

NPQS Notification No. 2003-16

This is to notify “The Inspection Principles for Wood Packaging Material of Commodity for Import and Export” in accordance with Article 12 of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) and Article 16 Clause 6 of the enforcement regulation of the PPA as follows.

December 23, 2003
Director General of NPQS

Inspection Principles for Wood Packaging Material of Commodity for Import and Export

Article 1 (Purpose) The purpose of these principles is to allow effective inspection by establishing specific details on the principles for inspecting wood packaging material of commodity for import and export .

Article 2 (Definitions) Definitions of the terms used in these principles are as follows:

1. **Wood packaging material (WPM).** Wood or wood products used in supporting, protecting, or carrying a commodity such as pallets, crating, dunnage, packing blocks, etc. However, this term does not include products such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board, veneer, etc. which are of wood nature, but the pests associated with which have been killed or eliminated through processing process using glue, heat and pressure, etc.
2. **International standard.** International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 15, Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade, which have been set by the Secretariat of the FAO/IPPC.

Article 3 (Conditions for import) (1) The WPM of imported commodity (all commodities imported into Korea including agricultural products, industrial products, and goods to be moved, etc.) must be treated by the method shown in Attachment 2 in accordance with the international standard at a facility approved by the plant protection agency of the exporting country, and each WPM must bear the treatment mark which certifies the treatment. Nevertheless, in the case of WPM of coniferous wood from the countries where pine wood nematode (PWN) is distributed as shown in Attachment 1, only those which are heat treated are allowed to be imported into Korea.

(2) In the event that used WPM is being used again by recycling or re-assembling, the WPM must be re-treated in the exporting country and the treatment mark must be stamped again.

Article 4 (Import inspection, etc.) (1) A plant quarantine inspector can inspect the WPM of imported commodity at random.

- (2) When a plant quarantine inspector is going to open up an imported container, he or she must notify in advance the head of the customs service in charge of the area of the detailed information on the container subject to inspection (vessel name, B/L no, container no., etc.). At the same time, the plant quarantine inspector must notify the owner of the commodity (or an agent) and the manager of the container yard in advance so that they can prepare for the inspection as necessary and can attend the inspection.
- (3) After inspecting the container, the plant quarantine inspector must seal it with a seal, and fill out and maintain the ledger for the use of seals for plant quarantine as shown in the attached Form No. 1.
- (4) The plant quarantine inspector must fill out and maintain the ledger for the inspection of WPM as shown in the attached Form No. 2.

Article 5 (Disposition standard) (1) As a result of the import inspection in accordance with Article 4, the plant quarantine inspector may order the owner of the commodity to have it treated, in one of the following cases:

1. If the WPM lacks the treatment mark as shown in Attachment 3
2. If live pests are found even though the WPM has the treatment mark

(2) The plant quarantine inspector may order the owner of the commodity to have it destroyed or returned to origin if it falls under one of the following categories as a result of the import inspection in accordance with Article 4. If the commodity can be separated from the WPM, only the WPM may be disposed. The owner of the commodity may re-package the commodity with the permit of the head of the customs service in charge of the area:

1. If the WPM of coniferous wood is imported from the countries where PWN is distributed, and it lacks the treatment mark, or it has the mark, but live pests are found.
2. If the WPM is ordered to be treated, but it is impossible to do so.

Article 6 (Methods of treatment or destruction) The owner of the commodity who is ordered to have his or her WPM treated or destroyed by the plant quarantine inspector must either have it treated according to the method shown in Attachment 2, or have it destroyed according to one of the following methods:

1. Incineration

2. Burial (buried at a minimum depth of 1 meter; the wood infected with white ants cannot be destroyed using this method)
3. Processing: processing under the condition which can eliminate the pests, which is recognized by the Director General of the NPQS.

Additional Clause

This notification will go into effect June 1, 2004.

* Form Nos. 1 and 2 can be viewed on the NPQS home page.

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[Attachment 1]

Countries where Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) is Distributed

The list of countries as stipulated in Article 7 Clause 1 of the Plant Protection Act (PPA) and Attachment 1 to Article 9 of the enforcement regulation of the PPA and the countries on which the emergency import restriction measure was placed in accordance with Article 6 Clause 4 of the PPA due to PWN outbreaks:

- Asia : Japan, China, and Taiwan
- North and Central Americas : U.S.A., Canada, Mexico
- Europe : Portugal

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[Attachment 2]

Treatment for Wood Packaging Material (WPM)

1. Heat Treatment
 - The WPM must be treated to achieve a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes. Other treatments may be regarded as the heat treatment to the extent that these meet the heat treatment specification stated above.

2. MB Fumigation

Temperature	Dose (g/m ³)	Minimum required concentration (g/m ³)			
		30 minutes	2 hrs.	4 hrs.	16 hrs.
21°C or above	48	36	24	17	14
16°C or above	56	42	28	20	17
11°C or above	64	48	32	22	19

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[Attachment 3]

Treatment Mark of the Treated WPM

1. The WPM must bear the mark which certifies that it has been treated, and the mark must include the following information:
 - The symbol approved by the IPPC (ISPM No. 15, Appendix II)
 - The ISO two-letter country code
 - A unique number assigned by the plant protection agency of the exporting country to the agency (facility) which is responsible for proper use and marking of wood
 - Abbreviation for the measures approved by the IPPC (e.g. HT, MB)

2. Other necessary information may be added to the treatment mark, on the condition that it has no room for confusion, misunderstanding, and fraud.
 - The mark must be legible and permanent, and its location shall be fixed. It must be on at least two opposite sides of each article subject to be certified.
 - It is advised to avoid red and orange colors which are used for dangerous commodities.
 - The mark must be marked using indelible stamp or postmark.