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

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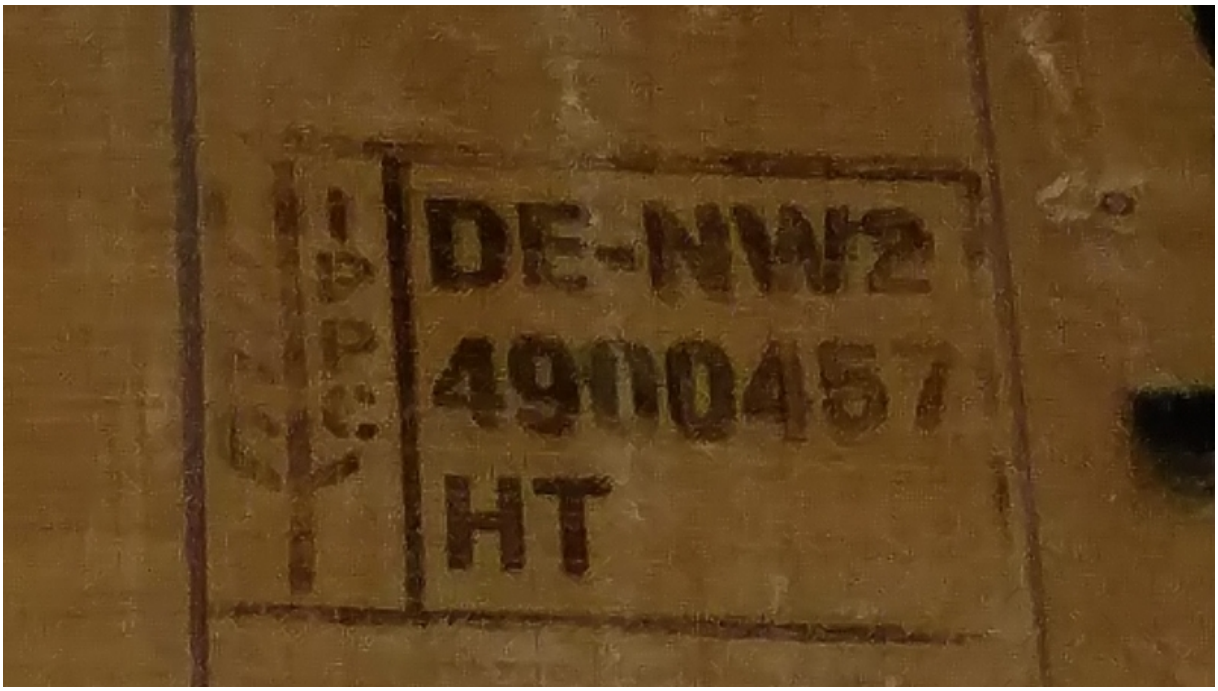


As an **importer**, you must ensure that all wood packaging material (WPM) entering or transiting the United States is pest-free, debarked, heat-treated or fumigated, and marked with an ISPM 15 logo certifying that it has been appropriately treated.

Shipments containing noncompliant WPM will not be allowed to enter the country.

Wood Packaging Materials (WPM)

Tuesday 25 August

Navigating Compliance Webinar

Date

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Time

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM EDT

Details

Register now! APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will hold a free webinar on August 25 at 1:00p.m. ET on navigating compliance related to Wood Packaging Materials (WPM). Learn about the steps to take if you get an Emergency Action Notice based on noncompliance with ISPM-15.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to connecting with you.

Registration here

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

1

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).



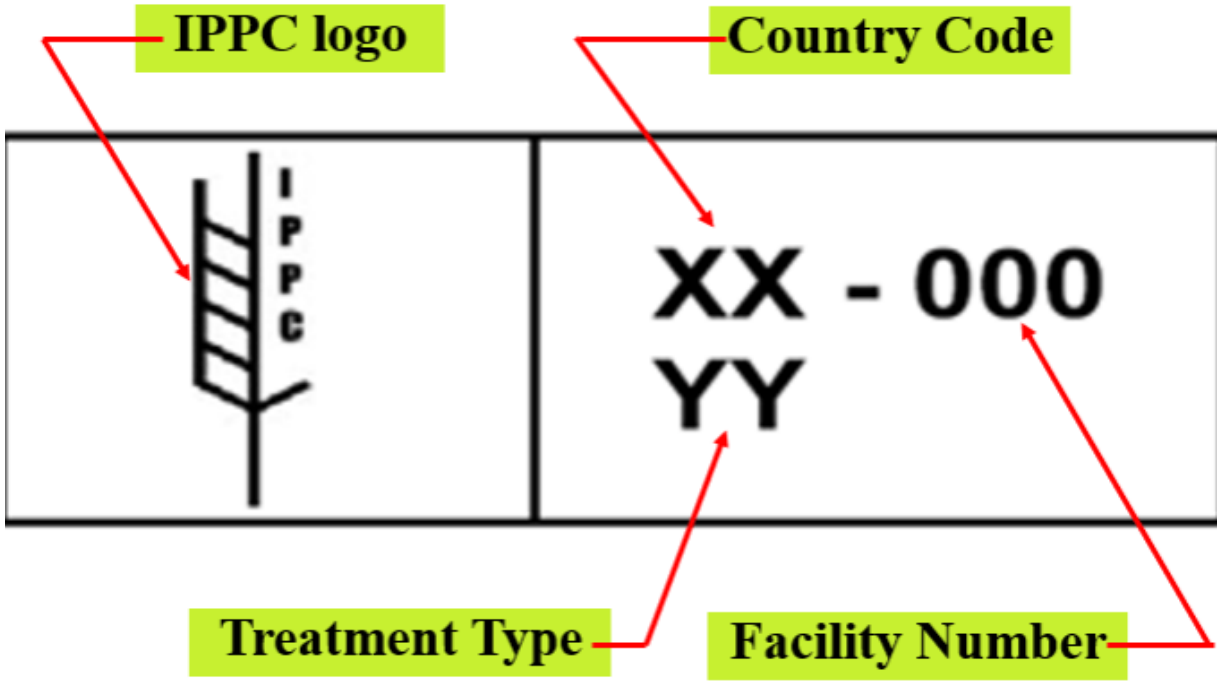
2

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.



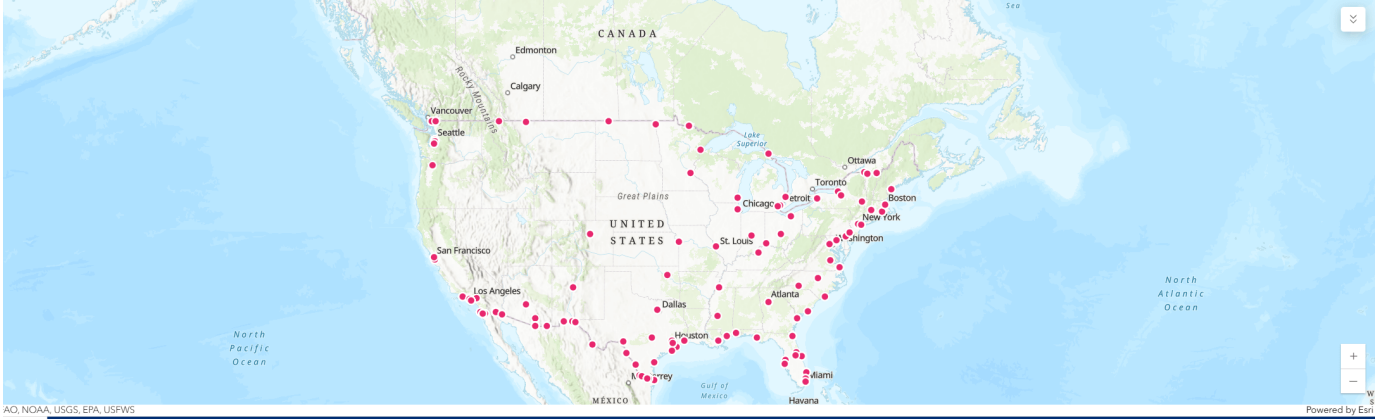
Noncompliant WPM Dashboard

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.

First time using the dashboard? Watch the tutorial video.

View Dashboard



ndline

Port of Entry	
	1,907
	552
	530
	524
	446
	345
	337
	326
	297
	297
L	265

Commodity Country of Origin	
MEXICO	4,497
CHINA	623
GERMANY	471
INDIA	400
TURKEY	394
ITALY	336
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN...	316
VIET NAM	201
NETHERLANDS	179
BRAZIL	155
FRANCE	131
BELGIUM	104

Commodity	
WOOD PACKING MATERIAL	1,238
MACHINE PARTS	955
MISCELLANEOUS NON-REGULATED M...	663
METALS, MINERALS & METAL PRODUCTS	535
MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT	451
NON-REGULATED PROCESSED FOOD ...	377
MACHINERY	348
TILE	334
BUILDING MATERIALS	280
PLASTICS AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS	204
AUTOMOBILE	194
ARTWARE/CRAFT/HANDICRAFT	173

Pest Family (Taxonomic)	
NO PEST REPORTED	9,198
CURCULIONIDAE	856
CERAMBYCIDAE	289
BUPRESTIDAE	100
SIRICIDAE	50
SCOLYTIDAE	2
PLATYPODIDAE	2
COSSIDAE	1
SESIIDAE	1

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.

Download Interactive WPM Roadmap (398.22 KB)

Resources

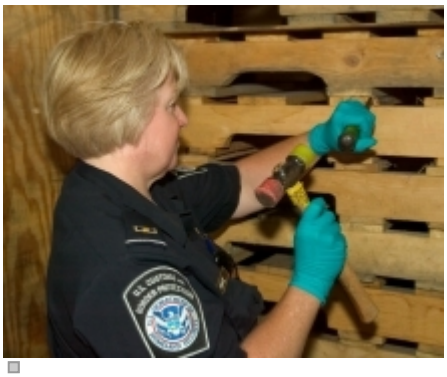
Signs of Noncompliant WPM



WPM Toolbox



Inspection Process Videos



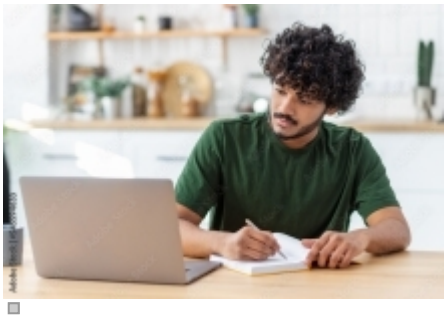
Alternatives to WPM



Pests of Concern



Webinars



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





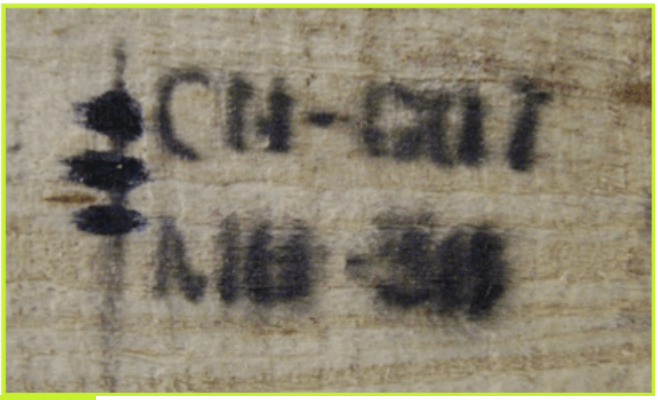







New wood added


PK-018
MB











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



WPM Toolbox

- WPM Inspection Checklist
- Poster: Notice and Report Invasive Pests

Webinars

WPM Webinar 2025

NCBFAA Government Affairs Conference

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