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## International Regulations for Wood Packaging

The United States Department of Agriculture has adopted the international standard for regulating wood packaging materials in international trade. The effective date of the regulations was September 16, 2005. The regulation states that all regulated wood packaging material must be either heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide in accordance with the guidelines and marked with an approved international mark certifying treatment. This regulation affects every shipment imported into the United States.

### The Regulations:

1. The materials - Regulated Wood Packaging Material (WPM):  
"Wood packing materials other than manufactured wood materials, loose wood packing materials, and wood pieces less than 6 mm (0.24 in) thick in any dimension, that are used or that are for use with cargo to prevent damage, including, but not limited to dunnage, crating, pallets, packing blocks, drums, cases and skids."
2. The approved treatments:
  - A. Heat treatment to a minimum wood core temperature of 56 C for a minimum of 30 minutes or,
  - B. Fumigation with methyl bromide in an enclosed area for at least 16 hours at certain specified dosages and followed by aeration to reduce the concentration of fumigant below hazardous levels.
3. The markings on the Wood Packaging Material:  
Regulated WPM must be marked with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) logo and the two-letter ISO code for the country that treated the WPM. The markings must also include the unique number assigned by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) to the company responsible for ensuring the WPM was properly treated and either the abbreviation HT (heat treatment) or MB (methyl bromide). Regulated WPM must be marked in a visible location. It is recommended that the article be permanently marked on two opposite sides.
4. The documentation:  
Paper certification (treatment certificates) will no longer be required or acceptable.
5. Packaging materials exempt from treatment:  
WPM made entirely of manufactured wood materials (e.g. particleboard, plywood, oriented strand board) and wine and whiskey barrels, or WPM made entirely of thin pieces of wood, (6mm thickness or less) is exempted from the treatment and marking requirements.
6. Shipments arriving into the USA after September 15, 2005 in untreated packaging:  
In cases of noncompliance, an examining officer at the first port of arrival may order the immediate re-export of regulated WPM along with the accompanying cargo. Treatment or destruction will not be permitted.

Additional information is available from the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) division of the United States Department of Agriculture or at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_imports/wood\\_packaging\\_materials.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/wood_packaging_materials.shtml).