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Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

30/2005-06

### **Introduction of mandatory treatment requirements for all solid wood packaging and dunnage.**

On 1 January 2006, Australia will begin to phase in mandatory treatment requirements for all solid wood packaging and dunnage.

During the phase in period, 1 January 2006 until 1 May 2006, AQIS will only direct solid wood packaging or dunnage for treatment, re-export or destruction where insects, bark, or other quarantine risk material is detected. Importers and their agents will still be able to elect to have solid wood packaging treated onshore if they cannot access suitable treatment options offshore.

### **Clearance Procedures from 1 January until 1 May 2006**

From 1 January 2006, evidence of an AQIS approved quarantine treatment will need to be provided for all solid wood packaging and dunnage to be granted quarantine clearance without AQIS intervention. This evidence can be ISPM 15 marks on the solid wood packaging and dunnage itself or may be treatment certificates provided directly to the AQIS front counter or through existing broker accreditation arrangements. (ISPM 15 is the new international standard that regulates the movement of wood packaging and dunnage. More information is available on the [ISPM 15 Frequently Asked Questions](#) page of the AQIS website.)

Where acceptable evidence of an approved quarantine treatment is not provided, consignments that contain wood packaging and dunnage will be subject to further AQIS intervention as outlined below by mode of transport.

**For containerised sea cargo:** Until 1 May 2006, where evidence of quarantine approved treatment is not provided, containerised sea cargo consignments with solid wood packaging will be directed for inspection to verify the presence of ISPM 15 marks and/or freedom from quarantine concerns. Solid wood packaging and dunnage that is directed for inspection and found to have live insects, bark or other quarantine risk material will be subject to treatment, re-export or destruction at the importer's expense. Wood packaging that is inspected and found free of live insects, bark or other quarantine risk material may be released. However, importers will be notified that from 1 May 2006 such wood packaging will be subject to treatment onshore.

As this approach reflects current industry practice, existing customs broker accreditation schemes and AQIS front counter arrangements, it is envisaged to have only minimal impact upon containerised cargo. Existing compliance and verification arrangements will continue to apply.

**For break bulk and air cargo:** Until 1 May 2006, wood packaging and dunnage will only be subject to mandatory treatment, re-export or destruction where insects, bark, or other quarantine risk material is detected. Verification of these requirements will be on the basis of existing surveillance regimes.

Where AQIS surveillance identifies that solid wood packaging is non-compliant with ISPM 15 and no evidence of alternative treatment is provided, the wood packaging will be inspected for quarantine risk material. If on inspection, no quarantine risk material is found, the consignment will be released. However, importers will be notified that such wood packaging will be subject to mandatory treatment, re-export or destruction at their expense from 1 May 2006.

AQIS will also continue to allow consignments to be sent to a quarantine approved premises for separation from the solid wood packaging or dunnage prior to treatment where appropriate. Importers and their agents may also elect to have their consignments sent for a verification inspection if they have any concerns.

### **Clearance Procedures from 1 May 2006**

From 1 May 2006, evidence of an AQIS approved quarantine treatment must be provided for all solid wood packaging and dunnage to be granted quarantine clearance. Verification of compliance with the mandatory treatment requirements for wood packaging and dunnage will operate under the pre-existing mechanisms.

For air cargo and break bulk cargo only, AQIS will continue to assume that ISPM 15 and bark free requirements have been met unless it has evidence to the contrary. In the absence of broker accreditation or similar arrangements for air and break bulk cargo, there will be no requirement to present additional documents for break bulk or air cargo unless AQIS surveillance identifies non-compliance with ISPM 15. Where AQIS surveillance identifies non-compliance with ISPM 15 and no alternative evidence of appropriate treatment can be provided, the wood packaging will be subject to treatment, re-export or destruction at the importer's expense.

A flow chart of the new clearance procedures to be enforced from 1 May 2006 is provided below.

### **Further information**

For further information regarding ISPM 15 packaging clearance, please see the [ISPM 15 Frequently Asked Questions](#) page of the AQIS website. If you require more information please contact Timber and Timber Products National Co-ordination Centre on ph: +613 8318 6929 or fax +613 8318 6777.

### AQIS ISPM 15 Wood Packaging Clearance Procedures from 1 May 2006

