



# ISPM-15 Certificate

May 2020

# Contents

1. What is the standard ISMP-15?
2. What packaging is governed by ISMP-15?
3. Phytosanitary treatment of wood packaging for export purposes
4. How do we know if a pallet has been disinfected?
5. Countries of application of ISMP-15
6. Exception to the standard ISMP-15
7. How does EMUCA comply with this regulation?

## 1. What is the standard ISMP-15?

This International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures no. 15 issued by the FAO, which governs the wood packaging used in international trade describing the phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introducing and/or spreading pests related to wood packaging.

## 2. What packaging is governed by ISMP-15?

This ISMP-15 certificate is for treating pallets with heat to eliminate all potential pests from other countries. Its use is compulsory for the transportation of wood pallets in other countries.

The standard applies in whole to packaging made of raw wood. Among the wood packaging governed by this standard are: pallets, boxes, cases, reels, dunnage, etc. This is how we attain a phytosanitary pallet suitable for the safe transportation of goods in compliance with regulations.

## 3. Phytosanitary treatments to wood packaging for export purposes

Since 2002, ISMP-15 sets the general guidelines to follow to disinfect wood packaging used in international transportation such as pallets and boxes.

The disinfection of wood must be done following any of the procedures included in ISMP-15.

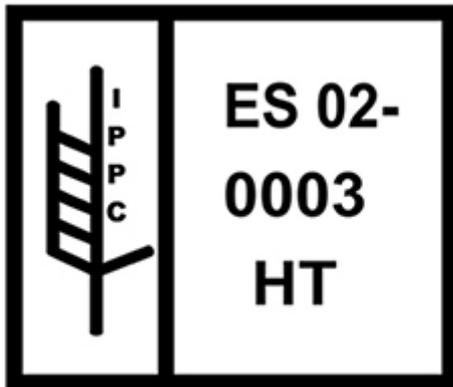
**Conventional heat treatment** (HT code): it consists in steam heating or kiln-drying the chamber of the pallet.

**Dielectric heating treatment** (DH code): this type of heating is applied with microwaves, for example.

**Methyl bromide fumigation** (MB code): the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measure 15 does not recommend the use of methyl bromide for disinfecting wood. However, the regulation explains the specifications under which wood must be fumigated. These specifications must be strictly followed. In any case, methyl bromide causes environmental problems and complications on the health of participants in the impregnation processes. For this reason, some providers of pallets have rejected its use.

## 4. How do we know if a pallet has been disinfected?

When transporting goods requiring pallets complying with the requirements set in the ISPM-15, we must ensure we are using a pallet that has been adequately disinfected. In order to do so, pallets must come with an identification tag showing some data related to the treatment of wood. Below, we include an example image of the tag and the different items of which it consists:



IPPC symbol:

XX: Letters referring to each country's ISO.

123: Numeric series referring the manufacturer determined by the Ministry.

YY: Letter code referring to the treatment the wood has received. It may be HT (heat treatment), DH (Dielectric heating) or MB (bromide fumigation).

In addition, besides the tag, pallets must come with a compliance certificate, since the manufacturer is obliged to provide this information to the purchaser.

## 5. Countries of application of ISMP-15

As already mentioned before, not all countries are adhered to this treaty. However, there is an extensive list of countries attached. Therefore, in order to export goods to those territories we must comply with ISMP-15. Below is a list of all countries attached to the treaty:

**Africa:** Egypt, Malawi, Nigeria, Seychelles, Syria and South Africa.

**America:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua,

Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**Asia:** China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Taiwan.

**Europe:** European Union countries and Belarus, Croatia, Norway, Switzerland and Ukraine.

**Oceania:** Australia and New Zealand.

**Middle East:** Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Turkey.

## 6. Exception to the standard ISMP-15

This regulation also states that it is not necessary for the wood used in packaging to undergo these phytosanitary processes, considering the risk is low, in the following cases:

- Processed wood.
- Wood packaging made of processed wood material, plywood and wood fibre (made of particles, i.e. gift cases or boxes).
- Wood of less than 6 millimetres in thickness.
- Barrels for wine, liquor and other spirit drinks that have been heated during manufacture.
- Wood components permanently attached to freight vehicles or containers used for fleets.

## 7. How does EMUCA comply with this regulation?

EMUCA complies with the FAO's ISPM-15, which governs wood packaging used in international trade.