

**INFORMATION PAPER: General Series: 2005/2**  
**WOOD PACKAGING INSPECTIONS (UNDER ISPM 15)**  
**A Brief Guide for BIFA members**

With effect from 1 March 2005 consignments entering the European Union will need to comply with the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM15), which sets out the guidelines for regulating wood packaging material used in international trade.

The guidelines contain the phytosanitary measures in respect of movement of wood packaging material in the form of packing cases, crates, drums, pallets, load boards, pallet collars and dunnage, and are aimed at reducing the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging material, (for example: the Asian longhorn beetle, pine wood nematode, etc). Both coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood are covered.

Inspections will be carried out by the plant health inspection services of the Member States (in the UK this is the Forestry Commission - <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth>), on non-manufactured wood packaging (NMWP) entering the EU. The Forestry Commission aims to inspect approximately 2% of consignments/containers entering the UK.

**How will import inspections be carried out in Great Britain?**

Inspectors will identify material for inspection from Customs declarations, manifests and bills of lading. Most inspections will be carried out using existing inspection facilities on the dockside; the Forestry Commission does not anticipate additional delays in clearance. However, for containerised consignments that have been fumigated, for health and safety reasons checks for residual gas levels are carried out before any inspection takes place. Where residual levels of fumigant are found to be above prescribed safe levels, the importer will be required to have the container vented and certified free of gas by a recognised fumigation company before inspection can proceed. All costs associated with this, or any other work that is necessary to enable inspection to take place, will be at the importer's expense.

**Action that will be taken in the event of non-compliance**

The options available under European Community legislation are:

1. treatment to eliminate all pests of concern (normally this is by fumigation with methyl bromide);
- OR
2. destruction.

In serious cases, usually where a live infestation is detected and there is a high risk of accidental escape of pests, re-export out of the EU may be ordered.

**Responsibility for non-compliance**

In the event that remedial treatment is deemed necessary, the cost of carrying out this work will also be at the importer's expense. The Forestry Commission will also recover its costs of monitoring the treatment. In this regard the importer is defined as the owner, consignee, **agent, broker** or otherwise who is in any way entitled to the custody or control of the consignment/s and/or relevant material which has been landed in the UK from a third country.

**How to arrange for fumigation**

Should fumigation be required suppliers of such services can be contacted via the **British Pest Control Association** web site at [www.bpca.org.uk/search.asp](http://www.bpca.org.uk/search.asp). Alternatively, contact **IGROX Ltd.** - a well known national supplier of fumigation services – on free phone 0800 214501

**Recommended action for BIFA members**

BIFA recommends that you make it a contractual requirement for your import customers, and your overseas partners, to ensure that the goods they ship meet ISPM 15 requirements, and furthermore that they will be held liable for any costs incurred as a result of non-compliance.

**Charges relating to inspections**

It is proposed that the Forestry Commission will levy a surcharge against all consignments/containers entering the UK. The level of the charge and the method of collection are yet to be decided, but are expected to be around 10 pence per unit. Obviously there will be the addition of the port charge to take into consideration.

**Further sources**

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:  
[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/l/309/l\\_30920041006en00090025.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/l/309/l_30920041006en00090025.pdf)

**INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION**

[https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/SPM\\_15\\_English.pdf?filename=1055161712885\\_ISPM15\\_e.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/SPM_15_English.pdf?filename=1055161712885_ISPM15_e.pdf)

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