

**IMPLEMENTATION OF ISPM 15 FROM 1 MARCH 2005: NEW REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE IMPORT OF WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL AND DUNNAGE
FOR A BETTER PROTECTION AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION
OF PESTS OR DISEASES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Communication from the European Communities

The following communication, dated 21 March 2005, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

Background

1. The European Commission has adopted a legal text stepping up measures to protect the European Communities against the introduction of organism harmful to plants and plant products.
2. The original proposal was notified to WTO trade partners in document G/SPS/N/EEC/221 (10 November 2003). Further to the comments received from third countries, and with a view to facilitate the adoption of necessary measures, the European Commission proposed to delay for one year (until 1 March 2005) the enforcement of the measures against the introduction into the European Communities of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the European Communities in document G/SPS/N/EEC/221/Add.1 (13 May 2004).
3. The proposal was adopted as "*Commission Directive 2004/102/EC of 5 October 2004 amending Annexes II, III, IV and V to Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community* (Official Journal L 309, 6 October 2004, pages 9-25), and notified in G/SPS/N/EEC/221/Add.2 (14 October 2004). The full text can be downloaded from the address indicated below:

English text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/l_309/l_30920041006en00090025.pdf

French text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/fr/oj/dat/2004/l_309/l_30920041006fr00090025.pdf

Spanish text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/es/oj/dat/2004/l_309/l_30920041006es00090025.pdf

4. In February, the European Commission considered appropriate to postpone the debarking requirement for one year, until March 2006 as notified in G/SPS/N/EEC/221/Add.3 of 2 March 2005.

Aim of this document

5. This general document aims to inform EC trading partners of the new import requirements for wood packing material and for dunnage imported in the European Communities as from 1 March 2005 onwards. The European Communities emphasizes that this is a PAPERLESS system:

conformity with the requirements is to be guaranteed in all cases (as well for fumigation as heat treatment) by the mark on the wood only. Below are summarized the present conditions for wood packaging and dunnage. See also Annex 1 for an extract from the relevant legal text.

Wood packaging material

6. The new requirements for wood packing material have to be applied for goods arriving for import in all 25 EC member States from 1 March 2005 onwards.

7. From that date, all new/repaired/recycled wood packaging material has to respond to the TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS (undergone a heat treatment or fumigation with methyl bromide + made from debarked wood¹) and there has to be a MARK consisting of 3 codes (country, producer and measure applied) and the IPPC logo.

8. As a transitional measure for packaging material already in use before 1 March 2005, the mark consisting of the 3 codes only (without the IPPC logo) is accepted until the end of 2007.

Dunnage

9. Identical TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS and the complete MARK (3 codes + IPPC logo).

10. As a transitional measure, dunnage made from bark-free wood that is free from pests and signs of live pests is accepted until 31 December 2007.

Note: The general principles of the EC plant health regime are based upon provisions laid down in the International Plant Protection Convention concluded at the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organisation and, in the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. In order to meet the above aim, rights and obligations are placed upon EC member States to regulate the movement of plants or plant products within their territory and to regulate the introduction of plants or plant products into the Community from third countries. Some obligations also are placed upon third countries which want to export plants or plant products to the European Communities.

For more information concerning the EC plant health regime established by Council Directive 2000/29/EC, visit the following web sites:

English: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/organisms/index_en.htm

French: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/organisms/index_fr.htm

Spanish: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/plant/organisms/index_es.htm

¹ The debarking requirement is postponed until 1 March 2006.

ANNEX I**Extracts from Council Directive 2000/29/EC as amended by Dir. 2005/15/EC****For wood packing material:**

<p>Wood packaging material, in the form of packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, pallets, box pallets and other load boards, pallet collars, actually in use in the transport of objects of all kinds, except raw wood of 6 mm thickness or less, and processed wood produced by glue, heat and pressure, or a combination thereof, coming from third countries, except Switzerland.</p>	<p>The wood packaging material shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be made from debarked round wood, and - be subject to one of the approved measures as specified in Annex I to FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade</i>, and - display a mark with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the two-letter ISO country code, a code identifying the producer and the code identifying the approved measure applied to the wood packaging material in the mark as specified in Annex II to FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade</i>. The letters "DB" shall be added to the abbreviation of the approved measure included in the said mark. <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) in the case of wood packaging material manufactured, repaired or recycled as of 1 March 2005, also the logo as specified in Annex II to the said FAO Standard. However the requirement is not applicable on a temporary basis until 31 December 2007 in the case of wood packaging material manufactured, repaired or recycled before 8 February 2005. <p>The first indent, requiring wood packaging material to be made from debarked wood, shall only apply from 1 March 2006.</p>
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For dunnage:

<p>Wood used to wedge or support non-wood cargo, including that which has not kept its natural round surface, except raw wood of 6 mm thickness or less and processed wood produced by glue, heat and pressure, or a combination thereof, coming from third countries, except Switzerland</p>	<p>The wood shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be made from debarked round wood and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be subject to one of the approved measures as specified in Annex I to FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade</i>, and - display a mark with at least the two-letter ISO country code, a code identifying the producer and the code identifying the approved measure applied to the wood packaging material in the mark as specified in Annex II to FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 on <i>Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade</i>. The letters "DB" shall be added to the abbreviation of the approved measure included in the said mark. <p>or on a temporary basis until 31 December 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) be made from bark-free wood that is free from pests and signs of live pests. <p>The first line of point (a), requiring wood packaging material to be made from debarked wood, shall only apply from 1 March 2006.</p>
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