction/palletnews).

Suggestions and items for upcoming newsletter issues are welcomed. Contact Curt Hassler, Project Manager, at (304) 282-5417 or via email at [curth@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:curth@mail.wvnet.edu).