

Limiting the transport of invasive species in or on wood packing material including pallets, crates, spools and dunnage.

Wood packaging material (WPM) made of unprocessed raw wood is recognized as a pathway for the introduction and spread of pests. To limit the entry and spread of quarantine pest through international trade, the International Plant Protection Convention adopted the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15). (Link to the standards provided below) In order for WPM to be ISPM 15 compliant it must either be heat treated or fumigated with Methyl Bromide in compliance with the ISPM15 standard.

Trading partners are adopting the ISPM 15 in their import regulations. As the National Plant Protection Organization of the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the wood packaging material industry, has developed an export program to guarantee compliance with the import requirements of trading countries. The program insures certified treatment and marking of wood packaging material for international trade, while maintaining traceability of the packaging material. The integrity of the program is dependant upon industries compliance.

In May 2011, the USDA published a “Risk assessment for the movement of domestic wood packaging material within the United States”. (Link to the full document provided below) This report is the result of several years of concerns regarding the movement of invasive pests from one region of the country to another that previously had no infestation. The risk assessment describes the nature of the problem, evaluates d(domestic)WPM as a potential pathway for the spread of wood pests, describes pests that might be associated with dWPM, looks at potential of movement of those pests on dWPM and treatments of dWPM.

Later in 2011 USDA indicated that while recognizing that movement of regulated and quarantined pests can occur in certain wood materials such as firewood, the report does not recommend a domestic U.S. program for WPM at this time, suggesting that “future research may resolve some of the uncertainties associated with specific risks posed by movement of dWPM.” Citing the report further: *“We do not know whether dWPM has ever been directly implicated in the dispersal and establishment of a domestic pest. However, we have demonstrated that dWPM material provides a suitable habitat for many pests and that pests are known to move in WPM. Despite its potential to transport pests, dWPM does not easily lend itself to regulation because there is a large volume, the wood packaging industry is fragmented, and dWPM is used in almost every aspect of commerce. Also, without direct evidence of the types and quantities of pests associated with dWPM, there is currently no way to develop a targeted regulatory scheme. Additionally, dWPM is difficult to permanently track and it may become*

reinfested after treatment. These problems present challenges to developing an effective regulatory strategy.”

Michigan attempts to limit the spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in WPM through ‘Conditions of Movement’ language in its Internal EAB Quarantine as outlined below. (Link to the full quarantine provided below)

IV. CONDITIONS OF MOVEMENT OF REGULATED ARTICLES.

(B) Ash wood material, including ash lumber, used in the State of Michigan for the manufacture of pallets and wood crating must be bark free, as described in Section I.(K).

I. DEFINITIONS.

The following terms shall be construed to mean:

(K) BARK means the natural bark of a tree, including the ingrown bark around knots and bark pockets between rings of annual growth and an additional ½ inch of wood, including the vascular cambium.

LINKS:

[ISPM No. 15 - GUIDELINES FOR REGULATING WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE](#)

http://www.hp.com/packaging/Documentation/133703_ISPM15_2002_update2006.pdf

[May 2011 - USDA - Risk Assessment for the Movement of Domestic Wood Packaging Material within the United States](#)

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/downloads/RiskAssessment-WPM.pdf

[MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PESTICIDE AND PLANT PEST MANAGEMENT DIVISION
EMERALD ASH BORER INTERIOR QUARANTINE
\(Revised February 8, 2011\)](#)

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA_EAB_Quarantine_WhereAs_111851_7.pdf