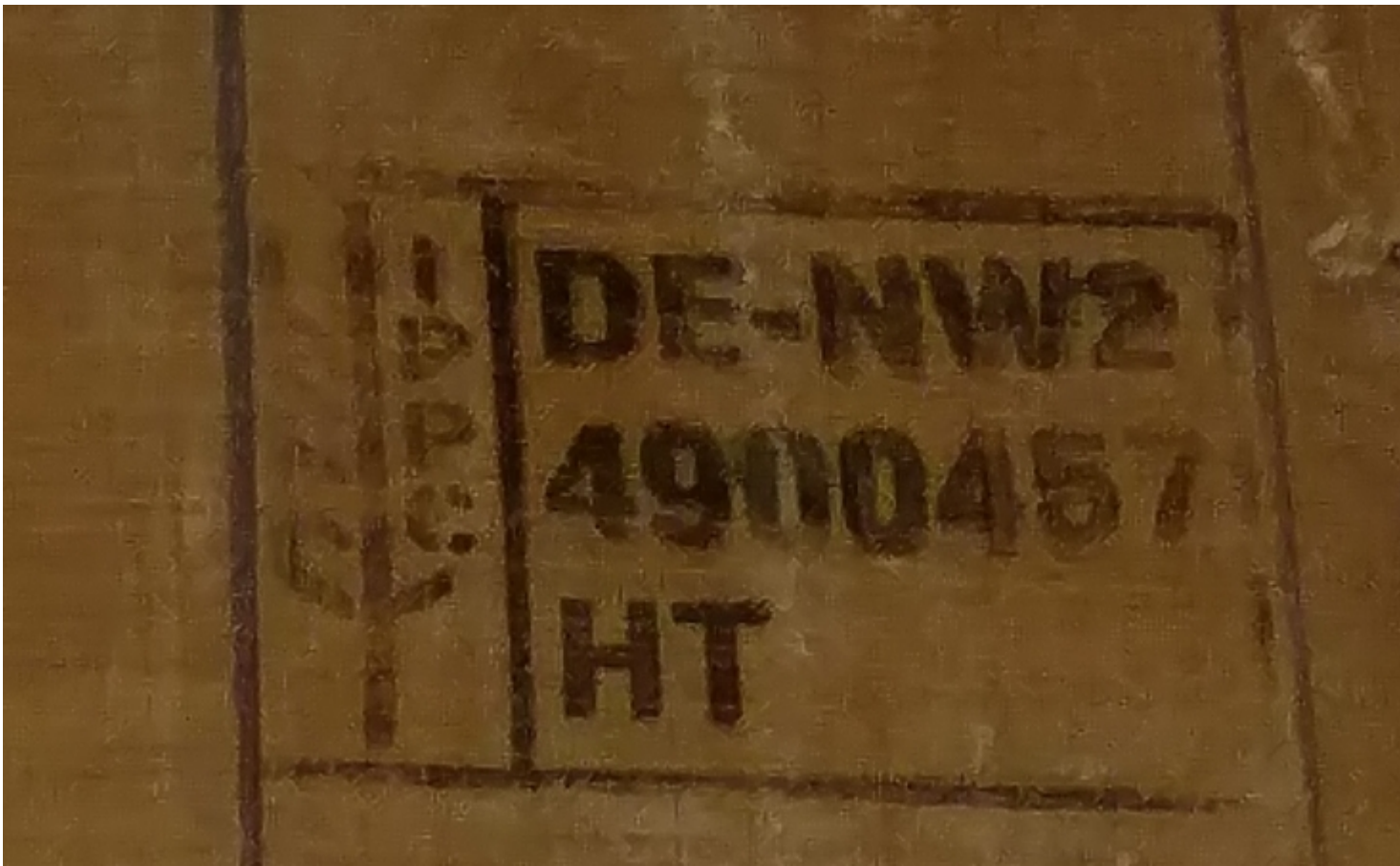


Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

# Import ISPM 15-Compliant Wood Packaging Material into the United States

Last Modified:



As an **importer**, you must ensure that all wood packaging material (WPM) entering or transiting the United States is pest-free, debarked, heat-treated or fumigated, and marked with an ISPM 15 logo certifying that it has been appropriately treated. Shipments containing noncompliant WPM will not be allowed to enter the country.

**Check Import Requirements**

**START HERE if you are new to importing WPM or do not know what import requirements apply to your shipment.**

[Go to ACIR](#)

The Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database contains import requirements for many agricultural commodities. This includes WPM such as:

- Pallets, pallet collars, and skids
- Containers
- Crates, boxes, cases, and bins
- Reels, drums, and load boards
- Dunnage

## **How To Source ISPM 15-Compliant WPM**



### **Use Accredited Companies**

- Ask your WPM provider if they are ISPM 15-compliant and accredited.
- Review the certification provided by the exporting country's [national plant protection organization \(NPPO\)](#).



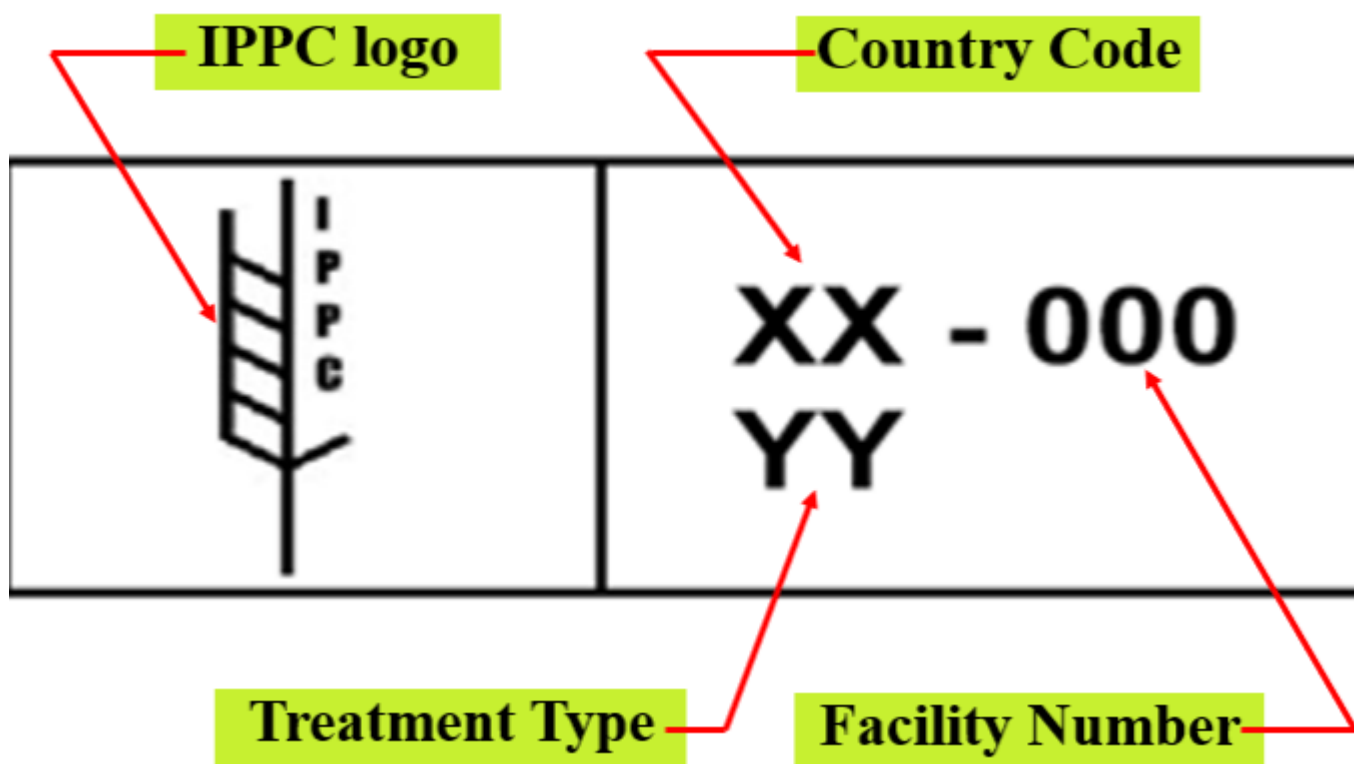
## 2

### Know What Inspectors Look For

Inspectors look for the official ISPM mark and any signs that pests could be present. The official ISPM mark includes:

- IPPC logo
- Two-letter country code
- Unique facility number within the country
- Treatment type (either "HT" for heat treatment or "MB" for methyl bromide)

[View Signs of Noncompliant WPM and Other Resources](#)



## 3

### Inform Your Exporters

- Share information with your exporter on the [ISPM 15 standard](#) and [regulations](#).
- Make sure to include ISPM 15 compliance in the contract.
- Require your exporter to inspect the WPM for signs of pests when delivered or before use.



# Noncompliant WPM Dashboard

[Buyer Beware](#)

Some companies may try to pass off noncompliant WPM as compliant. Use our interactive dashboard to make informed decisions about your supply chain.

[View Dashboard](#)



AO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS

ndline

<u>Port of Entry</u>		<u>Commodity Country of Origin</u>
	1,907	MEXICO
	552	CHINA
	530	GERMANY
	524	INDIA
	446	TURKEY
	345	ITALY
	337	UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN...
	326	VIET NAM
	297	NETHERLANDS
	297	BRAZIL
	265	FRANCE
		BELGIUM

# If You Receive an Emergency Action Notification

Agricultural inspectors may issue an emergency action notification (EAN) when a shipment contains noncompliant WPM or otherwise fails to comply with APHIS regulations. It takes a systematic approach to address the immediate issue and prevent future violations. To understand the process, [watch our introductory video](#) and view the roadmap steps:

## [Expand All](#)

### 1. Understand the Violation

- Review the EAN to identify the specific violation (see box 16; for example, pest interception, prohibited material, or improper documentation).
- Reach out to local CBP (see contact information on the EAN) and [APHIS officials](#) to clarify the nature of the noncompliance and determine appropriate corrective actions.
- Immediately contact your overseas supplier to notify them of the issue.

### 2. Coordinate Corrective Actions

Work with CBP and APHIS officials to address the immediate issue. Depending on the nature of the noncompliance, available options may include:

- Safeguarding the shipment via tarping, knock-down fumigations, or other methods
- Destroying the noncompliant WPM under APHIS supervision to prevent contamination or pest spread
- Re-exporting the shipment to the country of origin or another destination (if the shipment cannot be brought into compliance)

### 3. Implement Corrective Actions

Work with APHIS, CBP, and other relevant parties (such as treatment providers, disposal facilities, or export carriers) to carry out the corrective actions. This includes:

- Coordinating logistics to ensure corrective actions are performed promptly and per APHIS guidelines.
- Documenting and keeping records of all actions taken, including safeguards, re-exportation paperwork, or destruction records.
- Following up with each agency to verify compliance (if CBP and APHIS personnel supervised the corrective actions).

### 4. Conduct a Traceback Investigation

Cooperate with APHIS and CBP as they conduct a traceback investigation to understand what caused the noncompliance. This includes:

- Investigating the shipment's origin, including the exporter, supplier, and production site, to determine where the violation occurred.
- Evaluating the processes at the point of origin to identify gaps in compliance, such as pest management practices or improper packaging.

- Gathering supporting documents (for example, phytosanitary certificates and treatment records) to verify compliance history.

## 5. Mitigate Risks for Future Shipments

Take the following steps to achieve long-term compliance:

- Provide guidance to your exporter or supplier on APHIS and CBP requirements to prevent similar issues from recurring.
- Recommend or implement improved pest management, packaging, and inspection protocols at the point of origin.
- Review resources from APHIS and CBP to make sure you understand U.S. regulations, documentation requirements, and [why compliance matters for your business](#).

## Resources

### [Signs of Noncompliant WPM](#)



### [WPM Inspection Checklist](#)



### [Inspection Process Videos](#)



## Alternatives to WPM



## Pests of Concern



## Poster: Notice and Report Invasive Pests



# Inspection Process Videos

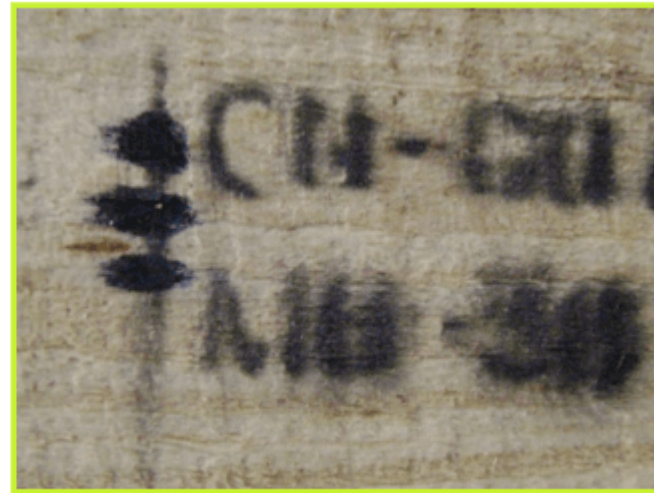
The following is a series of training videos for CBP inspectors on the WPM inspection process:

1. [Physical Exam of General Cargo](#)
2. [Checklist of General Cargo](#)
3. [Taking a Closer Look at WPM](#)
4. [Taking a Closer Look at Finding the Pests](#)
5. [Tools Used During Inspection](#)

# Signs of Noncompliant or Risky WPM









**New wood added**

**Old stamped  
(bearer) wood**

Show Info

**Inappropriately marked.** The stamp on the WPM is illegible or does not comply with the standard. In the left photo, the mark is not stamped on the lumber; in the right, there is no border around the stamp and the logo is incorrect.

**Infested with pests.** As well as pests, inspectors may find feeding damage, trails, exit holes, and frass (insect excrement that looks like sawdust). These are all signs of infestation in WPM.

**Unmarked.** There is no visible stamp on the WPM.

**Mix of new wood and old wood.** New WPM is fresh/green cut, sap-visible wood with higher pest probability. Old WPM has very low moisture content, is reused, shows visual damage, and has a lower pest risk. Mixed WPM has characteristics of both new and old WPM.





## Alternatives to WPM

Importers may consider using alternatives to WPM. The following products are not subject to APHIS regulation:

- Plywood or pressboard
- Plastic pallets
- Oriented strand board
- Hardboard
- Parallel strand lumber
- Synthetic foam
- Metal frames
- Inflated dunnage
- Masonite veneer
- Laminated veneer lumber



## Pests of Concern

Here are some of the harmful, wood-boring pests that can hide in untreated WPM. Learn more about them and help us keep them out of the United States.

### Asian Longhorned Beetle

The Asian longhorned beetle is a destructive, wood-boring pest that feeds on maple and other hardwood trees, eventually killing them.

[Learn More](#)



## Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer is an exotic beetle responsible for the destruction of tens of millions of ash trees in North America.

[Learn More](#)



[Print](#)