



United States Department of State

*Office of Foreign Missions  
Washington, D.C. 20520*

## **NOTICE**

### **New Wood Packing Restrictions May Impact Foreign Mission Importations**

The Diplomatic Tax and Customs Programs Section of the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) announces new rules for the importation of unmanufactured wood articles into the United States, published by the Department of Agriculture.

Effective September 16, 2005 all solid wood packing material (SWPM) entering the United States must be either heat treated or fumigated and marked with an approved international mark certifying treatment. This change will affect all wood packaging material in connection with importing goods into the United States. This rule does not affect manufactured wood products such as plywood and manufactured lumber products. Similar rules are being put into effect in other countries.

The following guidance is provided for your assistance:

- A. All wood packing material entering into the United States must be either heat treated or fumigated with methyl bromide, in accordance with the Guidelines on 7 CFR 319.40 – Importation of Wood Packaging Material, as published on September 16, 2004, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp/import.html>, and marked with an approved international mark certifying treatment. Heat treatment is preferred.
- B. If the fumigation method is chosen, post needs to take precautions to ensure only the wood products are fumigated. Therefore, do not fumigate a crate or a container with personal effects inside.
- C. Shipments that arrive in the USA not in compliance will be denied entry and ordered returned to the country of origin.
- D. For a complete list of other affected countries with similar wood importation restrictions and the effective date of the restrictions, visit the USDA website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/swp/>. Because similar wood restrictions are already in place in the European Union, shipments destined or transiting through our storage facility in ELSO Antwerp should also be heat-treated or fumigated with methyl bromide.

Please also note that exotic plant pests have been linked to the importation of SWPM. These pests are a serious threat to agriculture and natural, cultivated, and urban forests in the United States and other countries. For this reason, globally accepted measures are being applied to eliminate the risk for pests associated with the SWPM. The International Plant Protection Convention website, [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int), provides the name of the official in each foreign country who can provide a list of approved contractors that can provide a list of approved contractors that can provide appropriate fumigation and other pest control measures. This notice is available on the OFM website – [www.state.gov/ofm](http://www.state.gov/ofm).

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