

## ISPM15 – what is it and why is it relevant to the exporter?

Over 70 countries currently require wooden packaging materials to comply with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measure **no. 15** (ISPM15).

The purpose of ISPM15 is to stop the spread of wood based insects/disease that could detrimentally affect the environments or ecosystems of territories that the goods are sent to or are transiting through.

Failure to use ISPM15 compliant wooden packaging materials can result in any one (or more) of the following:

- **Refusal of entry of goods into a country.**
- **A requirement to return goods to the origin country.**
- **An order for the goods and packaging to be destroyed.**
- **Significant fines being levied on the importer.**
- **A requirement for the goods/packaging to go through a fumigation process.**

Each of the above outcomes will negatively affect the shipper / client relationship. All wooden packaging (pallets, cases, crates (and timber used to secure cargo, for example inside a container) should be either heat or chemically treated (fumigated) and marked accordingly.

Pallets can be readily obtained which already contain a treatment mark, but if your packaging needs are somewhat more involved, ie you need crates or cases it is worth using an export packer who will be familiar with ISPM15 requirements and will ensure the right materials are used and you comply with the regulations.

We would recommend that ISPM15 compliant materials be used for all export markets, even those where it is not currently needed as it is possible that your goods may transit a country where the ISPM15 is already mandatory.