

Engineered Wood Products Exemption from Phytosanitary Regulations in International Trade

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement that aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. Established in 1952, the IPPC produces International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

ISPMs are the standards, guidelines, and recommendations recognized as the basis for phytosanitary measures applied by members of the World Trade Organization under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement).

Wood Packaging

Wood originating from living or dead trees may be infested by pests. Wood packaging material is frequently made of raw wood that may not have undergone sufficient processing or treatment to remove or kill pests and therefore remains a pathway for the introduction and spread of quarantine pests. In particular, dunnage has been shown to present a high risk of introduction and spread of quarantine pests.

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) governs the IPPC, which is an international treaty to secure action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products. The CPM also adopts ISPMs.

Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade ([ISPM 15](#)) regulates the use of wood packaging material in international trade. The standard exempts certain packaging materials because they have been deemed a sufficiently low risk of transmitting pests. As such, no phytosanitary measures should be required, and the product should not be deemed to require phytosanitary certification with respect to pests that may have been present in the product prior to the manufacturing process.

Section 2 of [ISPM 15](#) provides a list of sufficiently low risk materials to be exempted from the provisions of the standard. Included in this list is the following item:

- Wood packaging made wholly of processed wood material, such as plywood, particle board, oriented strand board or veneer that has been created using glue, heat or pressure, or a combination thereof.

Weyerhaeuser engineered wood products – Microllam® LVL; Parallam® PSL; TimberStrand® LSL; TJI® joists; Edge™, Edge Gold™, and Diamond™ OSB panels; Glacier Green™ and Glacier Clear™ MDF; and Ultra-Core™ plywood – are all produced using adhesives, heat, and pressure. Therefore, as per [ISPM 15](#), they are exempt from phytosanitary regulation and certification when used as dunnage and packaging.

The exemption from [ISPM 15](#) does not include consignment from a phytosanitary certificate – a document used for exports and endorsed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for shipments originating from the United States and Canada, respectively.

Weyerhaeuser engineered wood products are exempt from phytosanitary regulation and certification for export markets due to multi-method processing used in the manufacturing process (i.e., adhesives, elevated temperatures, and high pressures).

Wood Products for Export

Categorization of commodities according to their pest risk ([ISPM 32](#)) provides criteria for National Plan Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of importing countries on how to categorize commodities according to their pest risk when considering import requirements. This categorization should help in identifying whether further pest risk analysis is required and if phytosanitary certification is needed.

Section 2 of [ISPM 32](#) provides a list of commodity categories and guidance on whether the category should require phytosanitary measures. The statement below is an excerpt from the text:

Category 1. Commodities have been processed to the point where they do not remain capable of being infested with quarantine pests. Hence, no phytosanitary measures should be required and such a commodity should not be deemed to require phytosanitary certification with respect to pests that may have been present in the commodity before the process.

[ISPM 32](#) also lists methods of commercial processing where the listed commodities do not remain capable of being infested with quarantine pests. Among the recognized manufacturing techniques is “multi-method processing.” This technique is a combination of several types of processing such as heating and high pressure. Examples of materials that have been subjected to multi-method processing include plywood, particle board, and wafer board.

Appendix 2 of [ISPM 32](#) provides examples of additional commodities that fall into Category 1, including laminated beams and plywood.

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If you have any questions, please contact your Weyerhaeuser representative.