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Thailand

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

New Wood Packaging Material Regulation Postponed Until 2009

2008

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Report Highlights:

The new import regulation for wood packaging materials (WPM) will be postponed until 2009. The postponement reflects requirements that the regulation must comply with Thailand's new Plant Quarantine Act (No. 3) B.E. 2551, which became effective on October 14, 2008, and could require all WPM carry phytosanitary certificates and international-standard-approved marks.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

New WPM import regulation postponed to 2009

The new import regulation for wood packaging materials (WPM) will be postponed until next year. The postponement reflects requirements that the regulation ([TH7037](#)) must comply with Thailand's new Plant Quarantine Act (No. 3) B.E. 2551 ([TH8109](#)) which became effective on October 14, 2008. Once the draft has been finalized, it will be reviewed by the Plant Quarantine Committee, chaired by the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The revised draft will then be sent to the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) for WTO notification in early 2009. Once finally approved, the new import regulation will be published in the Royal Gazette likely by mid 2009. However, according to DOA officials, enforcement of the new regulation will likely begin 180 days after publication to minimize possible trade disruptions by the regulation.

Both PC and international-standard-approved mark required on WPM

Under the new Plant Quarantine Act, wood packaging materials are classified as restricted articles which require phytosanitary certificate (PC) endorsed by an authorized agency in the exporting country. The certification must indicate the pest-free status, pest eradication, or percentage of pest level deemed acceptable by the DOA. Therefore, a PC could be required for WPM in addition to the international-standard-approved mark on WPM which is the minimum requirement of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures-15 (ISPM-15). However, regulators drafting the new WPM regulation understand this requirement could be burdensome to trade and are exploring solutions to avoid trade disruptions.

Impact of WPM import regulation on U.S. exports to Thailand

The WPM import regulation has the potential to affect the U.S. wood pallet and packaging industry and all products shipped using WPM. In CY 2007, total U.S. exports to Thailand were valued at \$8.5 billion (\$7.6 billion non-agriculture, and \$0.9 billion agriculture). WPM is estimated to involve 70-80 percent of total trade, including most intermediate and high-value agricultural products.

End of report.