

THE PHYTOSANITARY RISK OF WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL: THE CURRENT RULES TO MITIGATE IT

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Bologna, February 15th 2019

THE FRAMEWORK

- **Up to the new millenium, from the phytosanitary point of view, commodity packaging has never been a significant issue.**
- **After the outbreak of pine wood nematode (PWN) in Portugal, caused probably by US infested wood packaging material (WPM) the plant protection world has wondered how to prevent further cases.**
- **What is it PWN?**



A small «worm» of few mm can kill a big tree or a forest



THE PATHWAYS

- **The trade of softwood is very important and large throughout the world. Sawn wood is usually regulated and inspected, but**
- **Conifer wood is largely used to manufacture the wood packaging material (WPM) used to transport any kind of agricultural, industrial or other type commodity.**
- **It was impossible for the National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) to inspect every single piece to guarantee the pest freedom.**

ISPM No. 15



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Revision of ISPM No. 15

REGULATION OF WOOD PACKAGING
MATERIAL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(2009)



THE SOLUTION

- In order to guarantee the **WPM safety, without disrupting the world trade, the International Plant Protection Convention of F.A.O. proposed preventive appropriate wood treatments and the use of a specific mark to witness the treatment performance (ISPM 15)**

THE MARK

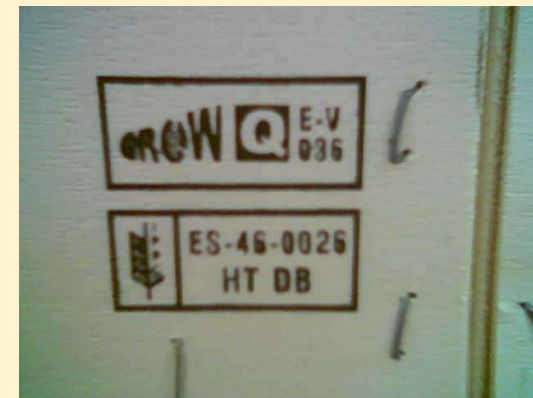


NOT allowed



WPM

- All forms of the Packaging Material such as crates, boxes, packing cases, dunnage, pallets, cable drums and spools/reels made of not manufactured wood



WPM (not regulated)

- **wood packaging material made entirely from thin wood (6 mm or less in thickness)**
- **- 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**
- **- barrels for wine and spirit that have been heated during manufacture**
- **- gift boxes for wine, cigars and other commodities made from wood that has been processed and/or manufactured in a way that renders it free of pests**
- **- sawdust, wood shavings and wood wool**
- **- wood components permanently attached to freight vehicles and containers.**

THE TREATMENTS

- **MB = Fumigation with methyl bromide, where possible.**
- **HT = Heat Treatment: 56°C for 30 continuous minutes throughout the entire profile of the wood (including its core)**
- **DH = Heat treatment using dielectric heating: 60°C for 1 continuous minute throughout the entire profile of the wood (including its surface)**

MARK MANAGEMENT

- **In Italy the use of IPPC mark is managed by a private body, FITOK, under the supervision of the PPS. Routine process and product checks are performed by inspectors of Testing, Inspection and Certification Agencies.**
- **In addition to PWN, many other pests might be present in the wooden packaging.**

