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Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Agriculture recently added the International Plant Protection Convention ISPM-15 (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures-15) "Guidelines for regulating wood packing material in international trade" to its website. At present the Russian Federation entity that confirms such compliance and assigns the registration number is Rosgoskarantin (Russian State Quarantine) and its affiliates. In the future, the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) and its territorial bodies will carry out this function. A translation of the web page is included in this report.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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Translation of Ministry of Agriculture Web Page Regarding ISPM-15

Information On Phytosanitary Measures Which Are Being Introduced In Countries All Over The World With Respect To Wood Packing And Fixing (Fastening) Materials That Are Brought Into Their Territories

A number of countries are introducing phytosanitary measures envisioned by the ISPM-15 (International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures-15) "Guidelines for regulating wood packing material in international trade".

To comply with these measures wood and fixing packing material (pallets, boxes, cases, blocks, drums, reels, framings, shoring, brackets, bearing poles) that are used to relocate consignments when carrying out international trade transactions, must be subjected either to heat treatment reaching the temperature of +56 °C in the entire thickness of the wood (this temperature mode should last for more than 30 minutes) or to machine drying in special chambers (kiln drying) with the moisture content not to exceed 20%, or by decontamination by the fumigation technique using methyl bromide.

To confirm that such decontamination took place special markings are applied on wood packing and wood fixture material.

Organizations that perform decontamination of wood packing and wood fixture material are to confirm compliance between technologies that they are applying and technologies referred to in ISPM-15. Then they receive an assigned number from the national quarantine and plant protection service. This number is included in the marking sign, which is applied on the wood packing and wood fixture material. In addition to the above mentioned number, the marking sign must contain the country code as well as abbreviated name of the decontamination technique used: HT (heat treatment), KD (kiln drying) or MB (fumigation by methyl bromide).

At present the Russian Federation entity that confirms such compliance (and assigns the registration number) is Rosgoskarantin and its affiliates – the Federal inspections on the plant quarantine in the subjects of the Federation. In the future VPSS and its territorial bodies will carry out this function.

The wood packing and wood fixture material with markings may be freely handled for the purposes of international trade without additional phytosanitary control. In case such markings are missing, the wood packing and wood fixture material can be refused by the countries that have adopted the phytosanitary measures in question, or they can be accepted upon the results of the phytosanitary control. India introduced such measures from 11/1/04; USA, Canada and Mexico are planning to introduce them as of 9/16/05, the European Union countries – from 3/1/05 (Directive 2004/102/EC of the European Community Commission concerning protective measures against penetrating and spreading in the Community of organisms, which are harmful to the plants and plant produce).

Taking into consideration that the above-mentioned phytosanitary measures are being introduced for the first time, many countries have come across difficulties when they use the requirements of this Standard. In connection with this, on the initiative of the Russian Federation, the European and Mediterranean regional organization on quarantine and plant protection, which was established in compliance with the International Convention on Plant Protection and Quarantine, conducted a special conference in Saint Petersburg on December 6-8, 2005.

Representatives of the Federal plant quarantine and protection services from 18 countries participated in this conference (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy, France), as well as the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention B. Larson.

Participants of the conference exchanged their experiences on how to implement phytosanitary measures envisioned by ISPM-15 in their respective countries.

Many countries make extensive use of the heat treatment and kiln drying technologies, which are in compliance with the above mentioned regimes. As for the methyl bromide fumigation method – it has a limited application; it cannot be used in a number of countries because its application has been banned.

http://www.mcx.ru/index.html?he_id=900&doc_id=6044