

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Wood Packaging Material (WPM)

1. ISPM No.15 and measures prior to export

Q1-1; How do I get approval to apply the ISPM No.15 mark to WPM?

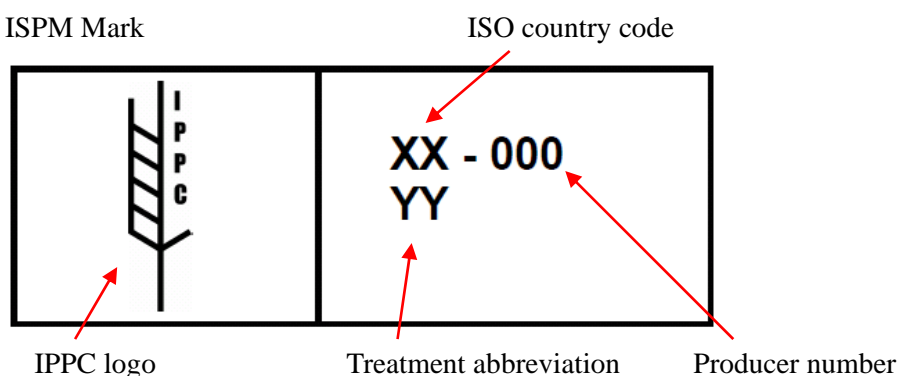
A1-1; Approval to use the mark can be given by a National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of an exporting country, which includes an origin country of WPM, or an organization officially audited and mandated by the NPPO.

Q1-2; What is the minimum information the mark shall contain?

A1-2; Minimum information required by Japanese regulation which is compliant with ISPM No.15, and the details are as follows;

- IPPC symbol,
- ISO two letter country code followed by a unique number assigned by the NPPO to the producer of the WPM, who is responsible for ensuring appropriate wood is used and properly marked (*See Annex II of ISPM No.15*),
- IPPC abbreviation according to Annex I of ISPM No.15 for the approved measure used (that is “HT” or “MB”).

ISPM Mark



Q1-3; What kind of marking tool can be accepted?

A1-3; The marking with stamp, stencil, brand or seal can be accepted. The mark shall be permanent and not transferable.

Q1-4; What size and shape must the mark be?

A1-4; There is no prescribed size or shape of the mark. The main requirement is that the mark must be permanent and legible, and include information shown in Annex II of ISPM No.15.

Q1-5; What kind of treatments are allowed as ISPM measures?

A1-5; There are two approved measures that are specified in Annex I of ISPM No. 15: Heat treatment and fumigation by methyl bromide. For heat treatment (HT), “wood packaging material should be heated in accordance with a specific time-temperature schedule that achieves a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes” (Annex I of ISPM No. 15). For methyl bromide fumigation (MB), minimum standard is as follows;

Temperature	Dosage (g/m ³)	Minimum concentration(g/m ³) at:			
		2hrs.	4hrs.	12hrs.	24hrs.
21°C or above	48	36	31	28	24
16°C or above	56	42	36	32	28
10°C or above	64	48	42	36	32

“The minimum temperature should not be less than 10°C and the minimum exposure time should be 24 hours. Monitoring of concentrations should be carried out at a minimum at 2, 4 and 24 hrs.”
(See Annex I of ISPM No.15)

Q1-6; Where should the mark be placed on WPM?

A1-6; Marking should be placed in a visible location, preferably on at least two opposite sides of the article being certified, so that if some sides are hidden in stacking, the mark can still be seen. Also, “marking should be according to the model shown here, legible, permanent and not transferable.” (See Annex II of ISPM No.15)

Q1-7; Is there validity term in the mark on WPM?

A1-7; No. There is no validity term in the mark. However, “Recycled, remanufactured or repaired WPM should be re-certified and remarked. All components of such material should have been treated.”(See Annex II of ISPM No.15)

Q1-8; Does WPM need to be re-treated and re-marked before it is re-used?

A1-8; If no alterations are made to the unit of WPM, and it is simply put back into service without any modifications or repairs, it dose not need to be re-treated and re-marked.

Q1-9; When only WPM itself (e.g. pallet etc, without any associating consignments), does it need to be treated and certified?

A1-9; When only WPM itself as a consignment is imported, it is required to be treated and certified prior to export.

2. Procedures at the point of entry in Japan

Q2-1; What should I do when the mark on WPM is not legible?

A2-1; When the mark is illegible, this WPM should be the subject of import inspection. You must apply for import inspection to the plant protection station.

Q2-2; Can I use industrial documents for treatment instead of the mark?

A2-2; No, you can't. Any documents given by provider or fumigator of WPM can't substitute for the mark.

Q2-3; Is additional information or a special certificate other than phytosanitary certificate needed to prove safety of WPM without the mark?

A2-3; No, it isn't. Only phytosanitary certificate is necessary and such WPM is inspected by the plant quarantine officer at the point of entry.

Q2-4; Is the WPM certified by a country other than the exporting country allowed?

A2-4; Yes, it is. As long as WPM has been appropriately treated and certified, it can be accepted.

Q2-5; Is the WPM which is accompanied by phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country but not treated and not marked allowed?

A2-5; Such WPM is subject to import inspection by the plant quarantine officer at the point of entry. If no pest is detected in the WPM, it will be allowed to be imported into Japan.

Q2-6; Is the WPM from country/area where dose not have certification system for ISPMNo.15 allowed?

A2-6; Using treated and certified WPM enables the import of consignments to Japan. WPM which is accompanied by phytosanitary certificate is subject to import inspection.

Q2-7; Is it regulated when consignments in transit have WPM without the mark?

A2-7; When consignments pass through Japan in sealed container, the consignments are not inspected, but procedures for transit are needed.

Q2-8; What measures would be taken when quarantine pests are found in WPM with the mark?

A2-8; Such WPM is non-compliant and should be treated or be disposed in accordance to domestic law. "Where the wood packing material dose carry the required mark, and evidence of live pests is found, action can be taken."(See Article 6.1 of ISPM No.15)

Q2-9; Is the WPM that is not unloaded from ship also regulated?

A2-9; No. Such WPM is not regulated. Only unloaded WPM is regulated.

Q2-10; Is it needed that WPM used for frozen plants or fish is treated and marked in exporting country?

A2-10; With frozen plants or fish, the WPM itself is frozen under $-17.8^{\circ}\text{C}(0^{\circ}\text{F})$, the mark is not required as long as its frozen condition has been maintained.

Q2-11; When does the new regulation start?

A2-11; The new regulation comes into effect on April 1, 2007. Therefore, the consignments unloaded in Japan on and after this day are regulated.

Q2-12; Would the consignment without the mark on its WPM should be re-shipped or refused?

A2-12; No, it wouldn't. Such WPM is subject to import inspection by the plant quarantine officer and can be imported if no quarantine pest is found. Detection of quarantine pests in WPM results in treatment, incineration or re-shipping upon the request of consignee according to the domestic law.

Q2-13; What measures are taken for WPM imported to non-designated ports?

A2-13; WPM with the mark; It is not subject to regulation. In this case, phytosanitary procedures are not needed.

WPM without the mark; It is subject to regulation and import to non-designated ports, the WPM is refused to import.

Q2-14; How much is the import inspection fee?

A2-14; Inspection fee is free.

Q2-15; How long does it take to inspect WPM?

A2-15; It depends on the situation, but every effort will be made to carry out the inspection as quickly as possible.

Q2-16; Is the inspection for nematodes carried out?

A2-16; Inspection for nematodes is carried out, if necessary.

Q2-17; Can I import WPM without the mark?

A2-17; Inspection by the quarantine officer at the point of entry is required for WPM without the

mark. It is possible to import such WPM if quarantine pest is not found in it.

3. Regulated WPM

Q3-1; What kind of WPM is regulated?

A3-1; Type of regulated WPM is pallets, dunnage, crating, packing blocks, drums, cases, load boards, pallet collars, bark, row wood and round wood.

Q3-2; What kind of WPM is not regulated?

A3-2; Type of non-regulated WPM is as follows; WPM treated and certified in according to ISPM No.15, WPM made wholly of wood-based products such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board or veneer that have been created using glue, heat and pressure or a combination; WPM such as veneer peeler cores, sawdust, wood wool, shavings, and raw wood cut into thin pieces (6mm thickness or less); wood and woodwork which are sawn, debarked and processed completely, cork, basket of bamboo, barrel and furniture; WPM with consignments frozen under -17.8°C(0°F).

Q3-3; Is sawn wood without bark which will be used as unit of WPM subject to regulation?

A3-3; Such sawn wood which is completely free from bark and used as a unit of WPM is not subject to the regulations.

4. Others

Q4-1; How can I get information of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures?

A4-1; You can download it from the website; <https://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.jsp>.

Q4-2; What are the target pests of regulation for WPM?

A4-2; Over 600 species including insects, nematodes and diseases which have potential risk to plants in Japan are listed in Pest Risk Analysis for WPM. They include important pest, such as Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Dutch elm beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus*), Dutch elm disease (*Ophiostoma ulmi* and *O. novo-ulmi*), longhorn beetle (*Semanotus laurasi*, *S. ligneus*, *S. russicus*, and *S. undatus*), pine *Monochamus alternatus alternatus*, *M. carolinensis*, *M. galloprovincialis*, Southern pine sawyer (*M. titillator*), siren wasp (*Sirex noctilio*) and eastern subterranean termite(*Reticulitermes flavipes*).