



Government
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Information Bulletin

GOVERNMENT STEPS UP ENFORCEMENT OF WOOD PACKAGING IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

March 9, 2006- Importers should be aware that non-compliant wood packaging may be refused entry into Canada, as the Government of Canada steps up its enforcement activities regarding implementation of the international wood packaging standard.

Any shipments found to contain wood packaging that does not meet Canadian import requirements are the responsibility of the importer or person in care and control of the regulated article(s). This may result in further delays, additional costs, monetary penalties or in some cases, the shipment may be ordered removed from Canada.

These changes are taking place as Canada joins with the United States and Mexico in the phased-in implementation of the regulation of wood packaging under the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15.

ISPM No. 15 requires that wood packaging either be heat-treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and marked with the internationally recognized International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) mark, or in lieu of the mark, the consignment must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate specifying the treatment used.

Canada's import requirements cover solid wood (excluding manufactured wood and paper products) used in packaging, supporting, protecting, bracing or carrying a commodity. Wood packaging materials manufactured from wood of Canadian or U.S. origin that have not moved internationally are exempt from the treatment and marking requirements of Canadian and U.S. wood packaging import regulations.

The intent of these requirements is to reduce the risk of introducing Invasive Alien Species (IAS), harmful pests which are known to be transported and spread via untreated wood packaging. The introduction of these pests into Canada could have a serious negative impact on Canada's environment and economy.

Consultations and regular communication with industry regarding the implementation of the wood packaging requirements have taken place since 2002, when the international standard was adopted by Canada.

For more information on rules and regulations governing the Import Policy and Export Program for Wood Packaging, please visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website (CFIA) at www.inspection.gc.ca or call 1 800 442-2342. You can also obtain further information by visiting the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) website at www.cbsa.gc.ca.

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