



US. Customs and
Border Protection

INFORMATION BULLETIN NUMBER 06-018

TO: All International Carriers, Vessel Operators, Freight Forwarders, Container Freight Stations, Customhouse Brokers, Importers and other interested parties

SUBJECT: Phase II of the USDA Wood Packing Material Regulations

1. Purpose

To advise the Trade Community of the implementation date for Phase II of the USDA Wood Packing Material Regulations.

2. Background

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has revised its import regulation for wood packaging materials (WPM), 7 CFR 319. The final rule was posted in the Federal Register on September 16, 2004, with an effective date of September 16, 2005.

3. Implementation

Phase II of the USDA Wood Packing Material regulations begins on February 1, 2006. CBP will begin full enforcement of the ban on violative pallets and crates. Beginning with Phase II, re-export of *all* shipments containing violative pallets or crates will be ordered.

For interested parties who have questions regarding the regulation, USDA has set up a toll free phone line to answer questions about the regulation. That number is 1-866-7388197. Operational FAQ's will be found in the Implementation Plan, posted on www.cbp.gov.

Disclaimer: The CBP Officers in Miami, Florida have prepared this information bulletin for your convenience. This material is intended to provide guidance. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. Written inquiries should be addressed to Port Director, Miami Seaport, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 903 South America Way, Miami, FL, 33132.

Signed
January 26, 2006

Joseph J. Wilson
Acting Port Director
Miami Service Port

US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

PHASE II:

**Enforcement of USDA Wood Packing Material
(Crates and Pallets) Regulations.**

Beginning on February 1, 2006:

CARGO and CRUISE VESSEL COMPLIANCE:

Regulated Crates and Pallets

**All non-compliant Crates, Pallets and Merchandise
therein are subject to exportation.**

USDA:

Toll Free Line: 1-866-738-8197

Website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/import.html>

CBP: FAQ's and Implementation Plan

Website: www.cbp.gov

Beginning on February 1, 2006:

Phase II: USDA Wood Packing Material regulations

CBP will begin full enforcement of the ban on violative pallets and crates.

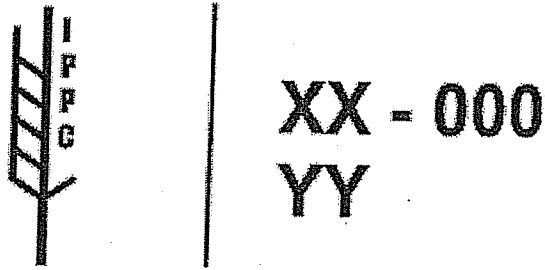
Beginning with Phase II, reexport of all shipments containing violative pallets or crates will be ordered. For interested parties who have questions regarding the regulation, USDA has set up a toll free phone line to answer questions about the regulation. That number is **1-866-738-8197**. Operational **FAQ's** will be found in the Implementation Plan, posted on **www.cbp.gov**. Other information pertaining to the implementation of these regulations can be found on the following website: **<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppg/wpm/import.html>**.

THESE REGULATIONS INCLUDE BOTH CARGO AND CRUISE VESSELS .

Phase II, beginning February 1, 2006, will continue informed compliance measures on all regulated WPM except pallets and crates. CBP will begin full enforcement of the ban on violative pallets and crates. Beginning with Phase II, reexport of all shipments containing violative pallets or crates will be ordered if the Port Director determines that it is not feasible to separate merchandise from the violative WPM. IT and T&E shipments found to contain violative WPM will not be permitted to transit. All expenses incurred for the services of CBP Officers and Agriculture Specialists involved in the separation of cargo will be billed to the importer or other party of interest. WPM and associated merchandise will be exported at the expense of the importer or other party of interest.

The regulation requires regulated WPM used in international trade to be treated to kill harmful insects that may be present. WPM must be marked with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) logo, the two-letter International Organization for Standardization (ISO) code for the country that treated the WPM, the treatment facility number assigned by the national plant protection organization, and either the abbreviation HT (heat treatment) or MB (methyl bromide). The rule states that regulated wood packaging materials must be marked in a visible location on each article, preferably on at least two opposite sides of the article, with a legible and permanent mark that indicates that the article meets the new requirements. Paper treatment certificates will no longer be required or accepted.

An example of an acceptable WPM mark is:



XX represents the ISO country code.
000 represents the unique number assigned by the national plant protection organization.
YY represents either HT for heat treatment or MB for methyl bromide fumigation.

1. Treatment stamps are required for all crates and pallets used to contain or facilitate importation of goods. These stamps (logos) are required on a minimum of 2 sides and must be seen upon tailgate inspections.
2. Crates and pallets without the required stamps (logo) and the merchandise contained therein will not be allowed entry into the United States.