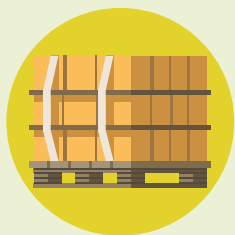


# WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS AT EU ENTRY

Wood packaging can support, protect and carry goods in up to 90% of global shipping.

## WHAT IS THE RISK OF INTRODUCING WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS IN THE EU?



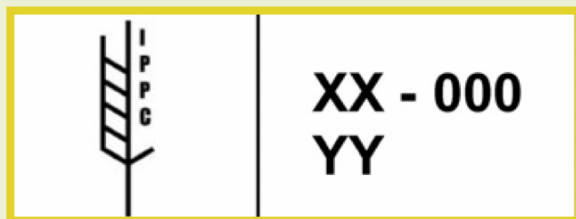
Crates, drums, packing cases, load boards and pallets if not appropriately treated, can carry on organisms harmful to EU agriculture, the environment and local economy. This is called phytosanitary risk.

The harmful organisms may be, among others, the Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) or the Pinewood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*).

## WHICH ARE THE PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS ENTERING THE EU?

Wood packaging material entering the EU from all third countries (except Switzerland) should be:

- made of debarked wood
- subject to one of the **approved phytosanitary treatments**
- officially marked with the **ISPM15 mark**, which has the universally recognisable, non-language specific IPPC\* logo and 3 codes (country, producer and treatment measure applied).



This mark allows for **easy verification** that the wood meets the necessary requirements in a **paperless system**. This mark is only applied by officially approved operators.

## ALL MARKINGS SHOULD BE LEGIBLE, VISIBLE, PERMANENT AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.

The EU requirements are based on the 2002 FAO International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (**ISPM**) n° 15 on the regulation of wood packaging material in international trade. This standard is applied worldwide.

## EU IMPORT REQUIREMENTS DO NOT APPLY TO:

- Wood of 6 mm thickness or less
- Wood packaging material made entirely from processed wood produced using glue, heat and pressure, such as plywood, oriented strand board and veneer
- Wood packaging material used in intra-EU trade (except from certain areas where certain pests, such as Pinewood nematode and Asian longhorn beetle, are present, under containment or eradication)

\* IPPC - the International Plant Protection Convention <https://www.ippc.int/en/>



Sniffer dog searching for insects

Preventing the introduction into and spread of organisms which are harmful to plants or plant products within the EU are among the principle objectives of **EU plant health legislation**.



**THE ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE**  
(*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

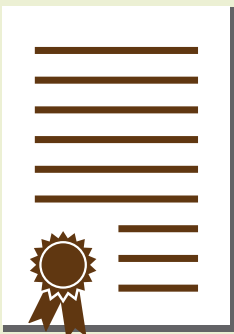


**PINEWOOD NEMATODE**  
(*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*)

Specific rules are in place for 52 commodities imported from **China and Belarus** with wood packaging material under Decision (EU) 2018/1137 as they present an increased phytosanitary risk. This Decision prescribes that at least 1% of the incoming consignments and their wood packaging are checked.

#### IMPORT AND EXPORT CHECKS :

Wood packaging material is currently subject to controls by the phytosanitary authorities for the presence of **ISPM 15 marks** and evidence of **pest infestation**, according to a risk-based approach and in cooperation with customs.



**From December 2019**, the competent authorities within the EU will carry out risk-based controls for wood packaging material based on all the relevant information at their disposal, including the EU's Information Management System for Official Controls (IMSOC).

[WWW.NATIONALWEBSITES.COM](http://WWW.NATIONALWEBSITES.COM)

