

Title: An Update on Heat Treating Wood Packaging Materials to Comply with ISPM 15
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Talk X

Structural/Post Harvest X

Abstract: International shipping regulations have been adopted by the United States, European Union, Canada and other countries to protect native forests. ISPM-15 is intended to kill insects, nematodes and other alien pests that are transported in wood packaging materials (WPM), such as pallets, and have caused severe damage to native trees. All imported WPM must be treated, either with Heat Treatment (HT) or Methyl Bromide (MB) Fumigation. The National Wood Pallet & Container Association (NWPCA) has been tasked by the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to administer the fumigation program. Heat treatment requires that WPM be heated in a schedule that achieves a minimum core temperature of 56 C for a minimum of 30 minutes. The American Lumber Standards Committee administers the US certification program for heat treatment. Heat treatment is a viable technology and there are numerous manufacturers that supply a variety of systems. Some of these systems are large kilns while others are components (burners, blowers, controls) that can be field assembled in site-erected structures or even insulated trailers. Over 300 systems have been sold in the US and many are being sold to Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Trinidad, and Cameroon. Implementation dates vary from country to country (US effective September 16, 2005), but customer demand and scarcity of methyl bromide will greatly accelerate conversion to heat treatment.