



United States Department of State

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

NOTICE

Enforcement of Wood Packaging Materials Regulation Enters Second Phase

The purpose of this notice is to remind all foreign missions and international organizations of the implementation of new regulations concerning the importation of wood packaging materials into the United States. This new regulation reflects the international standard for wood packaging material that was adopted by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on March 15, 2002. Information concerning the full implementation of this regulation was reported to the foreign mission community in the Department's Circular Note No. 05-291, which is available on the Office of Foreign Mission's (OFM) website at <http://www.state.gov/ofm/31311.htm>.

As Note No. 05-291 explains, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are implementing this new regulation in three phases:

Phase 1: September 16, 2005 – January 31, 2006

USDA and CBP will implement informed compliance via account managers and notices posted in connection with cargo that contains noncompliant wood packaging materials.

Phase 2: February 1, 2006 – July 4, 2006

CBP will begin rejection of all non ISPM-15 compliant crates and pallets not meeting through re-exportation. Informed compliance via account managers and notices posted in cargo with other types of noncompliant wood packaging materials shall remain in effect.

Phase 3: July 5, 2006

CBP will begin full enforcement of this regulation. Materials that are not compliant with ISPM-15 will not be permitted into the United States.

Additional information on this matter is available at APHIS' Internet website <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/import.html> or at CBP's Internet website http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/commercial_enforcement/wpm/.

If Foreign Missions have additional questions or concerns about this matter please contact the Office of Foreign Missions' Tax and Customs Programs by telephone at (202) 895-3500 or by electronic mail at ofmtaxcustoms@state.gov.

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