



Plant Regulatory Branch- Plant Health
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore

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PR 4.2

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To: All Traders & Forwarding Agents

PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENT- SOLID WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS (SWPM) USED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Background Information

The use of solid wood packaging materials (SWPM) in international trade has been identified as one of the pathways of introducing pests and diseases to forests and timber industries across national boundaries. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) under the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has developed an international standard to address this problem. It is known as "Guidelines For Regulating Wood Packaging Material In International Trade" or ISPM 15 (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures). The guidelines specify the measures for treatment of SWPM such as methyl bromide fumigation and heat treatment and for the treated SWPM to be marked with an internationally recognised IPPC Mark. ISPM 15 can be sighted on IPPC's website <http://ippc.int>.

The US's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service has given notification (www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp) that they plan to achieve full implementation of ISPM 15 within the next 6 to 12 months. During this interim period, all SWPM (e.g. pallets and dunnage) shipped with cargo will be subjected to stringent inspection if the SWPM was not treated in accordance with ISPM 15 standard for entry into US. Exporters are already fumigating pallets used for cargo to China. The EU, NZ, Australia and India will be implementing ISPM 15 soon as well. Non-complying SWPM will be denied entry and re-exported or else subject to treatment at the point of entry.

Implementation of ISPM 15 in Singapore

1. Export of SWPM

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) has accredited fumigators and kiln dry operators to carry out the treatment of SWPM according to ISPM 15 standard. With immediate effect, traders will be able to use their services to comply with ISPM 15 requirements when exporting cargo with SWPM. These AVA accredited pest control agencies are listed in Annex 1. We expect more pest control agencies will join this accreditation programme. Any updates to the list will be notified on the AVA website (www.ava.gov.sg), under "More Information" (select "Circulars" and then select "Updated List of Pest Control Agency"). Exporters are advised to use only the AVA accredited pest control agencies to treat their SWPM for use in exported cargo to countries that require compliance to ISPM 15 for entry. In addition to the IPPC Mark, the AVA accredited pest control agencies would also issue treatment certificate (e.g. Fumigation Certificate or Heat Treatment Certificate) to the shippers for the treated SWPM. The IPPC Mark is protected under the Singapore Trade Marks Act and AVA Act. Any infringement of the protected mark would be prosecuted under the above laws.

For an interim period, AVA will continue to issue Phytosanitary Certificate to certify SWPM which have been treated in accordance to ISPM 15 by non-accredited pest control agencies. The treatment will have to be supervised by AVA. However, this service will cease on 31 August 2004.

2. Import of SWPM

At present, SWPM imported into Singapore do not require ISPM 15 certification. For transshipment cargo, and any cargo which is imported solely for re-export, it is recommended that the SWPM should be treated

and certified at the country of origin. This will ensure that the cargo is not unnecessarily delayed in Singapore because of treatment requirements.

Other Information

Please contact the following AVA staff for clarification and further information:

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| 1. Dr. Mohd. Ali | Tel: 67519842 |
| 2. Ms Ong Ai Khim | Tel: 67519843 |

Yours sincerely,

Yong Taik Chai
Deputy Head/ Plant Health Branch
for Chief Executive Officer
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore

(No signature required if via electronic means)