

# Forest Health

## What is ISPM 15?



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
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Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

### The International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM 15)

#### Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade

#### What is ISPM 15?

ISPM 15 is an international phytosanitary measure developed by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that sets down standards for treatment and marking of Wood Packaging Material (WPM) and affects all WPM (pallets, crates, dunnage etc.) used in international trade.

#### Why is ISPM 15 required?

The aim of ISPM 15 is to prevent the international transport and spread of diseases and insects that could negatively affect plants or ecosystems.

#### What are the requirements of ISPM 15?

ISPM 15 requires WPM to be:

- Made from debarked wood
- Either heat treated (HT), fumigated (MB or SF), or heat treated using dielectric heating (DH);
- Officially marked with the ISPM 15 stamp consisting of 3 codes (country, producer and measure applied) and the IPPC logo (see Figure 1 below);

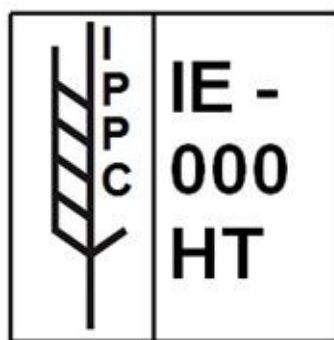


Figure 1: Irish ISPM15 Mark Template



Figure 2: Burn-branded ISPM15 Mark

The requirements listed above **do not apply to:**

- Wood 6mm thick or less;
- WPM made entirely from processed wood produced using glue, heat and pressure e.g. plywood, chipboard and oriented strand board. Veneer wood is also not required to be ISPM 15 compliant.
- The vast majority of WPM used in intra-EU trade where ISPM 15 is generally not required (see below).

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## When is ISPM 15 required?

### 1. Imports into the EU

The EU requires **all WPM from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries** entering the Union territory to be ISPM 15 compliant. This requirement now also applies to the UK (Great Britain).

Currently ISPM 15 does not apply to manufactured or repaired WPM that will remain in the EU for intra-community trade. For Ireland however, there are two exceptions to this derogation.

The first exception arises from emergency measures for a pest (pine wood nematode (PWN)) which is present in Portugal and limited parts of Spain and which requires that WPM made from susceptible coniferous wood may only be moved from these areas to the remainder of the Union territory if it is treated and marked in accordance with ISPM 15.

The second exception arises from the 'Protected Zone' (PZ) status Ireland enjoys as regards certain other pests and diseases (as set out in Annex III, of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072). The PZ status enjoyed by Ireland means there are already *de jure* additional restrictions on WPM entering from elsewhere in the Union territory (over and above the emergency restrictions on WPM from PWN demarcated areas of Portugal and Spain). All WPM entering Ireland, even if it was manufactured or repaired in the Union territory and destined for use / re-use in intra-community trade, which is made from the wood of conifers or certain listed hardwood species must comply with one or more of the following criteria:

- ◆ Either be stripped of its bark / be bark-free;
- ◆ Accompanied by an official statement from the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the EU Member State of origin stating it is free from certain listed pests or diseases;
- ◆ Kiln-dried to a certain standard (and marked to that effect);

### 2. Exports from the EU into Third Countries (non-EU countries)

Beyond the EU, **many countries** have adopted ISPM 15 as the required standard for WPM to enter their territories. Therefore, like WPM import requirements into the EU, the designated NPPO for each Member State is responsible for ensuring that the manufacture or repair of ISPM 15 WPM for export is compliant with requirements set out in the standard.

## Who is responsible for ISPM 15 in Ireland?

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is the designated NPPO for the IPPC in Ireland. The implementation of ISPM 15 as a manufacturing standard for WPM is overseen by DAFM's Forestry Inspectorate.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) operates the ISPM 15 Programme on behalf of DAFM. NSAI carry out the registration and auditing of kiln facilities, the registration of pallet and other WPM manufacturers, ISPM 15 marking systems, and compliance standards.

The standard is available at the following link:

[https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/02/ISPM\\_15\\_2018\\_En\\_WoodPackaging\\_Post-CPM13\\_Rev\\_Annex1and2\\_Fixed\\_2019-02-01.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/02/ISPM_15_2018_En_WoodPackaging_Post-CPM13_Rev_Annex1and2_Fixed_2019-02-01.pdf)

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