



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, there will be **no changes** to the quarantine clearance arrangements for containerised sea-freight packaging timber. The FCL/FCX and LCL Broker Accreditation Schemes will continue as normal.

During this phase, however, AQIS will monitor compliance with the new treatment requirements for wood packaging associated with imported break-bulk and air cargo. Break bulk and air cargo consignments will be subject to surveillance by AQIS and stickers alerting importers to the new treatment requirements will be placed on cargo that does not bear ISPM15 treatment stamps.

Consignments found to be infested or contaminated with Quarantine Risk Material will, as is the case now, be directed for remedial treatment as necessary.

### **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 (break-bulk and air cargo only) 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 or alternatively, for onshore treatment. 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 onshore 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, or treated onshore may be released. However, importers will be notified that from 1 May 2006 such wood packaging will be subject to mandatory onshore treatment, re-export or destruction at their expense

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 not marked in accordance with ISPM15, and no evidence of alternative treatment is evident, 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 untreated wood packaging will be subject to mandatory onshore treatment, re-export or destruction at their expense from 1 May 2006.

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

Between January and May 2006, AQIS will monitor the level of compliance with new treatment requirements. During this period, AQIS will also liaise with industry about the preferred method of identifying untreated wood packaging in break-bulk and air cargo consignments.

Importers need to be aware that break bulk and air cargo consignments arriving after 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006 with untreated timber packaging are subject to mandatory onshore treatment, re-export or destruction at their expense.

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

