

pallets and packaging. plant health.

Timber is the most popular material for storage, transport and packaging solutions worldwide.

But, in order to protect plant health, the timber used needs to be subject to stringent controls.

These controls have been in place in the UK, the EU and North America for many years and have contributed towards a healthy plant and forest industry, as well as a timber packaging industry with generally high standards.

So as to ensure that the standards concerning the global movement of timber packaging are maintained, regulations and restrictions on the import and export of timber products have been adopted by many countries.

In the UK, the timber packaging industry produces high specification products which ensure the minimum environmental impact. A number of key organisations ensure the industry is kept informed of the latest regulations and developments - listed later are some of the web sites providing facts and advice.

Plant Protection Organisations (PPOs)

Under a World Trade Organisation agreement, member countries have the right to install phytosanitary measures to protect human, plant and animal health. As a result governments have established PPOs to implement effective controls, in order to facilitate increasing global trade.

Signatory countries to the WTO maintain PPOs to advise other countries of any new pests or diseases that are discovered and to issue phytosanitary certificates for the import and export of goods. In the UK The PPO is the Forestry Commission.

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)

These International Standards are prepared by the Secretariat of the International Plant Convention and are part of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's programme of assistance in plant quarantine.

ISPM15: protecting your industry and increasing your trade

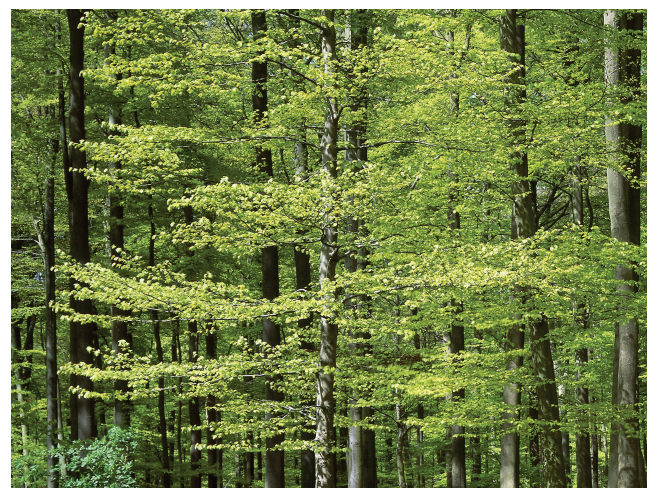
ISPM15, the new internationally agreed standard for the treatment of all forms of packaging made from solid wood, has huge importance.

The timber pallet and packaging industry plays a vital role in international trade, with timber the first choice of exporters across the globe.

Not only are timber pallets and packing cases made from an environmentally friendly and sustainable material, they are also the most economic solution in terms of initial price and opportunities for repair and re-cycling.

The implementation of ISPM15 is of great significance to the timber packaging industry. It will help to ensure the continued dominance of timber in worldwide transport and packaging. No other packaging commodity will be able to compete with timber's combination of health, strength, practicality and environmental benefits.

Until ISPM15 is adopted worldwide some countries have different standards. Regular updates on www.timcon.org



ISPM15 and the UKWPMMP

Pallets and cases duly stamped in accordance with the UKWPMMP programme are ISPM15 compliant and can be used as packaging for shipping goods worldwide.

ISPM15 and The UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme allow participating companies to take advantage of the wider export opportunities without the risk of product rejection.

To comply, wooden packaging has to undergo heat treatment or fumigation to an agreed standard, by an approved source. Correctly treated packaging can be marked ISPM15 compliant.

Other products have made significant attempts to gain market share, but demand for ISPM15 compliant wood packaging remains strong.

The ISPM15 standard allows wood packaging to be shipped to any country that indicates its acceptance without need of further certification (for up to date information on this contact www.timcon.org).

Implementation of ISPM15 is well advanced in the UK, with efficient, well established schemes involving the wood packaging industry and the national plant protection organisations, linking directly with the UK Wood Packaging Material Marking Programme (UKWPMMP).

ISPM15 is also progressing globally, with significant developments in the EU and the US.

IMPORTANT:

Manufacturers who have their product heat treated will have compliance within ISPM15 and therefore allow their products to be shipped to any country that indicates its acceptance without any need for certification, thus widening the trade opportunities and ensuring timber as a dominant performer in worldwide transport of goods.



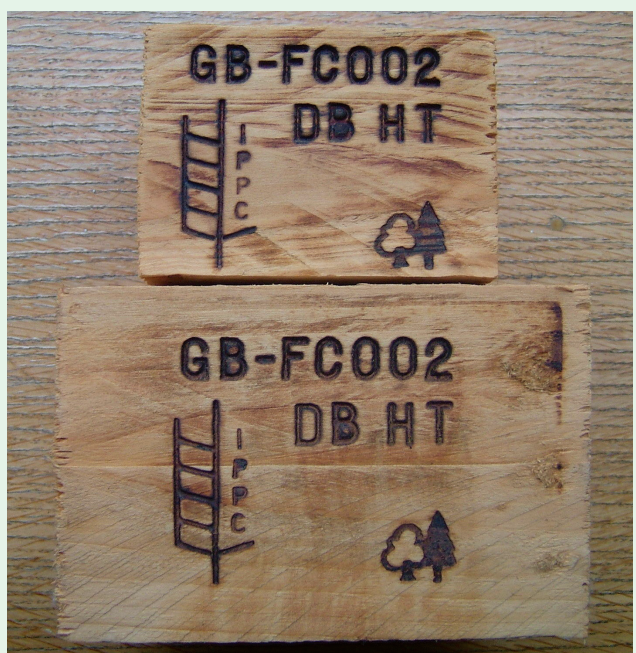
The UK Wood Packaging Programme

ISPM15 is being introduced rapidly worldwide and the UKWPMMP has been established to ensure that ISPM15 wooden packaging is available to facilitate the movement of UK goods worldwide.

The programme is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission, The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland and is administered by Timcon (The Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation).

From January 2004 all ISPM15 approved producers of wood packaging have been required to use the new IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) mark on ISPM15 compliant packaging.

The ISPM15 standard allows wood packaging to be shipped to any country without any further certification. The Chinese Republic's 'Emergency Measures' are the only current exception.



The Mark

Country code

e.g. GB or NI plus a 4 digit producer code.

Appropriate treatment code

DB/HT (debarked and heat treated) or DB/MB (debarked and fumigated with Methyl Bromide).





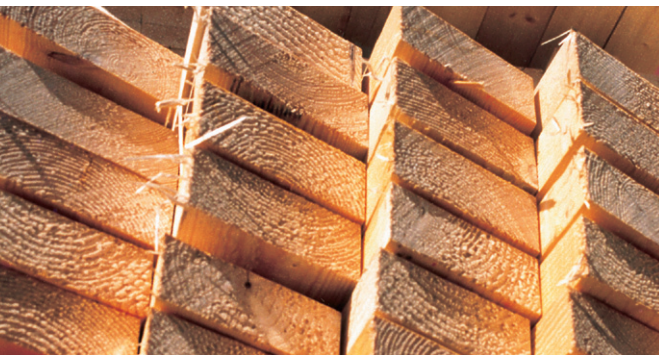
heat treatment

Heat treatment involves heating the timber to a minimum temperature for a minimum period of time, according to an officially approved technical specification. For plant health purposes this has been defined as a minimum temperature of 56°C at the core of the wood, for a minimum of 30 minutes.

fumigation

Treatment with a chemical agent that reaches the timber primarily in a gaseous state. Only treatment with Methyl Bromide is recognised as effective against harmful organisms at all stages of development.

For further updates on these topics check:
www.timcon.org www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth
www.ippc.int www.fefpeb.org



The Plant Health Service

A significant proportion of Britain's timber is imported (mainly from Scandinavia, Russia, the Baltic States and Canada). The Plant Health Service aims to protect the forests and the timber industry of Great Britain and the EU by:

- Establishing the rules governing the import and export of 'trees' and forest products and their transportation within the EU
- Inspecting the shipments of goods from outside the EU
- Recording the companies, organisations and traders moving timber products within the EU
- Conducting forest surveys to ensure any new pests are found and controlling those already in existence
- Restricting movement of timber and timber products from infested areas to non infested areas.

For more information on import controls contact the Plant Health Service within the Forestry Commission www.forestry.gov.uk

key facts

- Internationally agreed standards for wooden packaging (ISPM15) help to protect and encourage the safe use of timber packaging worldwide
- In Europe we produce around 350 million timber pallets and packing cases annually
- As timber pallets and packing cases are more environmentally friendly, they result in a significant saving of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere
- Timber pallets and packing cases are repairable and bio-degradable
- Pallets and cases which are beyond repair can be shredded to provide high quality wood chips for the panel industry, or can be used in animal bedding, or as a fuel
- Timber is naturally renewable. Europe's forests are growing by an area roughly the size of Cyprus annually¹
- Wood is hygienic to use; properly maintained, wood provides poor living conditions for bacteria
- Studies show that, within the food industry, wooden pallets have a lower microbiological load than plastic
- Wooden pallets and packaging can be repaired, maintained and re-cycled, providing businesses with cost-effective transportation and storage solutions
- Today's timber treatment processes further enhance the quality and life span of timber packaging products.

For more information visit www.wood-food.com

¹ State of Europe's Forests, 2003. MCPFE/UNECE FAO

for more information