



सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त का कार्यालय: सीमा शुल्क आयुक्तालयकेन्द्रीय राजस्व भवन:क्वींस रोड : बेंगलूर  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, BANGALORE CUSTOMS  
COMMISSIONERATE, C.R.BUILDINGS, QUEEN'S ROAD, BANGALORE - 560 001

STANDING ORDER NO. 02/2014 DATED 06.2.2014

**विषय/Sub: Compliance of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM-15) in respect of wood packaging material by exporters and importers-Reg..**

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Attention of all officers is invited to Board's Circular No 39/2004-Cus dated 3.6.2004, Instructions dated 2.4.2009 (issued from File F.No.450/19/2005 Cus.IV), Circular No.14/2009-Cus dated 6.5.2009 and Circular No.13/2011-Cus dated 28.2.2011 (copies enclosed) regarding compliance of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM-15) in respect of wood packaging material by exporters and importers, issued under Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 issued as per IPPC convention of FAO. Board had desired that the Customs Officers should ensure compliance of Phytosanitary norms for imported/export consignments.

2.1 The instructions issued by the Board are briefly recapitulated hereunder:

2.2 In the international trade, every consignment accompanied with solid wood packaging materials needs to be treated and marked in accordance with the provisions of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15 to reduce the risk of introduction and / or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging material (including Dunnage), made of coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood.

2.3 The DGFT, vide Notification No.54/2009-2014 dated 3.8.2010, has made it mandatory that export of goods including plant and plant products using wood packaging materials such as pallet, Dunnage, crating, packaging blocks, drums, cases load boards, pallet collars shall be allowed subject to compliance of ISPM-15. The export/import consignment with wood packaging material are to be inspected by the Shed Officers and if any consignment is found without ISPM-15 mark or with doubtful marking, it should be reported to Plant Quarantine Officer/Authorities, through the concerned Asst./Dy. Commissioner of Customs, for taking necessary action. Further, the proper officer shall grant release of such articles packed with untreated wood packaging material only after ensuring that the wood packaging material has been appropriately treated at the point of entry under the supervision of the Plant Quarantine Officer.

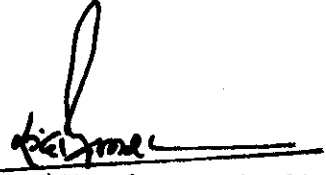
3. Despite the instructions being issued by the Board from time to time in this regard, on the export front, a large number of export consignments are being intercepted, especially by the EU countries, for non-compliance of ISPM-15 Standards relating to wood packaging materials used for export of materials. The Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, is receiving numerous notifications regarding interception of consignments due to non-compliance of ISPM-15 and has yet again raised serious concerns about non-compliance of Phytosanitary norms.

4. In view of the above, the Board has reiterated the instructions issued from time to time, in the matter, as above. Accordingly, it is hereby directed that no agricultural commodity shall be allowed to be exported without proper phytosanitary certificate and no cargo using wood packaging material should be allowed to be exported without ascertaining compliance with ISPM-15. Appropriate declaration from the exporters/importers concerned and requisite certification should be invariably insisted upon and obtained before permitting clearance of such export/import consignments.

5. Strict compliance of the above instructions shall be ensured by all concerned.

6. Difficulties, if any, in implementation may be brought to the notice of this office immediately.

Encl: as above.

  
(संदीप प्रकाश)(Sandeep Prakash)  
आयुक्त/Commissioner

(Issued from file C. No. VIII/ 48/ 69 / 2012 Cus Tech)

To,  
As per the Customs Mailing List.

Copy submitted to:  
The Chief Commissioner of Customs, Bangalore Zone, Bangalore.

**F.No.450/80/2000-Cus.IV**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
Central Board of Excise & Customs

**Subject: Implementation of provisions of clause (3), sub-clause (22) of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003-reg**

I am directed to invite your attention to the Board's letter F.No.450/80/2000-Cus.IV, dated 31.5.2004 ( copy enclosed ) vide which the implementation of sub-clause (22), clause (3) of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 requiring phytosanitary certificate in respect of packaging material of imported goods was withheld until further orders. The effective date of provisions of sub-clause (22), clause (3) of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 was **1.6.2004**.

2. Now, the Ministry of Agriculture , Department of Agriculture and Cooperation vide Notification dated 31.5.2004 issued from F.No.8-128/2004-PPI ( copy enclosed), have deleted sub-clause 21 and 22 of clause 3 of the of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 with immediate effect . At the same time new sub-clause 20A, prescribing treatment of wood packaging materials, has been inserted in clause 3 of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 . This clause will enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2004.

3. In view of above necessary instruction may kindly be issued to all concerned.

4. Hindi version will follow.

D.S.Garbyal  
Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Phone No.2094182

May 31, 2004

**No.450/80/2000-Cus.IV**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
Central Board of Excise & Customs

**Subject: Implementation of provisions of clause (3), sub-clause (22) of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003-reg**

I am directed to invite your attention to the Board's letter F.No.450/80/2000-Cus.IV, dated 20.4.2004 vide which the Notification No.S.O.427(E), dated 29.3.2004 regarding requirement of phytosanitary certificate in respect of packaging material of imported goods, issued by Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was forwarded to all field formations. In the said Notification, the date of commencement of sub-clause (22), clause (3) of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 was deferred from 1.4.2004 to 1.6.2004.

2. In this connection all concerned are hereby directed to withhold the implementation of sub-clause(22), clause (3) of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 from 1.6.2004 until further orders.

D.S.Garbyal  
Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Phone No.2094182

31<sup>st</sup> May, 2004

Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

**Notification**

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (2 of 1914), the Central Government hereby makes the following Order further to amend the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, namely :-

1. (1) This Order may be called the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Third Amendment Order, 2004.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in this Order, this Order shall come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2004.

2. In the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import In to India) Order, 2003, -

(a) in clause 2,-

(i) sub-clause (xv) shall be omitted;

(ii) after sub-clause (xxx), the following sub-clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

“(xxxix) **“Dunnage”** means wood packaging material used to secure or support a commodity but which does not remain associated with the commodity [FAO, 1990; revised ISPM Pub. No. 15, 2002];

(xxxii) **“Wood packaging material”** means wood or wood products (excluding paper products) used in supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity (includes dunnage) [ISPM Pub. No. 15, 2002];

(xxxliii) **“Article”** means any kind of movable property including any goods and stores consigned from one party to another as a shipment and covered by a bill of entry of customs, shipping or airway bill and / or invoice in the course of international trade.”

(b) in clause 3, -

(i) after sub-clause (20), the following sub-clause shall be inserted, namely :-

“(20A). No article, packed with raw / solid wood packaging material shall be released by the proper officers of Customs unless the wood packaging material has been appropriately treated and marked as per ISPM-15 or is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the treatment endorsed.

The treatment of raw / solid wood packaging material prior to export shall include either methyl bromide (MB) @ 48 g/m<sup>3</sup> for 16 hrs at 21<sup>0</sup> C and above or any equivalent thereof or heat treatment (HT) at 56<sup>0</sup>C for 30 min (core temperature of wood) or Kiln Drying (KD) or Chemical Pressure Impregnation (CPI) or any other treatments provided that these meet the HT specifications of the ISPM-15.

Any article, if found packed with raw / solid wood packaging material without specified treatment and without marking as per ISPM-15 or if not accompanied by phytosanitary certificate with treatment endorsed, as the case may be, shall be considered untreated and shall be referred by the proper officer of the Customs to Plant Quarantine Officer. The proper officer of customs shall grant release of such articles packed with untreated wood packaging material only after ensuring that the wood packaging material has been appropriately treated at the point of entry under the supervision of Plant Quarantine Officer.

Provided that above conditions shall not be applicable to wood packaging material wholly made of processed wood products such as ply wood, particle board, oriental strand board or veneer that have been created using glue, heat and pressure or combination thereof. Also the above conditions shall not be applicable to wood packaging material such as veneer peeler cores, saw dust, wood wool & shavings and thin wood pieces (less than 6 mm thickness), unless they are found to be harboring any regulated pests specified in this order.

Provided further that nothing contained in this clause shall be applicable to wood packaging materials used for packaging of bona-fide passenger baggage containing goods other than plant and plant products”;

ii) Sub-clauses (21) and (22) shall be omitted with effect from the date of publication of this order.

F.No.8-128/2004-PPI

Ashish Bahuguna  
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Foot Note:- The Principle notification was published vide So.No.1322(E) dated 18.11.2003 and subsequently amended vide SO.No.167(E) dated 6.2.2004 and S.O.No.427(E) dated 29.3.2004.

Manager  
Government of India Press,  
Ring Road, Mayapuri, New Delhi.



F.No.450/19/2005-Cus.IV  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
(Department of Revenue)  
Central Board of Excise & Customs

159-A, North Block,  
New Delhi-110 001.  
2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2009.

To

All Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Prev.)  
All Commissioners of Customs & Central Excise.

**Subject: Implementation of the provisions of Phytosanitary requirements under the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 - regarding.**

Sir / Madam,

Your attention is invited to the Board's Circular No.39/2004-Customs dated 3.6.2004 on the subject mentioned above, wherein, it was stated that the newly introduced sub-clause 20A of Clause 3 of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 had entered into force w.e.f. 1.9.2004.

2. In terms of the above provisions, no article, packed with raw or solid wood packaging material shall be released by the proper officer of Customs unless the wood packaging material has been appropriately treated and marked as per International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15 or accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the treatment endorsed. The instructions also provided that the proper officer of Customs shall grant release of such articles packed with untreated wood packaging material only after ensuring that the wood packaging material has been appropriately treated at the point of entry under the supervision of Plant Quarantine Officer.

3. However, during a recent meeting with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, it was pointed out that the cases of phytosanitary non-compliance to the ISPM-15 requirements in respect of packaging material are not being reported to the Plant Quarantine authorities. It has also been reported by them that disconcerting reports of rejection of our export consignments on phytosanitary grounds have been noticed. In view of the above, you may like to instruct the Customs Officers to report the non-compliant cases to the concerned Plant Quarantine Station / authorities for necessary action.

4. In this regard, it is stated that ISPM-15, the Standards prescribed for wood packaging material describes about the phytosanitary treatment or measures required to be taken to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging material (including dunnage), made of coniferous and non-coniferous raw wood. As regards imports, sub-clause 20A of Clause 3 of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 require that all wood packaging material, raw or solid, shall be subject to specified treatment and carrying the ISPM-15 marking on it. As regards goods exported from India, since many countries require that the wood packaging material is to be treated prior to shipment in order to satisfy their Plant Quarantine requirements, the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage have issued instructions to various phytosanitary certificate issuing authorities for strict adherence to the protocols and guidelines issued by that Department for issuance of phytosanitary certificates. With an increasing number of exports involving rejection of agri-export consignments on phytosanitary grounds, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation have requested to sensitize the officers of the Customs about the requirements of ISPM – 15 Standards. In order to explain the requirements of ISPM-15 on imports and exports of goods packed in raw or solid wood materials, significance of ISPM – 15 marking on wood packaging material and its identification by various stakeholders who handle import / export consignments at customs stations, it is stated that during monthly trade facilitation meetings held in the Commissionerates, the Plant Quarantine Officers may be required to explain the compliance requirements in terms of the ISPM-15 so that minimum inconvenience is caused to the importers / exporters while ensuring checking of the wood packaging.

5. In view of the above, the instructions of the Board contained in Circular No.9/2004-Customs dated 3.6.2004 regarding checking of wood packaging material in the imported consignments are reiterated and it is requested that the cases of non-compliance to the standards of ISPM-15 may be reported to the concerned Plant Quarantine station / authorities for taking

necessary action.

6. The field formations as well as trade and industry may be suitably informed.

Yours faithfully,

(M.M. Parthiban)  
Director (Customs)



**F.No.450/19/2005-Cus.IV  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
(Central Board of Excise & Customs)**

North Block, New Delhi.  
6<sup>th</sup> May, 2009.

To

All Chief Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Prev.).  
All Chief Commissioners of Customs & Central Excise.  
All Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Prev.).  
All Commissioners of Customs & Central Excise.  
The Director General of Revenue Intelligence.  
The Director General of Central Excise Intelligence.

**Subject: Implementation of Phytosanitary requirements in import or export of goods - regarding.**

Sir / Madam,

As you are aware, the sanitary (relating to food safety) and phytosanitary (animal and plant health) measures are enforced in the course of international trade by various countries to prevent the spread and introduction of any pests of plants, plant products or insect, fungus and for protection of human, animal or plant life or health. In this regard, your attention is invited to the Board's Circular No.39/2004-Customs dated 3.6.2004 and Board's instructions of even number dated 2.4.2009, wherein Customs officers have been instructed to release the goods imported in wood packaging material, only in cases where the wood packaging material are appropriately treated as per international standards (ISPM-15) or is accompanied by a phytosanitary certification with the treatment endorsed.

2. In the international trade, every consignment accompanied with solid wood packaging materials (SWPM) needs to be treated and marked in accordance with the provisions of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No.15. In case of non-compliance of the ISPM-15, the importing countries issue notices to the National Plant Protection Organisation of the exporting country for non-compliance, and initiate necessary action against the exporter. Of late, the Government of India had received a number of non-compliance notifications from various countries particularly European Union countries regarding violation of ISPM-15 standards, in respect of goods exported from India. Most of these cases relate to non-treatment of wood packaging material or no treatment mark on wood packaging material used in packaging of goods exported from India. Exports to most countries including Canada, USA, Australia, Japan etc. require that all wood packaging materials used in packaging of export consignments are required to be rendered free from all pests either by heat treatment or by fumigation with Methyl Bromide by the treatment providers recognized by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage (DPPQ&S) under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). The list of such accredited fumigation agencies for Methyl Bromide Fumigation and certified Heat Treatment Facilities for wood packaging material as per ISPM-15, can be accessed at the DAC's website i.e. <http://agricoop.nic.in/>. Detailed information on plant quarantine activities may also be accessed from the official website of DPPQ&S at [www.plantquarantineindia.org](http://www.plantquarantineindia.org).

3. In view of the above, I am directed to say that all the Customs field formations should verify whether the export goods packed with raw or solid wood packaging material comply with the ISPM No. 15 or are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the treatment endorsed issued by the agencies which are accredited / certified by DAC. In case of non-compliance, the matter may be referred to the Plant Quarantine authorities for proper treatment of export goods before their release.

4. Similarly, in respect of import consignments, it is reiterated that the provisions of sub-clause 20A prescribing compliance of ISPM-15 standards by wood packaging material may be enforced in terms of Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003. Consignments that are found to be non-compliant or not carrying prescribed treatment mark

on the wood packaging materials shall be referred to the Plant Quarantine Authorities for proper treatment or destruction or deportation to the country of export. The details of such non-compliance shall also be informed in the prescribed format for reporting of non-compliance to the DPPQ&S.

5. The field formations as well as trade and industry may be suitably informed.

Yours faithfully,

(M.M. Parthiban)

Director (Customs)

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F.No.450/19/2005-Cus.IV  
Government of India  
Ministry of Finance  
Department of Revenue  
Central Board of Excise & Customs

229 A, North Block,  
New Delhi-110001  
28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

To

All Chief Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Prev.).  
All Chief Commissioners of Customs & Central Excise.  
All Commissioners of Customs / Customs (Prev.).  
All Commissioners of Customs & Central Excise.  
The Director General of Revenue Intelligence.  
The Director General of Central Excise Intelligence.  
The Director General, NACEN

Subject: Compliance of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM-15) in respect of wood packaging material by exporters – regarding.

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Sir / Madam,

Attention is invited to the provisions of Plant Quarantine (Import of Goods in India) Order, 2003 which outlines mandatory requirements of compliance of ISPM for imported goods. Accordingly, Board Circular No.39/2004-Customs dated 30.6.2004 and instructions dated 2.4.2009 were issued to Customs field formations to implement the provisions of ISPM compliance.

2. ISPM is International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures as per IPPC convention of FAO to reduce the risk of introduction / or spread of quarantine pest associated with wood packaging material (including dunnage) made of coniferous and non coniferous raw wood, in use in international trade.
3. However, on export side, a large number of export consignments are intercepted by importing countries for non-compliance of ISPM-15 Standards relating to wood packaging materials used for export of materials. It has also been reported by Department of Agriculture and Co- operation that they are receiving numerous notifications regarding interception of consignments due to non-compliance of ISPM-15 standards in respect of export consignments.
4. The DGFT, vide the Notification No 54/2009-2014 dated 3.8.2010 has made it mandatory that export of goods including plant and plant products using wood packaging materials such as pallet, dunnage, crating, packing blocks, drums, cases load boards, pellet collars shall be allowed subject to compliance of ISPM-15.
5. Considering that the large number of agricultural consignments are rejected being non-compliant with international standards and also mandatory requirements of the Notification No.54/2009-2014 dated 3.8.2010 issued by DGFT, it is decided by the Board that all consignments of export packed with wood packaging materials should be allowed clearance only if the wood packaging materials conform to requirements of ISPM-15. The export / imported consignment with wood packaging material are to be inspected by Customs. If any export / imported consignment is found without ISPM-15 mark or with doubtful marking, it should be reported to Plant Quarantine Officer / authorities for taking necessary action.
6. Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has also reported that all the agencies authorized to provide ISPM Certification on wood packaging material have been duly

accredited by Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage. These agencies issue ISPM-15 certification after providing treatment with Methyl Bromide or Forced Hot Air as per prescribed norms.

The list of these accredited treatment providers of Methyl Bromide and Forced Hot Air are available on the Directorate's website [www.plantquarantineindia.org](http://www.plantquarantineindia.org). It is also clarified that exporters should specifically indicate in the Shipping Bill filed for export, the description of packaging material so as to ensure whether any consignment with wooden packaging material warrants mandatory compliance with ISPM-15 standards or not.

7. Board desires that the Customs staff posted at different ports and airports are trained in respect of inspection of wood packaging material for ISPM-15 compliance in respect of export / imported consignments. The periodical training programme should be imparted by NACEN in coordination with Plant Protection Advisor, Faridabad.

8. Suitable trade notice / standing order may be issued to guide the trade and industry.

9. Difficulty, if any, faced in implementation of these instructions may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

( G.S. Sinha )  
OSD (Customs IV)

Internal circulation: As usual.