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missouri **FOREST**  
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Heat Treat Inspection Program

# FAQ

## **What is the ISPM-15 Standard?**

The ISPM-15 Standard regulates wood packaging used in international trade. The approved phytosanitary measures described in this standard consist of procedures including treatments and marking of the wood packaging material.

## **Why is the ISPM-15 Standard Needed?**

To stop the spread of exotic pests to other countries. Pests associated with wood packaging material are known to have negative impacts on forest health and biodiversity. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) develops International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). The IPPC is an international treaty involving 170+ countries that aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and to control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.

## **Who Enforces the ISPM-15 Standard?**

The USDA Animal Plant Health Inspections Services (APHIS) has authorized the American Lumber Standards Committee (ALSC) to enforce ISPM-15. ALSC has accredited 20 organizations (including MFPA) as certifying agencies for the heat treatment of WPM. Each facility that wants to heat treat WPM for export must have a contractual relationship with one of the 20 certifying agencies.

## **What Wood Packaging Materials are covered by ISPM-15?**

Only sawn lumber used to build wood packaging materials to ship products overseas must comply with the ISPM-15 requirements. This includes pallets, crating, packing blocks, collars, spool ends, skids, runners, etc.

## **What are the Rules for Heat Treating WPM?**

Wood packaging materials must be relatively bark-free and must be heat treated to 140 degrees F at core temperature for 30 consecutive minutes. The heat treated WPM must then be stamped or marked.

## **What are the Marking Requirements?**

Three types of markings are used on heat treated wood packaging materials:

1. HT Grade-used on heat treated lumber that is sold to another facility to produce a HT pallet, crate and other types of WPM.
2. HT Quality- wood packaging material, such as pallets, crates and other types of WPM used to carry and/or enclose items shipped overseas.
3. HT Dunnage- loose pieces of heat treated wood, used as skids or runners during transport, must be stamped every two feet with the Quality Dunnage Mark.

The most common marking is created by a hand stamp or stencil.

## **How do I Acquire a HT Stamp or Stencil?**

You must take part in an audit program with an accredited agency to receive and use a HT Quality (or Grade) Mark.

## **How Much Does Compliance Cost?**

Each certifying agency develops its own pricing structure that is fairly comparable depending on the travel distance from the inspector to the facility. The major cost of ISPM-15 compliance to the facility is the monthly inspection fee.

## **What Happens During the Monthly Inspection?**

The inspector will confirm that your facility is producing HT lumber and WPM that is relatively bark-free, core temperature and duration was reached, HT lumber and WPM is stamped properly, and stored separately from untreated lumber and reviews the required recordkeeping.

## **What is the Required Record-keeping?**

Each HT facility must have quality control procedures spelled out in their Process manual. In addition, records must be maintained for:

1. Amount of heat treated lumber purchased from a certified agency.
2. Amount of heat treated lumber used in the manufacture of pallets, crates, dunnage and other WPM.
3. Each load of raw lumber heat treated in your kiln with the core temperature (140 degrees F) reached for 30 consecutive minutes.