



CROWBERRY CONSULTING
Environment, Ethics and Corporate Responsibility Management

Pallet ISPM Standards FAQ's



Image from Northstate Woodwork Co.

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What Is An ISPM Standard?

ISPM Standard is the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures. [Publication 15](#) relates to the regulation of wood packaging material (WPM) in international trade.

The [International Plant Protection Convention \(IPPC\)](#) controls ISPM15 through the cooperation of member governments of the UN, as part of the [United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation \(FAO\)](#).

Why Do My Pallets Need Them?

Your WPM needs this regulation (ISPM15) in order to help prevent the worldwide spread of plant pests and diseases by ensuring all WPM is specially treated.

What Is Classed As WPM?

ISPM15 applies to coniferous softwood and non-coniferous hardwood used as raw wood packaging material (WPM).

It does not apply to wood packaging made wholly of manufactured wood-based products such as:

- Plywood and veneer.
- Reconstituted wood products (particle board, chipboard, Presswood, oriented strand board, high density fibre board, and medium density fibre board).
- Products created using glue, heat and pressure or a combination thereof.

How Can I Tell If My Pallet (WPM) Has Been Treated?

All treated WPM will have the IPPC mark – seen below.

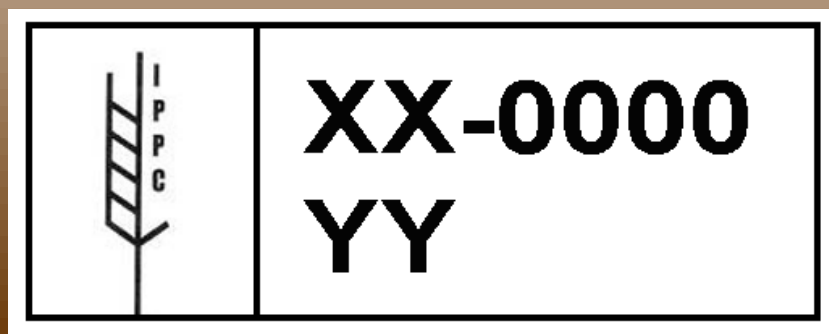


Image from
ISPM15.com.

What Do These Markings Means?

The markings must be within a rectangular border with a vertical line separating the IPPC logo (on the left) from the identifying data.

The border lines may be solid or broken; and the corners may be rounded.

- XX - indicates a two letter ISO country code.
- 0000 - the next series of letters/numbers is the unique identification mark of the wood treatment agent or packaging manufacturer.
 - The number of letters or digits may vary according to each country.
 - The country code and treatment agent or manufacturer code must be separated by a hyphen.
- YY - This indicates the type of treatment.
 - This will either be HT (Heat Treatment) or MB (Methyl Bromide).

The marking 'DB' (indicating debarking has taken place) is no longer used. However, as pallets may last several years, the older style of ISPM15 marking is still permissible.

EU Plant Health Legislation.

[Directive 2000/29/EC](#), as last amended by [Implementing Directive \(EU\) 2017/1279](#), lists certain harmful organisms that may be targeted by specific control measures if they are:

- Listed in annexes I and II (Part A, Section I) and found in the EU for the first time;
- Listed in annexes I and II (Part A, Section II) and found in an EU country where their presence was previously unknown.

Specific control measures may also be targeted at other harmful organisms previously unknown to occur in the EU and which are not listed in the annexes of [Directive 2000/29/EC](#) but are of potential economic importance.

How Can Crowberry Consulting Help You?

- We can provide and support internal audits as part of ISO14001 on your compliance to the Regulations.

Compiled by Ellie Digby – Legal Executive.
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